

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
WATSON FEED STORE

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my most sincere congratulations to the historic Watson Feed Store in Mart, Texas on their recent Texas Historical Marker Dedication. After nearly a century of service to the Central Texas community, the Watson Feed Store has become a vital part of the social fabric of the Mart community and an inspiring example of the very best of Texas.

That the Watson Feed Store still stands today just as it was almost 100 years ago is truly remarkable and a reflection of the commitment and dedication of Murray Watson and family to preserve the history of this building for future generations. Watson's Feed Store is not only a historic reminder of the past, but an enduring symbol of the belief in community that Watson's Feed Store has come to represent.

Today, the Watson Feed Store is still a daily meeting place for many citizens of Mart, enjoying conversation and comfort in the building known as "home" to many, a living testament to the impact that Murray Watson and family continue to have on the Mart community.

I personally want to thank Murray Watson for his many years of friendship and the countless contributions he has made to the community of Mart and Central Texas. Murray Watson is a true Texas leader and there is no doubt that the state of Texas and the Nation would benefit greatly from more leaders like Murray in our communities.

REPORTS OF VOTING FRAUD AND
IRREGULARITIES

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, like many of my constituents, I am very concerned about the widespread reports of voting irregularities surrounding the recent election.

Reports about voter intimidation, discrimination, fraud, partisan election officials, misplaced ballots, discarded provisional ballots, malfunctioning electronic voting machines, delays in mailing absentee ballots, and countless other suspicious or illegal activities, all raise potential doubts about the legitimacy of our system of elections.

And there is mounting credible evidence that indeed some potentially illegal and fraudulent activity did occur before, during, and after the election.

That is why I have joined onto the efforts of my colleagues, Representatives JOHN CONYERS, JERROLD NADLER, and ROBERT WEXLER, in asking the GAO to investigate the 2004 election. And I am pleased to say that the GAO has agreed with the necessity and urgency of our request and is moving forward with a formal investigation.

As history has repeatedly shown, the right to vote and the right to have our votes counted are fundamental to our democratic system of government.

The moment that we become complacent and cease to insist on the fundamental value and equality of every individual vote is the moment that we begin to undermine the democratic ideal that this nation was founded upon.

That is why I believe it is so important to investigate any reports of voting irregularities.

And that is also why in July, I was one of the leaders in Congress to call for international monitors to observe our system of elections.

Although the administration refused to invite the United Nations to send an observation team, the 55 member Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) was invited.

While the OSCE was severely hamstrung in its ability to fully observe the election, according to their preliminary report, they did observe many of the same problems that were reported by the media.

I hope that with the GAO report, and the forthcoming report from the OSCE, we can take a hard look at our current election system and make a concerted bi-partisan effort to fix the problems that still clearly remain with us from the 2000 election.

As elected representatives of the people, we hold a sacred responsibility to every voter across this nation to ensure that their vote is counted and recorded properly.

We cannot, and we should not accept any flaws in our election process.

HONORING THE BIRTH OF HARPER
NATALIE BRUCKENTHAL

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the birth of Harper Natalie Bruckenthal. On Friday, November 19, 2004, this beautiful young girl was born to Patricia Bruckenthal, the widowed wife of Petty Officer 3rd Class Nathan Bruckenthal, an American hero lost to us in the conflict in Iraq. The birth of Harper Natalie Bruckenthal ensures that everything that was good about Nathan Bruckenthal will live on for another generation and many more to come. In that infant baby's eyes can be seen the images of her heroic father. It is tragic that she will grow up not knowing her father, but I hope that she will be able to find some comfort in his legacy and allow his spirit to guide her.

Today, I honor once more the sacrifice of Nathan Bruckenthal; I honor his wonderful wife Patricia, mother of his infant child; and, most importantly, I welcome his new daughter, Harper Natalie Bruckenthal, the child of an American hero, to our world. It is a better world because people like Nathan Bruckenthal answered the call to duty, made great sacrifices and met the greatest challenge posed to every generation: leaving behind a better world for their children.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the following votes on Satur-

day, November 20, 2004, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote 538: I would have voted "nay" on waiving the House rule to allow for the same day consideration of legislation. Congress should follow the House rules and have adequate time to review legislation before casting its votes.

Rollcall vote 539: I would have voted "yea" on the resolution recognizing the Boy Scouts of America for the public service the organization performs for neighborhoods and communities across the United States.

Rollcall vote 540: I would have voted "nay" on the resolution waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the fiscal 2005 omnibus appropriations bill.

Rollcall vote 541: I would have voted "yea" on passage of the Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act. While this legislation only allows the Federal Aviation Administration to regulate technologies that "have resulted in a serious or fatal injury," this will be an interesting test for safety regulations of a very narrow group of consumers who are aware of the risks they face.

Rollcall vote 542: I would have voted "yea" on passage of the fiscal 2005 omnibus appropriations bill. The uproar caused by the last-minute insertion of a provision opening up tax returns to the Appropriations Committee is not a surprise based on the manner in which the bill came to the floor under a "Martial Law" rule. Congress deserves the opportunity to have the time to thoroughly review bills before being asked to vote on them. While I disapprove of the manner in which the omnibus bill was brought to the floor, funding for the 15 governmental agencies receiving funding from this bill are indispensable to my district and the country.

TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL
DIMITRIOS GAVRIEL

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen hero, LCpl Dimitrios Gavriel, of Haverhill, Massachusetts.

Lance Corporal Gavriel was killed in action during the conflict in Fallujah, Iraq, on November 19, 2004, only days after voluntarily returning to the battlefield from a shrapnel wound. "Dimmy," as he was known to those close to him, is survived by his mother, Penelope; his father, Chris; and his sister, Christina.

Dimmy's family describes him as a deep thinker with big dreams. A quote from his diary says it all: "I have heard that Great Men often kept journals—I'd like to be great."

After losing two friends in the September 11th terrorist attacks, Dimmy knew he wanted to make a difference in the world by joining the Marine Corps. When the service turned him down because of lingering injuries from his days as a high school wrestling champion, he wrote a letter to his local recruiting office pleading for them to reconsider. He would go on to turn down a lucrative career on Wall Street for the chance to serve our country as a Marine.

Mr. Speaker, there is perhaps no better way to pay our respects to Dimmy Gavriel than to

insert a poem of his into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD entitled "The Leader," in which he explores the themes of leadership and greatness. May Congress forever remember the greatness of this young man through his words as well as his heroic actions.

THE LEADER

(By Dimmy Gavriel)

How will words of beauty
Sprout root on deafened ears?
When many choose to follow
And so few dare to lead
Forsaken dreams lie prisoners
In vapid minds left blank
Of countless, breathing numbers
Lined up along the track
And then there are the dreamers
Who see beyond the shroud
Distinct are they among us
They shuffle through the crowd
Hope lives among so few
Yet strong it is I know
For I am still a dreamer
Along the track I go

RECOGNIZING THE NEW HARTFORD HIGH SCHOOL BOYS VARSITY SOCCER TEAM

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the New Hartford High School Boys Varsity Soccer team. On Sunday, November 21, 2004, the team concluded an amazing season by winning the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Class A Title.

The New Hartford Spartans Varsity Soccer team boasted a 21–2–2 record at the end of the season thanks to the leadership of Coach Christopher Abdoo and Team Captains Andrew Donovan, Stephen Peck, and Matthew Pecheone. Due to the outstanding efforts of the Spartans, they remained undefeated at home and set team records for fewest goals scored against in a season and most wins in a season.

I would also like to recognize Team Captain Matthew Pecheone, and Goalkeeper Max Silberlicht for their outstanding individual achievements. Matthew Pecheone set both the school record for number of goals scored in a season and total number of points in a season. Max Silberlicht set the record for the most shutouts in school history by a goalkeeper.

The title match against the Jericho Jayhawks went into four overtime periods, ending in a draw and both teams holding the title "State Champions". After a game-tying goal in the second-half, the New Hartford Spartans tied the game due to the same tenacious defense that set the school record for fewest goals allowed. I commend the players and coaching staff of the New Hartford Spartan Boys Varsity Soccer team for the hard work, training, and dedication. Congratulations, we are very proud of you.

The 2004 New Hartford High School Boys Varsity Soccer team members include: Mike Alcott, Eric Anderson, Aaren Ashmore, Nick Bergmann, Hans Bjerke, Mihir Buch, Anish Butala, Andrew Donovan, Matthew Eadline, Brandon Goodman, Erik Jerrard, Milind

Kachare. Michael Matt, Mike Payne, Christopher Pecheone, Matthew Pecheone, Steven Peck, John Picano, Max Silberlicht and Andrew Tubis. Head Coach: Christopher Abdoo.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN KLECZKA

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fellow Member and friend, Congressman JERRY KLECZKA, and to congratulate him on his twenty years of outstanding service to those in Wisconsin's 4th Congressional District.

Since the age of twenty-four, Mr. KLECZKA has been active in the public service sector and has served in the House of Representatives since 1984. Mr. KLECZKA has made a timeless effort to serve his constituents and has demonstrated his commitment to serve those in his local community by becoming a member of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Brady Street Area Association, and America's Black Holocaust Museum.

Mr. KLECZKA has illustrated his desire to meet the needs of his constituents by addressing a variety of issues while serving in the House of Representatives. The people of southeast Wisconsin were once faced with the severe problem of elderly abuse in public housing complexes. Recognizing the severity of this situation, Mr. KLECZKA fought back with strong legislation resulting in Milwaukee becoming the first city in the nation to provide elderly-only public housing.

Mr. KLECZKA has demonstrated not only his desire to improve the health and well-being of elderly in unsafe living conditions, but he has also fought for measures to decrease health care costs and increase personal privacy for deserving Americans.

Mr. KLECZKA has also displayed his leadership capabilities by representing not just those in his district, but all citizens from Wisconsin by serving on the House Ways and Means Committee. This committee has allowed him to take an active role in the legislative process and effectively serve the people of Wisconsin.

Mr. KLECZKA has served in the House of Representatives in a respectful manner, and his creative insight for implementing new policy and unselfish dedication to serving others will be greatly missed but not forgotten.

To the Wisconsin delegation, the retirement of JERRY KLECZKA may feel like the Packers losing the leadership and dedication of their head coach Mike Sherman. It will be very difficult to follow in the footsteps of Mr. KLECZKA; however, I am confident that my fellow Wisconsin members will follow the example Jerry Kleczka began twenty years ago.

I want to thank JERRY for his leadership and his friendship. I wish him the best of luck on his new endeavors.

THE AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY'S REPORT ON THE MOON-MARS PROGRAM

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, in November 2004, the American Physical Society (APS) released a report on the MoonMars program. The report reached many important conclusions and I encourage my colleagues to review APS's findings.

Currently, NASA's agenda is set by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Decadal Surveys. The panel is comprised of outstanding scientists who represent the full range of research within astronomy.

According to the report, the scope of the Moon-Mars initiative has not been well defined, its long-term cost has not been adequately addressed, and no budgetary mechanisms have been established to avoid causing damage to NASA's scientific program.

To accommodate the Moon-Mars initiative, NASA has already begun to reprogram its existing budget, resulting in indefinite postponement or delay of scientific programs that were assigned high priority by the NAS decadal studies.

The consensus achieved by the committee is that the recent success of the Mars Rovers demonstrate that we can use robotic means to address many scientific questions. The panel also found that human exploration has a role in NASA, but it must be within a balanced program in which funding is distributed to other initiatives as well.

APS makes 3 recommendations, which I encourage Members of Congress to take into consideration as we continue the debate on the President's Moon-Mars proposal.

First, NASA should continue to be guided by the recommendations of the NAS decadal studies in formulating its science programs.

Second, before the United States commits to the Moon-Mars proposal, a review of the initiative's science impact should be carried out by the NAS.

Finally, before the United States commits to the Moon-Mars proposal, the GAO should estimate the likely budgetary impact.

Given our country's fiscal challenges, I do not think we can afford manned flights to other planets at this time. I am willing to support more unmanned space flights, provided their mission goals are well-defined.

It seems to me NASA's activities should be driven by science, not destinations. This report provides important information on NASA's future and I strongly encourage my colleagues to read it and take the findings into consideration as we continue the debate on Moon-Mars.

HONORING WENDY ABRAMS

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Wendy Abrams of Highland Park, Illinois, on the occasion of her 40th birthday.