

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MR. WALKER'S ESSAY

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mr. Walker for this wondrous achievement. His essay is an example of the exceptional scholarship from the young men and women of our great nation.

[2002-2003 VFW Voice of Democracy
Scholarship Contest: Tennessee Winner]

FREEDOM'S OBLIGATION

(By Logan Walker)

On a cold, breezy day, a cool wind whips through the air unfurling the flag in the midday sun. The breeze heightens to a gust and in the furious waves, the flag lets out a crack like a whip. The crack resounds through the air reminding all who hear it of the flag's presence. But what does that flag mean? It means one thing: freedom. In America we pride ourselves on our institutions of checks and balances, all created with the purpose of maintaining freedom. But with freedom comes responsibility and obligations, but what is freedom's obligation?

This complex question is answered rather simply. Freedom's obligation is to protect principle over property, to guard ideas over oil, to defend the helpless, not the helpful. This is freedom's obligation.

For thousands of years people have been fighting over the lines on maps or the resources in a region, but America is more than that. Freedom demands of us to overlook our petty, selfish needs to satisfy the calling of a higher government: The government of humanity. Freedom is not about money, capitalism, oil, or land. It is about ideas, people, happiness, and liberty.

In the past twenty years a massive amount of criticism has risen against the United States for the wars it has participated in. Many claim our participation has been based solely on money rather than morals. Other critics claim that we simply make up moral justifications for fighting wars that we are really only interested in for monetary or political gain. Take for example the Kosovo War and the Gulf War. Both Yugoslavia and Kuwait were strategic oil suppliers. On the other hand, the United States gave detailed moral justifications for its involvement. Perhaps it is time that critics examine the fact that if you fight for any moral cause, you will most likely help your own, and the world economy, because any economy operates better and more effectively when it is not under the iron hand of a repressive regime.

But freedom's obligation is not just to one country, our own United States, but to all forms of democracy around the world. Many critics suggest that the United States is too much of a policeman in the world, but how could one assume so? What is America about? It is about freedom for all of mankind and justice for everyone. When someone is ten feet outside of our borders, do they become any less human? No. Then do they deserve any less protection than we would give another human life within our borders? Freedom's obligation is not merely to protect

any specific people's freedom, but to help people to understand that any group's cry for freedom is paramount to a regime's sovereignty.

A sad example, Taiwan is in a constant state of protest over democratization, but China, a repressive Communist relic, refuses to let them break away. Should the people of the United States simply sit back and take the money of the Chinese Government while ignoring the wails for freedom sounded by the people of Taiwan?

Freedom is not about Gross Domestic Product, the Stockmarket, or Armies. It is about people, principles, and morality. Freedom gives great benefits, but it also demands great sacrifice. The crack of the flag is not just there to remind us that we are Americans. It is there to remind us that we are a free people! A regime demands no sacrifice because it does what it wants at the expense of the helpless. Freedom, however, demands that we give up something of ourselves so that others, anywhere in the world, can share at least a fraction of what we have here. That is what brave American forces have been fighting for.

The Bible, the Quran, the Torah, and the Book of Buddhist Principles all suggest that you give something of yourself, whether it be your time or your money, to help someone else. They all stress the personal and moral rewards of sacrifice. But there is another document that preaches the benefits of sacrifice: the Constitution, because wherever freedom resides, sacrifice must follow, because freedom is love and love is sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO MR. TED RAVELO OF
NORTH MIAMI

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. MEEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a wonderful human being and a magnificent activist symbolized by North Miami community leader Ted Ravelo, a Filipino-American. On Saturday, June 7, 2003, at the Design Center of the Americas (DCOTA) in Broward County, he will be honored by the Philippine American Federation of South Florida, Inc. at a gala event celebrating the 105th Philippine Independence Day festivities.

Mr. Ravelo came to the North Miami community some 15 years ago. He was the Director of the Southern Apparel Exhibitors at the Miami Merchandise Mart, after which he directed the Southeastern Apparel Exhibitors in Atlanta, Georgia. The citation for this gala event defines "... his loyal service to the community of North Miami and the Filipino-American community he has helped with utmost care and concern." Above all, however, this pioneering leader is more saliently characterized by his deep faith in the God he serves through countless Filipino immigrants in search of a warm friendship and timely advice. Being a dutiful husband to his wife, Ma. Teresa Padua-Ravelo, and a loving father to his two teenaged children, Jamie and Jo Anne, he

has taken upon himself the awesome responsibility of providing the same brand of love and affection to many more Filipino-American families who search for guidance and direction in the ways and processes of how government and its various agencies function.

Indeed, Mr. Ravelo represents the best and the noblest of our community in his unceasing involvement with the socio-cultural well-being of his fellow immigrants in a manner that uplifted their own self-esteem and dignity. He continues to demonstrate a remarkable wisdom and warm friendship in serving his North Miami community, and still manages to enlighten his fellow citizens on the agenda of conscientious public service and good governance impacting our duties and responsibilities toward the less fortunate.

I am indeed a beneficiary of the brand of genuine advocacy he demonstrates both by way of word and example. I have learned from him the many struggles that immigrants throughout my district have had to confront on a daily basis, conscious of the fact that the will to succeed and be aware of the many nuances of public service undergird the civic responsibilities of a community leader and must characterize his advocacy role toward those who could least fend for themselves.

Continuing his mission to represent his fellow citizens and immigrants, Mr. Ted Ravelo was named to the North Miami Community Relations Board from 1997 thru 1998 and served as President of the Filipino Community Association of South Florida, Inc. Indeed, his quest for making a little bit of difference in the lives of people has always been his genuine way of changing the kind of world to which he was given to serve.

Named as the Activist of the Year by the North Miami Mayor's Economic Task Force in 1997, he has held the presidency of the Central North Miami Homeowners Association and vice-presidency of the North Miami Mayor's Economic Task Force, and has likewise held memberships on the Miami-Dade County Asian-American Advisory Board, Greater North Miami Chamber of Commerce and Asian-American Federation of Florida.

His involvement with the above organizations motivated his desire to run for the Mayor's seat of North Miami during the 1999 mayoral elections. Though he eventually lost his race, he ran a strong and credible campaign by focusing on the crucial issues impacting the well-being and equality of opportunity for his fellow citizens. His candidacy for public office has truly maximized his role as the consummate community activist who lives by the dictum that those who have less in life, through no fault of their own, should have more from those fortunate enough to have received the greater blessings from God. The collective testimonies he has received from the parents, community leaders and residents of North Miami and beyond represent an unequivocal testimony of the utmost respect and gratitude he now enjoys.

With the gala tribute to him on the historic celebration of the 105th Philippine Independence Day, the Filipino-American community in

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

my District will honor him for his undaunted leadership and utmost perseverance. I am truly privileged to represent Mr. Ravelo and his family in the Congress, and I am grateful that he continues to teach us to live by the noble ethic of loving God by serving our fellowmen. Above all, his caring and compassion for other immigrants in Florida's 17th Congressional District appeal to the noblest character of our common humanity. My pride in sharing his friendship is only exceeded by my deep gratitude for all that he has done to uplift the honor and dignity of Filipino-Americans and other immigrants in North Miami and beyond.

This is the remarkable legacy with which we will always honor and respect the wonderful leadership and magnificent advocacy of Mr. Ted Ravelo.

DIABETES

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my concerns about the effect that Diabetes is having on the Latino Community.

Right now, 16 million people in the United States are suffering with Type 2 Diabetes. About 3 million of them are Latinos. Due to diet and genetics, Latinos are twice as likely as the rest of the population to contract Type 2 Diabetes. I am horrified by the statistic that one in ten Latinos will contract Diabetes at some point in life, but I am even more horrified by the fact that most often the disease is preventable.

Both of my parents died from complications related to Diabetes. As the parents of 15 children, I believe that they didn't have the time or the resources to adequately care for themselves. With all of those mouths to feed, I believe that they were too busy trying to simply put food on the table to worry about proper nutrition. While that is undoubtedly noble, stories like this must change. My parents, because they did not have the proper care, suffered loss of vision, amputations, and eventually death.

We must make sure that Latino families are educated about prevention and have the resources to combat the disease. Prevention is key to fighting this disease but we cannot ignore the fact that eleven million Latinos still lack health insurance. How can a person get tested for Diabetes when they are uninsured? How can a person seek out a doctor when they can't even pay for the visit? This is something Congress must fight to change.

If we want to combat Diabetes, we must focus on prevention, education, and cultural changes. No one is saying that as a culture we can't enjoy our frijoles and tortillas. We simply must learn and teach our children, that moderation is the best approach.

We must educate our communities. We must spread the word about prevention. And we must help the uninsured. If we do not make these necessary changes, we won't have to worry about one in ten Latinos having Diabetes, we will have to worry about one in five.

A TRIBUTE TO ELVIS HERNANDEZ

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Elvis Hernandez in recognition of his outstanding accomplishment in this year's 75th Precinct Council Spelling Bee competition.

Elvis is currently in the fifth grade at Blessed Sacrament in Brooklyn, New York. He finished in first place in the spelling bee.

Mr. Speaker, Elvis Hernandez has demonstrated that he is committed to his academic studies and is an excellent speller. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring him and his accomplishment.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING MR. DANIEL D. SCHNEIDER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Daniel D. Schneider.

Whereas, Daniel Schneider served his community faithfully, dedicating three decades of his career to public service; and

Whereas, Daniel Schneider demonstrated a firm commitment to improving welfare services in the state of Ohio; and

Whereas, Daniel Schneider helped the lives of children by co-founding the Big Brothers Association and through his work at the Public Children Services Association of Ohio; and

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District in mourning the loss of our friend, Daniel D. Schneider.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall numbers 229, 228, and 227, on June 2, 2003, and on numbers 232, 231, and 230 on June 3, 2003, I was unable to cast my vote because I was part of a Congressional Delegation to North Korea.

Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

Rollcall number 232—S. 763—Birch Bayh Federal Building, I would have voted nay.

Rollcall number 231—S. 273—Grand Teton National Park Land Exchange Act, I would have voted yea.

Rollcall number 230—S. 222—Zuni Indian Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act, I would have voted yea.

Rollcall number 229—H.R. 1465—General Charles Gabriel Post Office, I would have voted yea.

Rollcall number 228—H. Res. 195—Congratulating Sammy Sosa, I would have voted yea.

Rollcall number 227—H. Res. 159—Expressing Profound Sorrow on the Occasion of the death of Irma Rangel, I would have voted yea.

ZUNI INDIAN TRIBE WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 222, The Zuni Indian Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2003. This legislation puts to rest long-standing water rights disputes between water users in the Little Colorado River basin in Arizona. More importantly, this legislation would also provide the Zuni tribe with the financial resources to acquire water rights in the Little Colorado River basin and to restore the riparian environment that existed previously at Zuni Heaven Reservation.

Recently, a delegation of Zuni tribal leaders and members visited my office here in Washington. They told me that Zuni Heaven, a riparian area along the Little Colorado River, is central to the Zuni religious and cultural traditions and is the place where Zuni deities and ancestors have resided from time immemorial. This sacred riparian area is the home of the Kachina, one of the highest religious orders in Zuni culture, and was in historical times, a very lush riparian area with willow, cottonwood, cattails, turtles, and waterfowl.

Ever since the 1877 Presidential order diminished the Zuni cultural homelands and established the current Zuni Reservation in New Mexico, the Zuni people have maintained the practice of making a pilgrimage to Zuni Heaven. Every four years, Zunis from western New Mexico trek over 50 miles to Zuni Heaven, located in northeast Arizona, to perform religious ceremonies during the summer solstice period. This pilgrimage is very important because it helps sustain and rejuvenate Zunis' cultural and religious traditions.

The Zuni Water Rights Settlement will help the Zuni people restore their sacred Zuni Heaven to the way it was as described in ancient traditional historical accounts. Furthermore, it will help them develop wetlands for water plants, birds and other animals so important and necessary in carrying on the Zuni Kachina religion.

Considering the above, I strongly encourage my colleagues to join me today and support this very important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE MOTHER BETHEL FOUNDATION

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Mother Bethel Foundation as it begins its \$20,000,000 campaign to preserve and celebrate the Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Situated in my District, Mother Bethel is the first home of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The land on which it sits has been owned by African-