

I have no doubt that the United States and Kazakhstan will continue to closely cooperate in ensuring stability and security in the world, and our cooperation, which has tremendous potential, will deepen and bring about fruitful interaction in an international situation that is increasingly complex. The U.S. Congress should play a key role in this endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we are at an important juncture in the relationship between the United States and Kazakhstan. We have an opportunity to remain engaged in the region. I strongly believe that we should acknowledge Kazakhstan's achievements and support them in their efforts to continue with reforms.

#### FREEDOM FOR CARMELO AGUSTÍN DÍAZ FERNÁNDEZ

#### HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 18, 2004*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Carmelo Agustín Díaz Fernández, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Díaz Fernández is a pro-democracy activist currently imprisoned in the tyrant's gulag. He is the president of the Independent Union Press Agency, editor of the Cuban Independent Trade Union Press Agency, and a member of the Christian Cuban Workers Union. He is also the correspondent for the Venezuelan magazine *Desafíos* and his articles have appeared on the CubaNet website.

As a leading independent journalist, Christian activist, and prominent member of the independent trade union movement, Mr. Díaz Fernández has been a constant target of the totalitarian regime. According to Amnesty International, he has been harassed and threatened with imprisonment for his pro-democracy activities. Simply because Mr. Díaz Fernández wants freedom for the people of Cuba, he has been persecuted by the dictator's machinery of repression.

On March 19, 2003, as part of the dictator's brutal March 2003 crackdown against peaceful Cuban pro-democracy activists, Mr. Díaz Fernández was arrested because of his work to bring freedom to the people of Cuba. In a sham trial, he was sentenced to 16 years in the wretched, infernal, totalitarian gulag.

According to Reporters Without Borders, while he has been incarcerated in the inhuman gulag simply for his belief in freedom, Mr. Díaz Fernández has developed cardiovascular problems, lymphangitis and high blood pressure. The intolerably grotesque conditions of the deplorable gulag are threatening his life.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Díaz Fernández is languishing in a totalitarian gulag because he believes in freedom. He believes in freedom of religion, freedom for workers, and human rights for every Cuban citizen currently suffering under the nightmare called the Castro regime. My Colleagues, it is intolerable that heroes like Mr. Díaz Fernández are locked in gulags because they believe in the most fundamental human right, freedom. We must demand the immediate release of Carmelo Agustín Díaz Fernández and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

#### AMERICAN JOBS CREATION ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

#### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 2004*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, over the past year, I, along with many other Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle have been pushing for congressional action to fix the international trade dispute over the extraterritorial income (ETI) and Foreign Sales Corporation (FSC) programs. We have a bipartisan, fully paid-for remedy that would reform these tax provisions, put the United States tax code in compliance with the World Trade Organization (WTO), and reduce the tax burden on American manufacturers and farmers. Unfortunately, the Majority leadership ignored this bipartisan approach in favor of a budget-busting, controversial bill that does little for small manufacturers in Wisconsin and includes multiple provisions completely unrelated to the trade problem we need to fix immediately.

Because of the House majority's previous inaction on reforming the FSC-ETI trade dispute, the European Union (EU) continues to ratchet up tariffs on nearly 100 categories of U.S.-produced exports. This costs American businesses and workers by making our products less competitive in the major European market. Unless we reform the FSC-ETI tax provisions, EU tariffs on American products will continue to climb, potentially costing American exporters over \$4 billion.

With over 2 million American manufacturing jobs lost since 2001, it is critical that we act to reverse this trend by eliminating incentives for American jobs to be sent overseas and working to end trade barriers that hurt American exports. Anticipating the EU tariffs, Congressmen CRANE, RANGEL, MANZULLO, and LEVIN introduced bipartisan legislation last year to address the FSC-ETI trade dispute. H.R. 1769, the Jobs Protection Act, would have eliminated the American tax breaks found in violation of WTO rules, and reinvested the savings back into American manufacturers by reducing their tax rates. I, along with 175 other Members of Congress, cosponsored this legislation and have pushed for the House to consider this legislation.

Despite this bipartisan compromise, the Majority leadership has brought to the Floor today a piecemeal, fiscally irresponsible bill that is filled with special interest breaks and will increase already record budget deficits. Further, the major provisions of H.R. 4520 provide over \$30 billion in tax incentives for large multinational corporations while providing little to no tax relief to small and medium-sized manufacturers, farmers, and unincorporated businesses. The Republican chairman of the House Small Business Committee has expressed his opposition to this legislation because it fails to include smaller non-Chapter C corporations in its manufacturing benefit.

Because of strong bipartisan opposition to H.R. 4520, the majority has attached 400 pages of additional tax reforms, complications, and unrelated add-ons that dilute from our important mission to fix the FSC-ETI trade dispute, add tens of billions of dollars to the budget deficit, and curb potential investment in our manufacturing sector.

Some of the additional provisions included in H.R. 4520 are items that I have consistently supported including a temporary incentive to repatriate overseas profits in the United States, and extensions of important tax benefits such as the research and development tax credit, wind and biomass electricity production credit, Work Opportunity tax credit, and small business expensing rates. I am hopeful that these items can be acted on by the House separately from this unacceptable legislation.

The substitute authored by Congressman RANGEL was based on the bipartisan FSC-ETI reform bill, H.R. 1769, and would have included extensions of the R&D tax credit, renewable energy production credits, increased small business expensing provisions, tax deductions for teachers, and other important tax provisions. Further, the substitute would provide better treatment of small businesses, farming cooperatives, and domestic manufacturers, while not adding to the federal budget deficit. Unfortunately, the Majority leadership did not even allow debate on the Rangel substitute fearing it would gain wide bipartisan support and displace the unrelated provisions included in H.R. 4520.

Mr. Speaker, with 2.7 million American manufacturing jobs lost over the past years, including over 80,000 in my home state of Wisconsin, we should not be playing partisan games on the House floor. We should be considering legislation that will end European tariffs on American exports, helps domestic farmers and manufacturers be more competitive, closes abused corporate tax loopholes, and does not burden our children with huge amounts of debt that they will have to pay off in the future. The Rangel substitute would do all these things. I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 4520 in its current form so that Congress can move forward on responsible ETI-FSC legislation.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS ADJUSTABLE RATE HOME LOAN EXTENSION ACT OF 2004

#### HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 18, 2004*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce the Veterans Adjustable Rate Home Loan Extension Act because I am committed to strengthening the home loan program that gives thousands of America's veterans the opportunity to achieve home ownership.

When most Americans purchase a home, they have a wide array of home loan options available to them. Through the home loan program administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA), however, our veterans have limited options. It is my strong belief we should give our veterans the opportunity to select a loan that will meet their needs and make them more competitive—especially in expensive real estate markets.

My legislation would extend a VA pilot program allowing veterans to select adjustable rate mortgages (ARM). Veterans can purchase a home at lower interest rates saving them money. ARM home loans are particularly beneficial for veterans who do not intend to stay

in the home over the life of the mortgage. Extending this program will give us an opportunity to determine whether ARM loans are a good choice for veterans and sound policy.

Again, I am committed to giving our veterans the opportunity to own a home and to improve the VA's home loan program. I am honored to introduce legislation today that helps our veterans achieve the American Dream they fought to preserve.

**AFRICAN-AMERICAN  
EMANCIPATION DAY**

**HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 18, 2004*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of one of the oldest and most celebrated holidays in African-American history, June 19th, African-American Emancipation Day.

On tomorrow's date 139 years ago, at the end of the Civil War, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation and ensure that all slaves across the South were set free.

General Granger's order declared that "an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer." Upon hearing this news, the celebration began in the streets of Galveston and has spread through the years into a worldwide celebration commemorating African-American freedom.

In 1865, African-Americans began a long struggle to gain equal rights with other citizens. More than 100 years later, courageous men and women were still fighting for the civil rights of African Americans. The celebration of Juneteenth acknowledges the price, history, culture and freedom of part of our American society and helps to unify the Nation as a whole. African-Americans have played an important role throughout America's history, and we should all be grateful for their many contributions to our society.

The celebration of Juneteenth that has spread throughout this nation in these 139 years observes the momentous occasions in African-American history and the history of the United States. Each year, the Juneteenth celebration grows bigger and spreads farther than the year before, and I hope these events continue to broaden in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, as African-Americans gather with family, friends, and neighbors in marking the tradition of Juneteenth, I extend my warmest wishes for a memorable celebration, and I ask all citizens to renew our commitment to a nation of equality and opportunity for all people.

**HONORING BENT COUNTY WWII  
MEMORIAL COMMITTEE**

**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 17, 2004*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bent County World War II Memo-

rial Committee. Bent County was home to at least 1,200 men and women who served in WWII.

To commemorate their homegrown heroes, several citizens made the decision to gather as much information as possible about Bent County residents who served in the war. The 10 members of the WWII Memorial Committee have created a book to preserve the veterans' stories. On May 29, 2004 the book was displayed at the WWII Recognition Program at the old Bent County High School. The book not only contains personal stories and experiences of these veterans, but it also contains two pictures of each veteran, and information on where each veteran was stationed during the war. Other information that was entered included medals and honors veterans received during their time of service.

The committee has found approximately 400 of the 1,200 veterans, and they have received responses from at least 300. Aside from desperately seeking the information needed from the remainder of the veterans they are also collecting memorabilia including uniforms, military records, and cookbooks. The committee knows that this is an ongoing project, and the book and collection will eventually be displayed in the future John W. Rawlings Museum.

I am proud to serve a constituency that is willing to go to such great lengths to honor "America's Greatest Generation." Thank you to the following members of the Bent County WWII Memorial Committee: Fontella Gardner, Donna Dodson, Bill Lutz, Diane Baublits, Betty Pennington, Tom Pointon, Ron Kiniston, C.P. (Jerry) Bryant, Jr., Vivian Pitts, H.E. (Ed) Blackburn, Jr.

I would also like to extend a debt of gratitude to the individuals and businesses that offered special assistance to make this book and event a success: Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 2411, Kitty Ann Long, VFW Post 2411, Jace Ratzlaff, Constituent Advocate (Congresswoman MARILYN MUSGRAVE), Walmart, Safeway, Mark MacDonnell.

The Las Animas/Bent County Community is fortunate to have had such brave men and women to serve in WWII, and they are fortunate to have so many citizens that recognize the importance of their service to the United States of America.

**SUPREME COURT STAYS OUT OF  
COLORADO REDISTRICTING**

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 18, 2004*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I submit to the RECORD the editorial from the New York Times, June 11, to which I referred to in my speech to the House this morning.

[From the New York Times, June 11, 2004]

**A TROUBLING DISSENT**

The Supreme Court did the right thing this week by staying out of a Colorado redistricting dispute. It properly deferred to the Colorado Supreme Court's ruling resolving the matter. What is troubling, however, is a dissent by Chief Justice William Rehnquist and two of his colleagues that argues for diving into the conflict. Given these justices' eagerness to defer to the states in other matters, the dissent smacks of partisan politics

and raises new concerns about the court's neutrality.

After the 2000 census, Colorado redrew its Congressional lines in a way that produced some real contests. One district was divided so evenly that Bob Beauprez, a Republican, won by only 121 votes. But when Republicans won the State Senate last year, they drew new lines that were more favorable to their party. The state's attorney general, a Democrat, challenged them in court.

The Colorado Supreme Court, in a well-reasoned decision, held that the redistricting violated the Colorado Constitution. It said the constitution required that redistricting be done every 10 years, after the census, but no more. The United States Supreme Court has long held that when a state supreme court resolves a case based on the state's constitution, respect for the state's judiciary requires the federal courts to stay out of the matter. A majority did just that this week, when it let the Colorado Supreme Court's ruling stand.

But Chief Justice Rehnquist's dissent, joined by Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, is bluntly dismissive of the Colorado Supreme Court. In the dissenters' view, the court was merely "purporting" to decide the case exclusively according to state law. They would have accepted the case so the United States Supreme Court could have considered reversing the Colorado Supreme Court and reinstating the pro-Republican redistricting plan.

The dissent attracted little notice because it fell one vote short of the four votes needed to review a case. But it is disturbingly reminiscent of the court's ruling in *Bush v. Gore*, in which five justices who had long been extremely deferential to state power suddenly overruled the Florida Supreme Court's interpretation of Florida election law.

Cases like these quite naturally invite skepticism. As the court learned in 2000, it does grave harm to its reputation if it appears to be deciding election-law cases for partisan advantage. In cases of this sort, the court must make a special effort to show that it is acting on the basis of legal principle, the only basis for a court to act. By departing from his deeply held belief in state autonomy to side with the Republican Party in a redistricting case, Chief Justice Rehnquist has once again invited the public to question this court's motives.

**TO COMMEMORATE JUNETEENTH**

**HON. NICK LAMPSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 18, 2004*

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, the annual celebration of African American Emancipation Day, also known as Juneteenth, had its origins in my congressional district. This Juneteenth celebration, a 130 year tradition beginning in Galveston, Texas in 1865, has grown into the nation's oldest and most widely celebrated commemoration of the end of slavery.

Today, Juneteenth celebrations are hosted in cities across America and beyond. It is a day, a week, and in some areas a month-long celebration marked with music, festivals, and family gatherings.

Mr. Speaker, the growing popularity of Juneteenth celebrations signifies a level of growth and dignity in America that has been long overdue. People of all races, religions and backgrounds come together in celebration of Juneteenth to acknowledge a dark period of