

CONGRATULATING THE VALLEY SPORTS AMERICAN LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAM

(Mrs. NORTHUP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, the Valley Sports American Little League Team from Louisville won not only the World Series in this country, but the International World Series. This is a group of 11-year-old youngsters that not only played terrific games all the way through the playoffs, but conducted themselves with such sportsmanship and were such gracious winners that they captured the hearts not only of people in Louisville, Kentucky, but people all across this country.

They were totally unknown, went into the tournament with all the confidence and all the toughness that we would expect a group of 11-year-olds to have. They won the series in this country on Saturday night, and then won the International World Series on Sunday night.

They had the wonderful opportunity of meeting the President of the United States when he was in Louisville last week, and have been greeted with applause all across our community and all across this country. I just rise to recognize them.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, 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 the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

BANKRUPTCY REFORM

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening grievously concerned about the direction this House may be going as it considers the bankruptcy conference report.

G.K. Chesterton once said, the reformer is always right about what is wrong, and he is generally wrong about what is right. But we in this House

may have the opportunity to do the work of reformers and the obligation to do what is right this week.

The bankruptcy reform bill has languished in Congress, Mr. Speaker, since before many of us were Members, including me. Many Members of both houses labored tirelessly to reform the old law. I honor them for their outstanding work.

I especially respect those from this House who worked so diligently and faithfully as conferees. They did produce a bill that will eliminate many of the abuses in the current system, encourage personal responsibility, reduce bogus filings, and will put spouses and children in a favored position in collecting obligations owed them by those who seek to hide behind our country's bankruptcy laws.

Mr. Speaker, I heard from my friends from finance and in retailing. They tell me that the bankruptcy reform accomplishes many good things. I cannot nor do I want to disagree with them. Yet, Mr. Speaker, and I say this advisedly, if this House sends this bankruptcy conference report to the President, without question we will have reformed the system, but we will not have done the right thing. We will have been wrong about what is right.

Mr. Speaker, as we all well know, there is language in this conference report that could deny the protection of bankruptcy laws to nonviolent protesters active in the right to life; not violent bomb-throwers or those who physically assault women at abortion clinics, as has been reported. No, as a just and peaceful society, we cannot support private violence for any cause. Mr. Speaker, we are talking about the quiet, dignified men and women who do no more than pray, sing hymns, or hold placards outside abortion clinics, men and women who are doing no more than what the first amendment of the Constitution provides, which every single one of us in this House swore an oath to uphold.

Mr. Speaker, even if we disagree with every fiber of our being, every one of us should be opposed to those laws and tactics that squelch legitimate speech and scare people from expressing their opinions. The bankruptcy law provides the tools to chill not only our first amendment rights of free speech, but our very soul as a Nation. Using the force of law to squelch dissent is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, this law, which was crafted so carefully to permit some protests but crush others, will have just that result. The wealthy and powerful will turn their lawyers loose on quiet, peaceful protesters for no reason other than that they dislike the content of the speech. The powerful law firms for abortion rights interests will see to it that peaceful protesters are hauled into the justice system, are forced into settlement that forever forecloses dissent, or into the risk of threats to take their homes, property, and businesses as long as they live.

We will have done the right thing in reforming the bankruptcy code if we pass this report, but, Mr. Speaker, we will have injured the first amendment. We will have set the precedent that the powerful can use the force of law to stamp out disagreeable speech, and we will have cruelly laid the foundation for a permanent debtors' class. This is a legacy I am not prepared to leave my country.

Mr. Speaker, as I think about the blessing that is America, and as I remember those who sacrificed so that I might exercise the right to disagree with my colleagues this evening, I cannot escape the haunting, simple words of the prophet Micah who says, "He has shown you what is good, to do justice, to love kindness, to walk humbly with your God."

With all the respect and honor that is in me to my colleagues, and especially my colleagues who labored so long on this bankruptcy bill, I believe it is incumbent upon us to remove the offending language and send it back to the other body to honor and protect our Constitution, and not miss this calling to do justice to peaceful Americans who would express their dissent in this, the most troubling issue facing our Nation.

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

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONGRESSIONAL CUBAN POLITICAL PRISONERS INITIATIVE: MAYDA BARBARA JORDAN CONTRERAS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to a courageous struggle that is taking place on the island of Cuba. While Fidel Castro maintains his stranglehold on freedom of expression, association, and assembly, a growing number of nonviolent dissidents are speaking out to demand civil liberties and basic human rights for Cuba's 11 million citizens.

However, being brave enough to stand up to the regime can come at great personal cost. Opponents of the state are subject to punishments ranging from harassment and loss of employment to beatings and imprisonment. According to the best estimates of human rights groups, Cuban democracy groups, government and non-government organizations, there are over 400 political dissidents now languishing in Cuban jails. No other country of Cuba's size has held so many political prisoners for so long and under such cruel circumstances.

I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to be a member of Cuba Libertad's Congressional Cuban Prisoners Initiative. The

initiative is a bipartisan effort to promote respect for human rights and democratic change in Cuba. Twelve prisoners have been selected to serve as symbols for the more than 400 men and women who are suffering in Cuban prisons for the expression of their political beliefs.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight one such prisoner, Mayda Barbara Jordan. Mayda was one of hundreds of Cubans who sought freedom during the 1994 dissident uprising known as the Maleconazo, where hundreds of Cubans took to the streets to demand liberty. Mayda was arrested along with her sister for participating in this mass protest and trying to provide a better life for her family.

Her crime? The Cuban government calls it piracy. Her charge reflects the Cuban government's policy of sentencing dissidents for serious criminal acts in an effort to deny the existence of political prisoners.

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Mayda is a mother of two young children and is suffering from the 8th year of a 15-year prison sentence. Mayda has served time in solitary confinement and has been denied family visits for continuing to voice dissent against the regime and refusing to undergo reeducation.

Her sentence is meant to dissuade others from protesting or leaving Cuba. I urge my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to join with me and demand the release of Mayda and all of Cuba's estimated 400 political prisoners. Through our efforts and those of such groups as Cuba Libertad, we can draw attention to the continuing atrocities against political prisoners in Cuba and let Castro know that we will not remain silent while these individuals are beaten, tortured and denied access to medical care.

Mayda Jordan and all those advocating for freedom and democracy in Cuba need international recognition for their courageous struggle. Their lives and the birth of a new democratic Cuba depend on it, Mr. Speaker.

HONORING DR. JERRY DONAL JEWELL

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on August 17, 2002, Arkansas lost a great public servant and a fighter for social justice with the passing of Jerry Donal Jewell, a Little Rock dentist who made political history when he was elected in 1992 as the first African American president pro tem of the Arkansas State Senate.

A sharecropper's son, Dr. Jewell, who was born during the Great Depression, died at the age of 71 in a Little Rock hospital after a brief battle with cancer. Born in Crittenden County, Arkansas, Dr. Jewell attended public school in West Memphis. He later earned his

B.S. degree from AM&N College, which is now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, and his doctorate of dental surgery degree from Meharry Medical School in Nashville, Tennessee.

He continued to practice dentistry for over 30 years in Little Rock until his death. Dr. Jewell was the first African American since reconstruction elected to the State Senate for the State of Arkansas. Until his election in 1973, no African American has been elected to the State Senate in the State of Arkansas in 80 years. Between 1963 and 1967 he was president of the Little Rock branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He became a lifetime member and president of the Arkansas Conference of the NAACP from 1965 to 1972. During this time and before, he worked throughout the State of Arkansas fighting segregation and racial injustice with the noted civil rights activist Daisy Bates and her husband L.C. Bates. Dr. Jewell played a role in national politics when he served on the National Democratic Party Credential Commission in 1972 and the National Democratic Party Charter Commission from 1972 to 1974.

Dr. Jewell was a hard worker and dedicated public servant who survived the harsh struggles of poverty to succeed not only in education but politics and medical practice. He became the acting Governor of Arkansas, as a matter of fact, when President Clinton was elected President; and when Governor Jim Guy Tucker left the State to come to the inauguration for 5 days, Dr. Jewell was acting governor, and during that time granted executive clemency to two individuals who were facing death row. Of course, that created quite a stir; but nevertheless he prevailed and hung in.

I am proud to know that we attended the same university, we are members of the same fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, and I am pleased to note that a great American did indeed provide tremendous service, not only to the State of Arkansas, but to the Nation as a whole.

HONORING DR. JERRY DONAL JEWELL

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

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to add my voice to those acknowledging the passing several weeks ago of State Senator Jerry Jewell in Arkansas.

I served with Senator Jewell from 1991 to 1993 as Congressman DAVIS noted, who, by the way, is an Arkansas native. He left Arkansas when he was 19, but he has never forgotten where he came from.

It was my pleasure also to serve with Senator Jewell in the State Senate. He certainly made history by being the first African American since Recon-

struction to be elected to the State Senate. He was the first African American president pro tem and he became acting Governor. In Arkansas the way our Constitution works is if the Governor or lieutenant governor leaves the State, they lose their power as Governor, so Senator Jerry Jewell became acting Governor.

He had a very colorful civil rights history. I attended his funeral a couple weeks ago, and Dr. Roosevelt Brown told this story how when they were young men the efforts to try to desegregate a swimming pool during the summertime in Little Rock that basically involved Senator Jewell talking to the young person at the gate and two or three other young African American men running past and jumping in the pool and immediately all the white folks jumping out, the kind of story now that we think is humorous but at the time was deadly serious. It was a sign of his courage that he participated in those kinds of events.

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and I want to acknowledge the passing of Senator Jewell, the part of history he played in Arkansas, and the loss to his friends and family.

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

(Mr. CUMMINGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONCERNING THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION POLICY FOR A "PRE-EMPTIVE" WAR AGAINST IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, like all Americans, I am concerned about the state of affairs in the world today, and how the United States government responds to the changing nature of threats to our national security—especially as we near the one-year anniversary of September 11th, how the Bush administration reacts to these challenges and its approach to solving other international challenges.

We are all committed to acting decisively to win the war on terrorism, and President Bush has had my full support in that effort. In fact, Congress voted as one voice after September 11th to give the President both moral support and authority to prosecute the war on terror and to bring those responsible for the attacks to justice.

I am also concerned that the proposed "pre-emptive war" against Iraq will divert the nation's attention and limited resources from our war on terrorism as well as from domestic needs, such as building up the economy and a prescription drug benefit for our seniors.

In speeches last week, Vice President CHENEY contemplated a "pre-emptive war" against Iraq—one giant step beyond the President's stated goal of a "regime change" that would oust Iraqi president Saddam Hussein, something most of us thought should have happened a decade ago. But Vice President CHENEY'S "preemptive" prescription for dealing