

PRECIOUS PATRIOTISM

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to share an essay with you today, it was written by a young man from the 3rd District of North Carolina which I proudly represent. James Waters, a 10th grade student at West Carteret High School in Morehead City, NC, submitted his essay in a contest held by the Fleet Reserve Association and was chosen as an overall winner. I feel his words embody the spirit of what it means to be an American.

PRECIOUS PATRIOTISM

(By James Waters)

On the morning of April 19, 1775, American colonists fought their first battle with the British redcoats, a prelude to the bloody American Revolution. What incited these average colonists with the heart to stand up to the entire British army? What possessed them to break away from the tyrannical country of Great Britain? The name of this ever-living phenomenon is patriotism.

As people develop a profound pride for their country, patriotism develops simultaneously as a side effect. Patriotism is the heart-willing urge to defend the pillars of justice, opportunity, and equality that our nation symbolizes. Although America is young, she has faced influential conflicts throughout the past centuries. America is continually facing global obstacles at this very moment. Patriotism can be defined as forever standing with America through turmoil and supporting all that is to be asked of America's citizens for the growth of our country. Citizens can illustrate patriotism by striving for individual success. Patriotism is a synonym for staying informed and participating in government as an active citizen. As a zealous patriot of our nation, I will voice my opinion of issues. I will go to the polls to vote, and I will preserve to be a productive citizen.

My patriotism comprises the values of respect. Our country has progressed as it has due to generations of others. Patriotism is vividly evident in our nation's veterans. I will support our veterans who have exemplified their own patriotism and those who have paid the ultimate price of freedom—life. Patriotism is leaving home to fight for just ideas, not knowing if you will return. It is enduring bullets in a battle. It is sleeping on the front lines with the uncertainty of waking up. All veterans deserve the maximum quantity of respect as we continue to live under their previous endeavors.

Patriotism is embedded within the citizens of America. Patriotism shapes the citizens and all-around morale of America. America is a block of ice. Patriotism is the chisel that shapes America into a beautiful sculpture that stands for liberty and justice for all.

THE ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, as ranking member of the Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals

Resources of the Committee on Resources, I rise, once again, in disappointed opposition to H.R. 4503/H.R. 6.

The bill before us today is nearly identical to the Conference Report on the Energy Policy Act of 2003—absent of any new ideas that would ensure a more secure energy future for America; but with all of the same fatal flaws that would force “mom-and-pop-taxpayer” to fatten the already sizeable bottom line of some of our Nation's largest oil companies and pay for the clean-up of MTBE contaminated groundwater. I won't spend more of Congress' precious time listing all of my objections to this bill, but will simply include the statements I made last year on H.R. 6 for the record.

But let me just say, Mr. Speaker, that there is no question our Nation needs a comprehensive and balanced energy plan—one that weens us off of our shaky strategic dependence of Middle Eastern oil toward more sustainable, cleaner, and renewable sources. Unfortunately, this bill—like last year's budget-busting behemoth—does not get us there.

There are, however, some worthy provisions in these bills that have wide, bipartisan support. So, instead of political grandstanding, I urge the House leadership to separate and pass these important measures.

One such example is the mandatory reliability standards, which would punish utilities who violate rules designed to limit how much electricity can be sold over the Nation's aging power grid. This measure could be perfected and passed by Congress today if it was allowed to be considered separately. The reliability of our Nation's interconnected power grid is critical to our economy and our security, but has been left at risk. In fact, Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham was recently reported as saying “the U.S. power grid is in better shape than before last August's massive blackout but remains vulnerable this summer.”

Another widely supported proposal is the renewable fuels standard provision. This measure would increase the requirement that gasoline sold in the United States contain a specified volume of clean-burning ethanol or biodiesel. Under this measure, the annual average volume of renewable fuel additives would incrementally increase, starting at 3.1 billion gallons in 2005 and reaching 5 billion gallons in 2012—two and a half times the current requirement.

The American Farm Bureau has estimated the renewable fuels standard will have a significant economic stimulus tool for rural America by adding \$4.5 billion to net farm income; create the need for \$5.3 billion in rural capital investments; and create 216,000 new jobs. Ethanol and biodiesel are just two broad-based, diversified, environmentally friendly energy products American agriculture can produce. I have long stated that empowering U.S. farmers to assume a greater role in producing renewable fuels is a win-win situation deserving congressional support. Unfortunately, even though this provision has the consensus approval of Republicans and Democrats alike, House leadership has steadfastly refused to move it separately.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to oppose this bill and immediately move to work bipartisanship to pass these widely supported, and much needed provisions.

HONORING ALICIA WALTER

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, on June 1, 14-year-old Alicia Walter delivered the Valedictorian address for the graduating class at St. Damian's Elementary School in Oak Forest, Illinois. This young lady demonstrates wisdom well beyond her years and I am pleased to share it with my colleagues.

VALEDICTORIAN ADDRESS PRESENTED BY ALICIA WALTER TO THE ST. DAMIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASS OF 2004

Father Meany, Father Scanlan, Father Stuglik, Miss Wesolowski, Mrs. Kane, Father McCarthy, Mrs. Nagle, Faculty, Parents, and Fellow Classmates: Welcome. Tonight, we find ourselves sitting in the midst of one of the most bittersweet moments we have yet to endure. Thoughts of worry, sorrow, stress and regret ricochet off the back of our eyelids, yet we are compelled to celebrate. Chaos is persisting its way through our veins, obliged only by our own perplexed hearts. We all have our own emotional struggles tonight, and I hope some of mine that I share relate to some of yours.

I believe that one of the most empowering factors behind our sadness lies in each and every one of our memories from St. Damian. Too many spectacular moments have passed without our realization, and now it is time to finally recognize some of them. Times of substantial happiness and real warmth have come out from within these doors. Picnics, school assemblies, field trips, club meetings, and the comfortable safety of general class time have generated stories we tell over and over, and jokes that never cease to be funny.

As we smile subconsciously about times that made us appreciate the vibrant life that was given to us, we remember the times that were not nearly as convenient as these. Times where day after day we had to pick each other up and carry us over to tomorrow. Times where the only way we could make it right again was to give out genuine hugs and a vacant shoulder. Each of us carries several chapters full of these moments, in our personal book of life. Those chapters have been written in stone, whether or not we would like it to be so, but it is the very same chapters that exemplify the person we are now. How we reacted to our troubles, how we grabbed the hand of a friend temporarily fallen behind, and how we left behind the charred remains of supposed impossibilities extended the extremes of just how much we can bear.

Our friends have provided a huge portion of backing throughout our lives, but we would never be able to live without the unseen but consistent encouragement from God. St. Damian School has instilled a solid belief on basic moralities, real love of humanity, and simply right and wrong in all of its students. Basic religion fundamentals, such as these, as well as faith in the Lord, have raised us up, especially when our friends did not have the strength to. The entire faculty here has demonstrated these Catholic qualities, as they have walked through their own lives practicing what they teach.

St. Damian School has noticeably impacted the mold of what we symbolize, so it is very apparent how much thanks we owe to the school. Behind the school, though, we walk into our homes, to find the other crucial components of our support system. Yes, there we see the family members that are constantly free to relieve us of whatever

problems we are facing. Most importantly, we see our parents. The producers. The creators. The people that selected St. Damian School, knowing the kind of education and religious teachings that would come our way here. They chose wisely, and for that we will be in eternal debt, but the first step we make in repayment is a heartfelt "Thank you." Sometimes it may seem like a clear-cut, simple thanks is not enough, but I think even a small compensation represents all of the aspects we do not know how to express, all of the thoughts we are afraid to admit.

In just a short while, we will be holding, in our own hands, the evidence of our completed years here at St. Damian. This evidence will be the trial winner to bring us to our next quest: high school. A valley of chances to recommit to previous promises and resolutions, high school will challenge us in ways we have never even faced before. We will be presented with opportunities we never realized we could have. Each of us will take up our own pick, and slowly begin to etch the rest of our lives into the caves of the Earth's past, present and future. Years from now, who knows how many humans will look back at those caves and be inspired to carry on their own lives in such a respectable manner? To the Class of 2004: As a small portion of every one of your support systems, I encourage you to accept the pandemonium of the present, and to thrust your pick into stone before more disarray throws itself upon us. I am incredibly proud of all of us for absolutely everything we have achieved together, and I am sure you are as well. I know the essential beliefs we all hold will guarantee us a prosperous future, both physically and spiritually. Finally, congratulations to one and all, the distinguished St. Damian Class of 2004!!

THE RONALD REAGAN ALZHEIMER'S BREAKTHROUGH ACT OF 2004

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to be joining Senators BOND and MIKULSKI, and my House colleagues, Representatives CHRIS SMITH and ED MARKEY, in introducing the Ronald Reagan Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act of 2004. This legislation will significantly increase our government's investment in Alzheimer's disease research and patient and caregiver support initiatives.

As a son whose mother suffers from Alzheimer's, I know personally the sacrifice—both financially and emotionally—of families caring for a parent with this horrific disease. It is the story of so many Hispanics in this nation—a story of so many Americans. My family fled Cuba to come to find freedom in the United States. My mother worked her entire life as a seamstress in the factories of New Jersey. She spends half of her Social Security check on prescription drugs. If it was not for my sister and me, she would not live with the dignity she deserves.

Because of my personal experience with Alzheimer's, I have always admired Nancy and Ronald Reagan's strength and perseverance throughout the President's battle with this heart-wrenching and devastating illness. By having gone public, Ronald Reagan increased awareness of this debilitating disease, providing hope, comfort, and companionship

to 4.5 million Americans living with Alzheimer's today. We feel there is no more fitting tribute to honor President Reagan's memory than to join together in a bipartisan manner and support the Ronald Reagan Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act.

Today, Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia in older people. One in ten people over 65 and nearly half those over 85, suffer from Alzheimer's disease. And with the aging of our population, we can expect those numbers to increase. In fact, unless scientific research finds a way to prevent or cure the disease, it is estimated that between 11.3 and 16 million people in the U.S. will have Alzheimer's disease by the middle of the 21st century.

Just a few weeks ago, I, along with the Alzheimer's Association, released a report that focuses on the impact of Alzheimer's on Hispanics. The report predicts that, because Hispanics are the fastest growing population in the country and have the greatest life expectancy of any ethnic group, the community will experience a six-fold increase in the disease by 2050. In numbers, this means that 1.3 million Hispanics will have Alzheimer's disease by 2050, compared to fewer than 200,000 currently living with the disease.

The legislation introduced today will increase National Institute of Health funding to \$1.4 billion a year so we can continue to advance our ability to one day prevent, treat, and ultimately cure this disease. This increase is necessary if we are going to be serious about reducing both the physical and economic costs of Alzheimer's. According to experts, delaying the onset and progression of Alzheimer's for even 5 years could save as much as \$50 billion in annual health care costs. Alzheimer's costs American businesses more than \$36.5 billion annually due to lost productivity of employees who are caregivers and the health care costs associated with the disease.

Alzheimer's is a far-reaching disease and a serious strain on families because it not only affects families' lives, jobs, and finances, but also their mental and physical well-being. In response, this legislation provides a tax credit of up to \$3,000 to help pay the expenses of families who care for loved ones with long-term care needs.

In addition, this bill increases authorization levels for a series of programs to help families care for their loved ones; increases funding levels for research initiatives focused on prevention and care; and authorizes funding for a public education campaign to inform the public about prevention techniques.

Congress needs to make wise investments on behalf of the American people. Alzheimer's research is one of those important and critical investments we must make now, so that future generations of Americans will have the medical resources and knowledge to cope with the challenge of caring for a parent, family member, or friend living with this disease. By making this investment today, it is my hope that one day soon a cure will be found so Alzheimer's will be a part of medical history instead of a family's reality.

SUPPORTING RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD AND ENCOURAGING GREATER INVOLVEMENT OF FATHERS IN THE LIVES OF THEIR CHILDREN

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, it is startling when one in three children are raised "fatherless", but it is part of our reality. Numerous studies have shown the devastating effects on children when fathers did not play an active role in their child's life. For these reasons, although, it is important to discuss the interactions of mother and child, we cannot forget the interactions of the whole family and the inclusion of fathers.

As the Committee on Education and the Workforce discussed the reauthorization of Head Start, I was able to have A Fatherhood Initiative amendment incorporated into the bill. The initiative is intended to strengthen the role of fathers in families, in their child's life, and allow them to play an interactive role in their child's development and education. By getting fathers involved during their child's early years, we hope it will set the precedent for a lifetime of bonding and positive interaction between the two. Within this initiative and after the general outreach to father, the fathers will be included in home visits and targeted for more participation.

Although we would hope that all fathers would take part in their child's life, it is not always the case. This is why my amendment extends the father initiative to father figures as well to make sure that the male role model is firm in a child's life, whether it is an older brother, uncle, grandfather or step-parent.

Madam Speaker, as we get ready to celebrate Father's Day on Sunday, we hope that more fathers will step up to their important role as a parent. Yet, it is also a day to give great praise, support and to celebrate the fathers in our Nation that never gave up, never backed down and have always been fathers and daddies to their children. Overall, our focus should be on the child—and to fully bring awareness of the best well-being of a child, we must put our efforts on strengthening the whole family.

FAIR OPPORTUNITY FOR THE LITTLE GUY UNDER EMINENT DOMAIN

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support of H.R. 4603, the Eminent Domain Relief for the Little Guy Act. I have introduced this bill to address a current law that makes the hardship of being forced to sell property to the government under eminent domain even more difficult.

The use of eminent domain is authorized in the Constitution and has been used throughout our Nation's history to acquire the property necessary to build roads, schools, military bases, and government buildings. However,