

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of sadness that I wish to bring to the attention of my colleagues the untimely passing last evening of Stephen Gauvain, a constituent of mine who, for the past 14 years, has kept Houstonians informed of important events in our local community and around the globe.

Steve, a journalist with KTRK-TV in Houston, was killed in a tragic traffic accident just minutes after giving a live television report from Huntsville, where he was covering a high-profile murder case.

Steve's passing is, of course, a tremendous loss for his family—his wife, Jan, and his three sons: Stephen, Jr.; Taggart; and Dustin. To them, to Steve's extended family, and to his coworkers at KTRK-TV, Houston's ABC affiliate, I extend my deepest and most sincere sympathy.

Steve's untimely death was a loss for everyone in the Houston metropolitan area who had come to depend on his journalistic skill and his dedication to getting the story. Since 1984, Steve had served as KTRK-TV's space reporter. It was a high compliment to Steve that he was selected to cover space for the No. 1 television station in Houston—home of the Johnson Space Center and a city known widely as Space City.

As channel 13's space reporter, Steve covered more than 60 space shuttle missions, including the last, ill-fated flight of the Challenger. Following that disaster, Steve also kept Houstonians informed of the investigation into the cause of the accident, and he prepared an extraordinary series of reports on NASA's slow and painful program to recover from the Challenger disaster.

In 1988, Steve won the Aviation/Space Writers Association's award for the best locally produced television series for his reports on NASA's road to recovery. That same series also won Steve a second-place award for investigative reporting from the Houston Press Club.

Steve's interest in aviation and space exploration was well known. Throughout his distinguished career, Steve covered numerous aviation stories and flew with the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds last year. In addition, Steve was a quarter-finalist in NASA's "Journalist in Space" program.

Mr. Speaker, I know that you join with me in extending our deep sympathy to Jan Gauvain and her three sons, to Steve's extended family, to Steve's coworkers at KTRK-TV, and to Steve's journalistic colleagues in Houston. His passing is a loss to all of us who knew him, who worked with him, and who appreciated his dedication and professionalism. We will miss him.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am very much pleased to

join the gentleman from Texas to honor Steve Gauvain and to acknowledge as well my great respect for his journalistic ability, but also his commitment to the Houston community. We recognize that when Steve Gauvain did a story, it was out of Compassion, knowledge, a sense of respect for the individuals that he queried, and, of course, a love for our community.

It is with great sadness that I join my colleague from Texas, and applaud him for coming to the floor, and to add my sympathies to Stephen's wife and children and, of course, his Channel 13 family. I hope that all of us will give to them our prayers and remember him for his service to our community.

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I know the gentlewoman would agree with me because she has been interviewed many times by Stephen, how professional he was, how well prepared. The gentlewoman mentioned the word "compassion." Certainly that fit him perfectly. I thought he was one of the finest reporters whom I ever had the pleasure to work with.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. If the gentleman will yield further, I certainly agree. I thank the gentleman. Let me also say he had a love for NASA and the Johnson Space Center, and I appreciate all of his leadership on that issue. I thank the gentleman for his leadership on the floor.

□ 1830

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. MANZULLO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MANZULLO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, SPECIAL INTERESTS, NOT PUBLIC INTERESTS, DRIVE THE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA IN WASHINGTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MEEHAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, when I came to the Congress 3 years ago, I brought a list of priorities: Balancing the budget, cleaning up the environment, and promoting economic development and small business opportunities. But after working on Capitol Hill for just a few months, I learned that more often than not, special interests, not public interests, drive the legislative agenda in Washington. That is why so much of the changes voters de-

manded, like cutting Government waste and curbing rising health care costs are so difficult to achieve.

Under our grossly deficient campaign finance system, well-heeled lobbyists and PACs have greater influence over Washington's business than the folks back home. A perfect example is the 2-year debate about how to balance the budget. Congress could have passed a credible plan to balance the budget last year in the absence of special interests. Year after year, programs that have long outlived their usefulness are preserved in the budget. Everything from tax loopholes for energy and marketing subsidies are taboo when it comes to cutting Government spending, while education, employment and training programs for the working poor are on the chopping block.

Even if we do get a balanced budget this year, Mr. Speaker, odds are that that balanced budget will contain costly tax breaks that benefit special interests and disproportionate cuts to the lower and middle class. Congress comes up against the special interest money barrier every time we try to take on the tobacco industry as well. Public decisions and public policies are often abstract, but this one could not be clearer.

Every day 3,000 young people are enticed into forming a deadly habit before they are old enough to truly make impartial decisions about their health. Yet even when the issue is clear-cut, Congress has been unable to pass legislation or even try to eliminate or regulate teenagers' access to tobacco products.

Last year, Common Cause released a report that illustrated the enormous amount of money the tobacco industry pours into political campaigns to stop antitobacco legislation from passing. According to the report, tobacco giants like Philip Morris, R.J. Reynolds, U.S. Tobacco and the Tobacco Institute have donated millions of dollars to Members of Congress over the past 10 years. Without question, this report documents the way money in the form of campaign contributions influence decisions that are made in Washington.

During the last Congress, I joined with a group of like-minded freshman Democrats to pass campaign finance and lobby reform legislation. It is no secret now that our efforts failed largely due to the efforts of special interests. Both bills failed to pass, and many of my dedicated freshman colleagues lost in their bids for reelection as a result. I learned then that passing real congressional reform means forging new alliances across party and ideological lines to fight the embraced establishment and the entrenched establishment in Washington. That is how we passed lobby reform and the gift ban legislation last year, and that is the only way Congress can reform its corrupting campaign finance system.

This week the Senate will start debating the first bipartisan bicameral

campaign finance reform in over a decade. S. 1219, the McCain-Feingold regulation, has the support of a coalition of 30 grass-roots organizations and editorial board from all across America. Last year LINDA SMITH, CHRIS SHAYS, and I introduced the House version of this campaign finance reform bill. H.R. 2566, the Bipartisan Clean Congress Act, was the result of months and months of negotiations between groups of Democrats and Republicans. Both bills are a remarkable example of what can happen when Members put aside their partisan differences and sit down to the same table to try to make Congress more accountable.

H.R. 2566 eliminates PACs, caps lobbyist donations, requires 60 percent of campaign contributions to originate in a candidate's home State. It eliminates loopholes and large political party contributions and sets voluntary spending limits, offering candidates discounted broadcast time and large mailings if they sign a pledge not to spend any more than \$600,000.

If enacted, the Bipartisan Clean Congress Act will halt special interest influence in Washington and really clear the way for the truly representative democracy which our forefathers envisioned 200 years ago.

Now, it is difficult to change a system that is so favorable to incumbents, given the fact incumbents have access to PAC and lobbyist contributions. They help us win reelection in the Congress over 90 percent of the time. Incumbents receive 70 percent of their PAC contributions in each cycle. Seventy percent of all PAC contributions go to incumbents. Compare that with less than 12 percent for challengers; less than 12 percent.

Mr. Speaker, the time for campaign finance reform is now. We have to act in this Congress while we have a President willing to sign this bill. Let us give President Clinton this bipartisan bill and pass it into law.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2618

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2618.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. DORNAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DORNAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HASTERT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HASTERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

VACATION OF SPECIAL ORDER AND GRANTING OF SPECIAL ORDER

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentlewoman from Ohio.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO ADAM DARLING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. FARR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise on the third anniversary of the day on which I took the oath of office 3 years ago in this Chamber to replace then-Congressman Leon Panetta, who had gone to work in the White House as head of OMB.

Standing in the well before me, I thanked the California State legislature, which I had left the night before, for the good work they were doing in guiding the State of California. At the same time I paid tribute to my mother, who had died of cancer while I was in the Peace Corps; and to my sister, who was killed while visiting me in the Peace Corps.

In the gallery at the time was my father, Fred Farr, and my sister, Francesca Farr. Also in the gallery from my district was Rev. Darrell Darling and his son Adam Darling, who grew up in Santa Cruz, part of the district I now represent.

Tonight, on the third anniversary, I want to pay tribute to that beautiful young man, Adam Darling, who lost his life in the plane crash with Secretary Ron Brown in Bosnia.

Adam Darling died doing precisely what he wanted: serving his country while working to make the world a better place. He was an eternal optimist. Adam had once offered to ride his bike across this country from his home State of California to Washington, DC for then-Governor Bill Clinton because he felt that he could make a difference in the 1992 presidential race just by riding a bicycle across the Nation. After the election he ended up in Washington working for the Commerce Department.

When I arrived to be sworn into Congress, Adam was there to meet me. He brought his father, Rev. Darrell Darling, with him from Santa Cruz all the way here to Washington, DC. According to his father, Adam Darling was a leader among his peers, his friends, his family and in his work. His leadership grew from a keen and uncluttered mind, a character free of shame, given or received, and thoroughly generous in spirit.

He was very realistic about both public policy and public service and the limitations and temptations of both. Adam's realism never was cynical. "When you decide to make a difference

where there is risk, you cannot calculate the cost or be guaranteed delivery from pain or loss. Bosnia is a land of grief and turmoil and none of us are immune from it." Those were the words of his father upon learning of his son's death.

Adam was working for the Commerce Department when I arrived. He served on the staff of the press office for several months before becoming a personal assistant to the Deputy Secretary for 2 years. Adam was also instrumental in bringing state-of-the-art science to the central coast and to the country. Just 1 year ago he helped organize the first-ever link between the classrooms across America and marine biologists working in the Monterey Bay.

Ron Brown had asked Adam to handle press relations and advance planning for the economic development mission in Bosnia. According to Adam's family, Adam saw it as an opportunity to make a significant contribution to the peace effort where it was severely needed.

Rather than working hard to gain personal attention, Adam worked hard for the sheer pleasure of doing well and the satisfaction of knowing he had helped make someone else's life a little more livable.

Adam saw life as an opportunity to serve the world, telling his family at the age of 5 that he would be President of the United States someday; a young boy made his commitment to bettering the country at any cost. During the few years that he was afforded, Adam worked with the dedication and commitment of a President and accomplished more for the good of humankind during his lifetime than many even attempt in 100 years.

The loss of Adam Darling and 34 others in Bosnia will be sorely felt by all and will remain in our hearts as a memorial to all who pay the highest cost possible in order to keep the world by serving their country. I want to thank the Darlings for being here on this day of my anniversary of being sworn into Congress, and I want to pay tribute to Adam Darling who was here to greet me when I first arrived, and wish that he was still here today.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me this time to pay tribute to this great young American.

WHITEWATER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I was kind of distressed today when I turned on the television set and saw the report that came out from the Senate Banking Committee on Whitewater. I was not upset about the report; I was upset about how it was presented by the media and that it was pooh-poohed as though it was nothing significant.