

SENSE OF HOUSE THAT NEWDOW V. UNITED STATES CONGRESS IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE SUPREME COURT'S INTERPRETATION OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT AND SHOULD BE OVERTURNED

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal's decision in *Newdow v. the United States Congress* is inconsistent with the Supreme Court's interpretation of the First Amendment and should be overturned.

The Court ruled on a case in which children were required to recite the pledge. Just as we should not bar anyone from reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, we should not force anyone to recite words they do not believe.

As I have stated before, I believe the Ninth Circuit was right in ruling that the reference to "God" in the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional. It is a religious term that does not respect the diversity of faiths and opinion in America and the separation of Church and State as our Constitution requires.

This House has now been given three separate opportunities to vote on almost identical resolutions denouncing the Ninth Circuit for its rulings on this issue. Right or wrong, Congress has made its voice heard. But, it appears that many of my colleagues are not content to let the judicial branch do its job. They want to intervene, exerting as much political pressure as necessary to sway the Supreme Court to side with their far-right Christian ideology.

These same colleagues seem to forget that religious liberty, religious tolerance and freedom of thought and expression were foremost principles in the minds of the Constitution's framers. This resolution before us today states that "religious belief was central to our nation's founding"—completely ignoring these other integral ideals. As written, the resolution flatly mischaracterizes the very foundation of our democracy.

I urge my colleagues to end this effort to derail the Supreme Court's impartial deliberation on this issue. I urge my colleagues to vote no on the resolution.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID AND CHERYL VIENNA

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David and Cheryl Vienna as they prepare to begin their well-deserved retirements. For more than two decades, they have served dozens of clients before the Federal and State governments and, in doing so, have maintained standards of excellence that we would do well to recognize.

In 1978, David founded a Federal Government affairs company called David Vienna and

Associates, and Cheryl joined him a year later. Together, they have made what is now known as Vienna, Gregor and Associates into one of the premier small firms in the Washington area. Among other clients, they represent several from my own State—the California State Senate, the California Franchise Tax Board, and the California Public Employees' Retirement System, the largest pension fund in the United States. My staff and I have worked with the firm many times and we know firsthand the level of knowledge, skill and integrity they bring to every task.

While operating one business successfully is enough of a challenge, David and Cheryl opened a second in 1981. Public Affairs Support Services has, for more than 20 years, filed federal and state campaign finance reports for the political action committees of some of the largest businesses and associations in the country. In this venture, as in their government affairs work, they have demonstrated the expertise and attention to detail that is the hallmark of every successful business owner.

Both David and Cheryl had extensive experience in this very building before starting their companies. David was on the staffs of two Senate subcommittees and worked closely with Senators Abe Ribicoff and Scoop Jackson, while Cheryl was director of legislation for senator Sam Nunn. In their public service, they showed the outstanding character and ability that foreshadowed their future success in the private sector.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating David and Cheryl Vienna on their distinguished careers and wishing them continued success in their future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. DONALD BANGASSER, PRESIDENT OF THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to commend the incoming president of the California Medical Association, Dr. Ronald Bangasser. For nearly two decades, I have known Dr. Bangasser as a friend and a community leader in San Bernardino County, California, and I believe he will be a strong asset at the head of the nation's largest state medical association.

Dr. Bangasser has been a prominent member of the San Bernardino County medical community since 1977, when he began in private practice. By 1982, he had established a reputation as an expert at treating complicated wounds as director of the Wound Care Center at Redlands Community Hospital. He became Chief of Staff at the hospital in 1990 and is now Medical Director for the Beaver Medical Group in Redlands.

Known for his interest in teaching, Dr. Bangasser is a member of the American Board of Family Practice, American College of Hyperbaric Medicine, American College of Physician Executives, and is a fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians and

an associate Professor at Loma Linda University Medical Center.

The legions of patients devoted to Dr. Bangasser include many in the retirement communities of Yucaipa, California, and a generation of young athletes at San Bernardino Valley College, where he has given 12,000 sport physicals in 22 years as team physician for the football team. Since 1986, he has served as team physician for the local minor league baseball team, currently known as the Inland Empire 66ers.

Dr. Bangasser is well known for his leadership role in the medical community and on public policy both in California and on the national level. He has served on nine medical association reference committees, and has been a San Bernardino County Medical Society board member for 25 years. He has served in a series of top positions on the California Medical Association, and is a delegate to the American Medical Association. He is a member of the AMA Council on Medical Services, and was recently appointed to the AMA's Quality Committee for NCQA. He was named Outstanding Physician by the San Bernardino County group in 1995, and was presented with the San Bernardino Valley College Distinguished Service Award in 1999.

In the community, Dr. Bangasser spearheaded a collaborative effort between the San Bernardino and Riverside County medical associations and the San Bernardino Bar Association on domestic violence awareness. He annually sponsors and pays for travel costs of two students to AMA events, and helped cover the costs of a group of teens to attend an AMA conference on teen pregnancy. He has served on the boards of the local United Way, the YMCA, the Redlands Community Hospital Foundation and the "Just for You Volunteers" seniors group in Yucaipa.

Dr. Bangasser is not unknown to us in Washington, where he has traveled to testify in support of medical programs, and last year he was honored by President Bush in a White House discussion on senior citizen health. He has already gained a reputation as a strong advocate of health care in his role as president-elect of the 35,000-member CMA.

Along with his other accomplishments, Dr. Bangasser trained as a former Navy Diving Medical Officer, and has taught many colleagues, friends, and patients the joys of this underwater adventure. I can thank him and his wife Susan for helping me rediscover my love for this sport, and helping me to train and qualify as a SCUBA diver.

Mr. Speaker, the job of president of the California Medical Association comes with heavy responsibility, but I am certain Dr. Ronald Bangasser will perform wonderfully in the role. I ask you and my colleagues to congratulate him on his election as president, and wish him success in his future endeavors.

HONORING BENJAMIN BRISCOE, FORMER LORD MAYOR OF DUBLIN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and celebration of the Honorable Benjamin Briscoe, former Lord Mayor of Dublin

and former prominent member of the Dail. We extend a warm welcome to you and to your wife Carol and we hope that your St. Patrick's Day journey from County Kildare to Cleveland, Ohio, proves to be a joyous and enriching experience.

For the past twenty-four years, Tim Collins and Thomas Scanlon have organized the St. Patrick's Day Party. This joyous event brings people together for an enchanted evening of renewing old friendships and discovering new ones, and serves to build a living bridge that extends from the North Coast to the Emerald Isle.

Like his father before him, Mr. Briscoe has dedicated his life to political service and social leadership and activism. Though retired from the political stage, Mr. Briscoe continues to dedicate his time promoting tourism and investment in Ireland. Moreover, Mr. Briscoe continues his significant work that focuses on helping others. He is a Founding Member and Council Member of the Bone Marrow for Leukemia Trust of Ireland; Founder of Friends of the Vocal Arts; and Council Member of the Association of Recreation Clubs for the Handicapped.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in tribute to the Honorable Benjamin Briscoe, former Lord Mayor of Dublin, for joining us in Cleveland as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Please also join me in recognition of Tim Collins and Thomas Scanlon for organizing this wondrous St. Patrick's Day Party each year for the past twenty-four years. "Ni dheanfaidh smaoinemh an treabhadh duit—You'll never plough a field by turning it over in your mind"—Old Irish Proverb.

H. CON. RES. 103

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution supporting the members of the United States armed forces and our allies who are engaged in the war on terrorism and the war with Iraq.

More than 1.4 million men and women make up America's active and reserve forces and are responsible for our national defense. They distinguish themselves daily in selfless service to this Nation and it is a privilege to take a few minutes today to pay tribute to them.

This resolution also acknowledges the families of our armed forces. Their contribution to our Nation's freedom is appreciated and our thoughts and prayers are with them as well. It is a sacrifice to send your son or daughter or husband or wife, into harm's way.

Finally, this Resolution acknowledges the military forces of our allies. They share our commitment to democracy and global security and have joined us in our fight against terrorism, the threat of nuclear weapons, and crimes against humanity.

Regardless of our thoughts on U.S. policy, we are now united in our support to the men and women in harm's way. Each of us is now focused on the safety of deployed forces, the success of the mission, and the minimization of casualties.

I believe it is fitting that I end this statement by reading the final sentences in the Resolution I am introducing today.

It is the sense of Congress that every American service member be commended for serving with such distinction and professionalism.

It is the sense of Congress that every American family be commended for their special role in providing support for the members of our Armed Forces.

It is the sense of Congress that every allied service member be commended for serving with such distinction and professionalism.

It is the sense of Congress that all citizens of the United States pay homage to our armed forces, their families, and allied service members.

THE FAILURE OF CYPRUS TALKS

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was very disheartened to learn about the failure last week of the United Nations sponsored peace talks regarding a just and lasting settlement in Cyprus. It is apparent that while the Greek-Cypriot people and their leaders are ready for a peaceful settlement to this longstanding problem, the Turkish-Cypriot leaders, and possibly the leaders of Turkey as well, are not committed to a peaceful settlement at this time.

The commitment of the United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan to resolving the Cyprus dispute is notable, especially considering the impending crisis in Iraq. Mr. Annan, in good faith, presented a plan to both sides that required concessions from each party. Mr. Tassos Papadopoulos, the newly elected President of the Republic of Cyprus, was prepared to submit the United Nations plan to the Greek-Cypriots as a referendum, even though he was required to make unpopular concessions in order to achieve what was believed to be a workable plan.

Mr. Rauf Denktash, the leader of the Turkish-Cypriots, on the other hand, refused to submit the United Nations plan to the Turkish-Cypriots as a referendum. This is yet another case of the Greek-Cypriots negotiating in good faith, whereby they continue to demonstrate their dedication and commitment to a peaceful resolution to the division of Cyprus, and Mr. Denktash is not willing to negotiate.

In the United States, I believe that we must continue our efforts to improve the dialogue for the reunification of Cyprus. I strongly urge Mr. Denktash, and other Turkish leaders, to view this recent breakdown of talks as a lost opportunity that cannot occur again. I also urge the Administration to pressure Mr. Denktash and other Turkish leaders to re-evaluate their opposition to a unified Cyprus, especially in light of Turkey's desire to become a member of the European Union.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Cyprus deserve to have their voices heard about the future of their country and their people, and I sincerely hope that this will happen in the near future.

WITHDRAWAL OF H.R. 1333

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to formally withdraw H.R. 1333, which I introduced on Tuesday, March 18, 2003.

Mr. Speaker, I offered this legislation in an attempt to provide United States citizenship to the members of the Tohono O'odham Nation of Arizona in both Arizona and Mexico. However, I withdraw H.R. 1333 and instead offer my full support for H.R. 731, the Tohono O'odham Citizenship Act of 2003, of which I am an original cosponsor.

In addition to this statement of withdrawal, I have filed a formal request with both the chairman and ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over H.R. 1333, to not take up this legislation in any hearings or markups during the course of the 108th Congress.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I look forward to further legislative proceedings on H.R. 731.

HONORING JOHN T. CORRIGAN

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give honor to a great American, John T. Corrigan, who served 34 years as the Cuyahoga County prosecutor in the great State of Ohio. On yesterday, Mr. Corrigan died at the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky. He was 79.

He was my predecessor in the Prosecutor's Office. John T. Corrigan gave me the opportunity to serve as his assistant. As his assistant, I had the opportunity to work with his son, Judge Michael J. Corrigan. His support laid the foundation for my future elected public service.

John T. Corrigan was 33 and a state senator when he was elected in 1956 to head a county legal staff that was larger than most law firms. The County Prosecutor prosecutes criminal cases and serves as county counsel for all county officials and county agencies.

John T. Corrigan was the son of Cleveland policeman John J. Corrigan and his wife, Ann, both of whom were from Achill Island, Ireland. John T. Corrigan took pride in being an Irish-American. He was also a football player at St. Ignatius High School, where he graduated in 1941.

He entered John Carroll University, but his college days were interrupted by a 39-month stint as an Army infantryman in Europe and the Pacific during World War II. In 1951, he graduated from Western Reserve University School of Law and joined the Carney & Carney law firm.

John T. Corrigan is survived by his wife, Virginia H.; son, Michael of Westlake; daughters, Margaret Gaughen in Cohasset, Mass., Marlene Sanford and Martha Costello, both of Olmsted Falls, and Dr. Mary V. of Avon Lake; and 11 grandchildren.