

there was a movie theater called the 25th Street Theater; and the young lady who was in the ticket box, the box office, was a friend of his from high school, and John drove by, and trying to do some fancy maneuver with the car and wave at her, he hit three cars and totaled two of them and drove a car up into the front entrance of the local newspaper.

I happened to be a senior in college at the time and was home with some of my old high school football buddies; and when he called home, he did not ask for my father, he asked for me. He said, JOE, you are going to have to come down and help me out a little bit. So my buddies and I, we got in the car and they all knew him as "Little Joe," because when we were in high school, John was not more than 4½ feet tall, so he had grown up by the time I got to college.

□ 1800

We went down to see him and he was standing outside, looking at the car and not too knowing what to do.

After we got through laughing about it, we said, Well, John, you are going to have to call Dad. There is no way to get around it. So he did, and of course my father came down and he was not too happy about it. He did not laugh a bit.

One of my memories of my little brother in high school was standing there looking so forlorn, with the girl he was trying to impress in the box office at the movie theater laughing, and all of my friends laughing, and my father just absolutely chewing his tail out for having this happen: the first time he had his driver's license, or in fact the first time he had his driver's license and drove by himself, totalling two cars and sending another car into the front office of the local newspaper, which obviously the next day ran a very uncomplimentary story about Larry Barton's youngest son.

I can also remember in 1984 when I decided to run for Congress, now today we read routinely about million dollar campaigns and all these high-priced consultants and TV ads, but in the Sixth District of Texas in 1984 in the Republican primary there was not any of that. It was an absolutely family-oriented grass roots campaign.

By then John was an attorney who was living down in Corpus Christi, Texas. I convinced him to come to Ennis and help run my campaign. So he went from a beachfront apartment in Corpus Christi, Texas, down on the Gulf Coast, where there were sea breezes and just a really nice lifestyle, to sleeping on a cot in the kitchen of my home. My mother-in-law and father-in-law slept on a pallet out in the garage. My campaign driver slept on the couch. My sister slept in one room, a bedroom, with my oldest daughter, Alison. Jan and I slept in what was called the master bedroom, which meant it had an extra foot of space, with Christine, our youngest daughter, in the crib.

John would routinely be woken up in the morning by my 2-year-old Kristin looking into his eyes tickling him. We offered him a great salary I think of \$600 a month, but what that really meant was when he had a car note come due or a college loan payment come due my sister Jan, who was a campaign Treasurer, would say, you bring me the bill and I will pay the bill. And he did an outstanding job in that campaign.

I got into a runoff, and in the runoff I lost the runoff by I want to say 9 votes out of about 10,000 votes cast. To seek a recount you had to file a legal document in every county court, and there were 14 counties. So my brother, who was the only attorney on the payroll of the campaign, had to file those documents. He prepared the legal briefs. Within 3 days he went to all 14 county courthouses in the Sixth District of Texas and filed the legal paperwork to request a hand count recount of every ballot that had been counted, had been cast in the primary runoff.

In that runoff he coordinated some pro bono attorneys who represented me at each recount, and we went from losing the election by 9 votes to winning the election by 10 votes. To this day, I think if it had not been for my little brother, that might not have happened.

I can also remember when he came to see me about 4 years ago. By now he was married and had two children and was practicing law in Fort Worth, Texas. He said, JOE, I have decided that I wanted to run for office. I said, "John, have you not seen enough of me and what I have done to convince you that there are better ways to make a living than trying to get elected?"

And he said, "Yes, I have, but I do not want to run for Congress, I want to run for district judge." The county he was living in is the fourth largest county in Texas, so that meant that he had to run countywide in a county that has 1 million people.

I said, "John, how much money do you have to run for office?" He said, "I don't have any money." I said, "Okay, what kind of an organization do you have?" He said, "I don't have any organization." I said, "Okay. Have you done something notable in the county in a public way that your name is on the lips of all the voters?" He said, "I have not done that."

I said, "Well, why do you think you can win a district judgeship in Tarrant County, Texas?" He said, "Well, if you can run for Congress and win, I know I can run for district judge and win."

I did not have an answer to that, so I said, Okay. So when he announced for district judge, he announced in a seat for a position for a courtship that he did not think he would have any opposition in. I felt pretty confident that he would win an uncontested election, but that did not work out. One of the biggest law firms in Fort Worth decide that they had an attorney that they wanted to run for that same position, so an excellent attorney in Fort Worth

who had an excellent reputation, was well known in the legal community, had impeccable credentials, decided to run against John.

Of course, when that was announced we were not real happy about that. But to make a long story short, just like in my campaign in 1984 for Congress where my mother and my father and my brother and my sister and my grandmother, my aunt and uncle, all the Barton family and the Bice family and the Winslow family were out campaigning. Those same family Members trekked up to Tarrant County, Texas, and we got on the telephones and we stood in front of the polling places and we handed out cards and we did all the grass roots things, and again, John was outspent, but when the dust had cleared, he won county-wide. He got the largest number of votes for any county-wide office on the ballot, and he almost got more votes than I did. That kind of upset me a little bit.

But he has gone on to do an outstanding job. In fact, he has done such an outstanding job that this year he is up for reelection and he has no opponent. When I go to Tarrant County, which is about half of my congressional district, more and more now I am introduced as Judge Barton's brother, which is a real tribute to him.

I really rise this evening to again appeal to all my colleagues and to anybody who may be watching in the country, if anyone knows of something that could help a metastasized cancer of the liver, please get in touch with my office so we can refer that to my brother's doctors.

John is one of the many cancer statistics. Liver cancer kills 14,000 people in the United States each year. It is a very, very difficult disease to arrest once it has progressed. In my brother's case, it is serious, but there is still some small hope.

Just like the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK), there are many miracles that have occurred in cancer. The Barton family is hoping for one more.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to commend the Speaker for allowing me to do this special order, I want to thank my colleagues for listening, and simply hope that we may yet find one miracle for John Barton in Fort Worth, Texas.

FAIR ELECTIONS IN MEXICO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I have taken this 5-minute special order this evening to talk about an event which has been likened to the crumbling of the Berlin Wall that took place a week ago this past Sunday.

I had the privilege of serving with a team from the International Republican Institute, co-leading, along with former Secretary of State James Baker and the mayor of San Diego, California, Susan Golding, a delegation of

44 people, very qualified, former ambassadors and other leaders in this country, observing the election that took place in Mexico on Sunday, July 2.

It was an extraordinary experience. I will say that because there were many people who assumed that after 71 years of one-party control by the Institutional Revolutionary Party that the election would once again see the PRI Party, the Institutional Revolutionary Party, prevail and win.

It is no secret that there have been problems with past elections in Mexico. In fact, corruption has been reported very, very widely in past elections. But I am happy to say, having observed what are known as Casias, election voting spots in urban areas in Mexico City, as well as moving into the rural areas, that this was an extraordinarily fair election.

In fact, an organization that was established earlier in the last decade known as the Federal Electoral Institute, the IFE, was a structure which did play a big role in ensuring the fairness of the election.

This also is a great testimonial to a couple of things. One of the individuals is the present president of Mexico, President Ernesto Zedillo, with whom Secretary Baker and Mayor Golding and I met on Saturday morning, the day before the election. In that meeting I conveyed to him what I will share with our colleagues here, and that is the fact that when he was elected president in 1995, having observed the tremendous economic reforms which had taken place in Mexico, he said that his goal was to ensure self-determination and free and fair elections for the people of Mexico.

That is exactly what happened on July 2. I want to extend my very hearty congratulations, as I already have, to president-elect Vicente Fox, who is a representative of the National Action Party, the PAN party, which for years has argued for economic policies which we hold near and dear, and which I am happy to say were embraced in large part by the Institutional Revolutionary Party.

The embrace of those economic policies by the National Action Party played a big role in bringing about free and fair elections. Let me explain that, Mr. Speaker. Back in 1988 when President Carlos Salinas was elected, he made a decision that he was going to pursue broad economic liberalization in Mexico.

What did that consist of? It consisted of privatization, decentralization, closing down State-run enterprises. He took the very bold step in Mexico City of closing down the largest oil refinery because of environmental concerns that existed there.

We saw the economic reforms put into place in the latter part of the 1980s and the early part of the 1990s, and one of the greatest examples of those economic reforms came when we here in this Congress and the Bush and Clinton

administrations put together the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Now, we know that the North American Free Trade Agreement is a much maligned entity, a structure which people criticize often. But I happen to believe that the NAFTA has been a resounding success, and the most recent example of its success was what took place on July 2.

Why? Because as I and many of my colleagues have argued time and time again, whether it is in Mexico or the People's Republic of China, or South Korea or Taiwan or Argentina or Chile, the interdependence of economic and political freedom is key. We saw in the early part of the 1990s major economic reforms take place in Mexico, and we saw on July 2, a week ago this past Sunday, the ultimate in political reform.

I have to say that during those years of economic reform we also saw political reform take place in that for the first time we saw the election of opposition party candidates in local elections, mayors. Fifteen of the 16 largest cities in Mexico have opposition party mayors. We have also seen it in gubernatorial elections.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we have a tremendous, tremendous opportunity to encourage this transition. We have to be very vigilant. We need to strengthen the already strong relationship that exists with Mexico.

I would like to congratulate all of the nearly 800 people who were on the International Observer team, the International Republican Institute, which again put together a very, very strong operation, and the people of Mexico. They were so enthused about the prospect of being able to vote and have their votes count.

I will never forget the 18-year-old girl whom I saw in a little tiny town called Metatepec, above Atlisco. She said her family for years had worked on behalf of the PAN party, and finally, as we stood over the counting at this little casia and saw 210 votes cast for Mr. Fox and 106 votes for the PRI candidate, Mr. Labastida, we saw by a two to one margin the election of a new party and a new president.

So I wish the people of Mexico extraordinarily well, and I wish the leadership that we have here in the United States God speed in our attempt to do everything that we can to help in this very important transition as we face the many serious challenges that exist on the border and in the relationship between our two important countries.

□ 1815

ILLEGAL NARCOTICS AND OUR NATIONAL DRUG POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, usually on Tuesday I come as chairman of the

Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources to talk about the subject of illegal narcotics and our national drug policy.

Tonight is Thursday night. Most of the Members are heading back to their districts; but I have an opportunity to continue sort of, as Paul Harvey says, tell the rest of the story that I left off on on Tuesday, this past Tuesday night and also to kind of update the Congress, my colleagues, and the American people on some of the threats that we face as a Nation from illegal narcotics.

Tonight, I have a little bit different focus, but I am going to try to highlight some of the failures of this presidency and this administration. I have done that before. I do not mean to be critical other than deal with the facts of the situation and deal with the legacy of this administration as it relates to illegal narcotics and the problem with our society.

In just a few minutes, Americans across the country will turn on their nightly news and see, I am sure, clips, Mr. Speaker, of today's talk by the President before the NAACP in Baltimore. Tonight, the American people will hear his speech. I have got a copy of his speech. What is incredible about his speech is what is left out.

Once again, the President, who has only talked about a war on drugs, and I think I have the exact figures, eight times mentioned the war on drugs in 7 years, according to the Nexus research that we conducted on the number of times the President had talked about a war on drugs.

But if one takes the President's speech from today before the NAACP, he does not talk about the war on drugs. The President paints a rosy picture and, again, a copy of the speech that was given to me says "Today we are releasing an annual report on the status of our children. According to the study, the teen birth rate for 15- to 17-year-olds has dropped to the lowest. The birth rate for African-American adolescents has also dropped."

The President talks about everything but one of the most impacting problems that has faced our minority community. What the President is not going to tell the NAACP or recite to the American people are the statistics that have been given to our Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources.

The President will not tell us that according to the national household survey on drug abuse, drug use increased some 41 percent from the beginning of his administration in 1993 to 1998 among young African Americans, an astounding increase.

According to that household survey on drugs, also, another minority population that has been dramatically impacted is the Hispanic minority population with young Hispanics experiencing an increase from 1993 to 1998 of 38 percent. These are facts that should startle every minority parent in this country and were left out of the President's address today in Baltimore.