

heart, as the communities of Alamosa, Colorado and Adams State College have lost a tremendous human being. Ladislav Colin "Pops" Bauer is nothing short of a legend in Alamosa, particularly to the Adams State College cross-country team, where he served as a source of employment and motivation to numerous student athletes.

"Pops," as the students affectionately knew him, was the owner of the legendary Campus Café. This small restaurant served as a way for Colin to provide jobs to the school's student athletes, enabling them to earn a little extra money between classes and practice. It was here that Colin displayed incredible heart, and he was the type of guy that just kept on giving. When one of the Adams State runners could not find a sponsor to send him to the Olympic trials, it was Colin and the Campus Café who stepped forward with the money. This is just one example of the kindness and dedication that Colin displayed toward the Adams State Cross Country team.

Mr. Speaker, I am saddened by the loss of such a kind and caring individual. However, I am inspired to know that men like Ladislav Colin "Pops" Bauer were able to have an impact on America's youth. It is Colin's heart, modesty, and loyalty to the students of Adams State that garnered him respect, and it is for those very qualities that he has earned my respect here today.

ESTABLISHING JOINT COMMITTEE TO REVIEW HOUSE AND SENATE MATTERS ASSURING CONTINUING REPRESENTATION AND CONGRESSIONAL OPERATIONS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, while may seem reasonable to establish a Joint Committee on the Continuity of Congress, I wish to bring to my colleagues' attention my concerns relative to certain proposals regarding continuity of government, which would fundamentally alter the structure of our government in a way detrimental to republican liberty.

In particular, I hope this Committee does not endorse the proposal contained in "Preserving our Institutions, The Continuity of Government Commission" which recommends that state governors appoint new representatives. Appointing representatives flies in the face of the Founders' intention that the House of Representatives be the part of the federal government most directly accountable to the people. Even with the direct election of Senators, the fact that members of the House are elected every two years while Senators run for statewide office every six years, means members of the House of Representatives are still more accountable to the people than any other part of the federal government.

Therefore, any action that abridges the people's constitutional authority to elect members of the House of Representatives abridges the people's ability to control their government. Supporters of this plan claim that the appointment power will be necessary in the event of an emergency and that the appointed rep-

resentatives will only be temporary. However, Mr. Speaker, the laws passed by these "temporary" representatives will be permanent.

I would remind my colleagues that this country has faced the possibility of threats to the continuity of this body several times throughout our history, yet no one suggested removing the people's right vote for members of Congress. For example, the British in the War of 1812 attacked the city of Washington, yet nobody suggested the states could not address the lack of a quorum in the House of Representatives through elections. During the Civil War, the neighboring state of Virginia, where today many Capitol Hill staffers and members reside, was actively involved in hostilities against the United States Government, yet Abraham Lincoln never suggested that non-elected persons serve in the House. Forty-two years ago, Americans wrestled with a hostile superpower that had placed nuclear weapons just 90 miles off the Florida coast, yet no one suggested we consider taking away the people's right to elect their representatives in order to ensure "continuity of government!"

I have no doubt that the people of the states are quite competent to hold elections in a timely fashion. After all, isn't it in each state's interest to ensure it has adequate elected representation in Washington as soon as possible? Mr. Speaker, there are those who say that the power of appointment is necessary in order to preserve checks and balances and thus prevent an abuse of executive power. Of course, I agree that it is very important to carefully guard our constitutional liberties in times of crisis, and that an over-centralization of power in the Executive Branch is one of the most serious dangers to that liberty. However, I would ask my colleagues who is more likely to guard the people's liberties, representatives chosen by, and accountable to, the people, or representatives hand-picked by the executive of their state?

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to question the rush under which this bill is being brought to the floor. Until this morning, most members had no idea this bill would be considered today! The rules committee began its mark-up of the bill at 9:15 last night and by 9:31 the report was filed and the bill placed on the House Calendar. Then, after Congress had finished legislative business for the day and with only a handful of members on the floor, unanimous consent was obtained to consider this bill today.

It is always disturbing when bills dealing with important subjects are rushed through the House before members have adequate time to consider all the implications of the measure. I hope this does not set a precedent for shutting members of Congress out of the debate on this important issue.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, while there is no harm in considering ideas for continuity of Congress, I hope my colleagues will reject any proposal that takes away the people's right to elect their representatives in this chamber.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE OF PROPOSITION 13

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, twenty-five years ago, on June 6, 1978, California voters made history when they passed Proposition 13.

Millions of Californians can still remember the condition of our state in 1978, and the irresponsible government actions that moved people to create a new and better way. Skyrocketing property taxes literally drove people from their homes, and a similar fate would surely have been visited on thousands more. Many complained, but few in Sacramento heeded their plight, and this sparked the citizen movement that swept our state and demonstrated the best traditions of direct democracy.

The landslide vote that approved the initiative validated what Howard Jarvis himself said at the time: Californians from all regions of the state believed the time had come for serious reform, and they could simply wait no longer.

Proposition 13 was a voter-approved proposal that cut California's property taxes by 30 percent and then limited future increases. Other opponents of high taxes used Proposition 13 as a model that led many additional states to institute similar reforms. Almost all of these reforms are still in effect today.

The passage of Proposition 13 has resulted in a reduction in property taxes of approximately 57 percent in California. It has been an indispensable element in the way that our state moved forward to outperform the rest of the country in personal income growth, employment growth, and appreciation of real property values.

As we again face tough financial decisions and rising tax burdens, I am encouraged when I recall 1978, a time when Californians seized control of their own fate and reformed a runaway tax system. I hope Californians and all Americans will remember on this day that we can control our government and our own destinies.

HONORING BILL HARDING

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress to recognize a man who has served as a chief and mentor for many of Colorado's brave young firefighters. Bill Harding of Glenwood Springs, Colorado, will be leaving the Glenwood Springs Fire Department soon to pursue his career as the Fire Marshal for the Basalt and Rural Fire Department.

In his 19 years of service in Glenwood Springs, Bill has been instrumental in stopping fires such as Storm King, and Coal Seam Fire. His knowledge, hard work and expertise have allowed him to occupy a variety of positions, such as battalion chief, training captain, EMT, and fire inspector.

However, if you ask his co-workers, it is not Bill's knowledge that makes him a great firefighter. What makes him stand out is his ability