

After the 2000 mess, Americans were assured they would not have to live through such a flawed election again. But Florida has put in place a system, electronic voting without a paper trail, that threatens once more to produce an outcome that cannot be trusted. There is still time before the November vote to put printers in place in the 15 Florida counties that use touch screens. As we learned 4 years ago, once the election has been held on bad equipment, it is too late to make it right.

HONORING JUDGE NANCY DAVIS
STARK ON HER INDUCTION TO
THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALI-
FORNIA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and honor Nancy Davis Stark on her induction this past January to the State of California Superior Court for Contra Costa County.

Judge Davis Stark is a highly competent and capable addition to the bench having worked tirelessly for the past 2 decades as an accomplished Deputy District Attorney for Alameda County. In this position, Judge Davis Stark served as Chief of the Sexually Violent Predator Unit, was on the felony trial staff, and held several supervisory positions and assignments.

Judge Davis Stark has been a member of the California Bar since 1982, the same year she earned her Juris Doctor from the University of California's Hastings College of Law. She received her bachelor-of-arts degree from California State University at Hayward.

The daughter of Eugene and Amelia Davis, Judge Davis Stark grew up in the Bay Area having spent her childhood in Oakland and Castro Valley. For the past 14 years, she has been a resident of Alamo where she is a committed volunteer in her community, most notably as the creator and one-time manager of a children's string ensemble known as the Alamo Ensemble Players.

Perhaps most important to me, Judge Davis Stark—Nancy as I call her—is the mother of two beautiful daughters—my granddaughters—Gretchen and Claire and devoted wife of 18 years to my son Jeff. I am grateful to have Nancy as my daughter-in-law. I am even more honored that her years of hard work and service to the public have earned her a rightful place on the Superior Court.

Mr. Speaker, I know Nancy's sound intellect, strong sense of fairness, and demonstrated commitment to the law and justice will be a welcome addition to the bench. I wish her well in this pursuit.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 52 and 53, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF
JOSEPH C. HEINLEIN JR.

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Joseph C. Heinlein Jr. upon the death of this outstanding person.

Joseph C. Heinlein Jr. was born January 26, 1909 in Bridgeport, Ohio. He was a practicing attorney for over 65 years and was recognized by the Ohio House of Representatives for his unwavering dedication to the profession of law. A former U.S. Navy Lieutenant in World War II, Mr. Heinlein was also a member of the Kirkwood Presbyterian Church where he served in various official capacities.

Mr. Heinlein will certainly be remembered by all those who knew him for his personal sacrifices of time and energy to his family, friends, and community. The understanding and kindness to which he gave to others will stand as a monument to a truly fine person. His life and love gave joy to all who knew him.

I offer this token of profound sympathy to the family and friends of Joseph C. Heinlein Jr.

CONGRATULATING THE CENTENNIAL
COUGARS, OF CIRCLE
PINES, MINNESOTA, ON THEIR
VICTORY IN THE MINNESOTA
STATE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS AA
BOYS HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Centennial Cougars, of Circle Pines, Minnesota, on their victory in the Minnesota State High School Class AA Boys Hockey Tournament. The Cougars captured their first title in their first state appearance. Centennial draws students from Lino Lakes, Circle Pines, Lexington, Centerville and Blaine.

The Cougars, ranked first in the state, ended the season with an impressive 30–1 mark, defeating Moorhead 1–0, on a goal by Mike Montgomery, for the championship. Goalie Greg Stutz recorded three shut outs, a tournament record, for the Cougars. Additionally, Greg Flynn received the Herb Brooks award and Tom Gorowsky was named the 2004 Mr. Hockey of Minnesota. Centennial is coached by Erik Aus.

In Minnesota, we are justifiably proud of our hockey tradition. The Minnesota State Hockey Tournament is one of the preeminent hockey tournaments in the country. Featured in Sports Illustrated, the tournament draws larger and larger crowds every year. In fact, the tournament this year set an all-time attendance record—120,092 people watched the Class A and AA hockey tournaments.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the students, coaches and fans from Centennial High School on their championship season. It's a great tribute to their hard work, dedication and overall team effort. I know that everyone in the

State of Minnesota is proud of their accomplishments.

IRAQ INVASION ANNIVERSARY,
BRAC, AND HAITI

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to commend our brave troops who proudly serve our great Nation and risk their lives to preserve our freedom. I praise their courageous efforts to protect our country, and I am with them 100 percent. They are the best of the best. And I can truly say every Member of this House, this body, supports them 100 percent. What I do not support is this misleading Bush administration and this House that follows them like sheep. Let me repeat that. What I do not support is this misleading Bush administration and this House, the people's House, that follows them like sheep.

A new report has been released that shows that George Bush, DICK CHENEY, Donald Rumsfeld, and Condoleezza Rice made 237 misleading statements about the threat posed by Iraq in 125 public appearances. Eighty-four of those statements misled the American people about Iraq's chemical and biological weapons.

Mr. Speaker, I was horrified last year to learn that 44,000 of our troops were sent out to battle without proper armor. Forty-four thousand. How can we ask young men and women to trust us when we make decisions that involve life and death and then not outfit them with the best that they need to save their lives. We deployed our young men and women to Iraq with Humvees that lacked armored protection and bulletproof windows.

I personally went to Walter Reed where six troops had lost their legs while riding in Humvees. If they had been riding in the right type of vehicles, this may not have happened. This use of Humvees in Iraq was not what they were made for. We need to get our troops the equipment they need now.

And, Mr. President, you need to spend more time planning for the safety of our troops and their families in your war efforts and less time fundraising and cutting taxes for the rich country club friends of yours.

There are two or three other points that I want to make. One, many of my constituents approach me about BRACC and the base closing amendment that we will be doing in 2005. They are telling me we are looking forward to your fighting to make sure our bases are not closed in our area. And my question to them is, why do you think that this Bush administration insisted, after the House and Senate both voted down and said we should not have a base closure, or BRACC scenario, during this time of war, why do you think this administration insisted that we go through this? It is destabilizing the families and the communities during a time of war.

I have heard that someone from the other body indicated that if they were elected that is one of the first things they would scrap.

I also want to comment on the 2000 election, which I cannot get past because the election determined who is in charge, and certainly

I do not think we are headed in the right direction. I am going to submit for the RECORD an article that was in The New York Times last week indicating that Florida could be Florida again. In other words, the problems that we experienced in the 2000 election have not been corrected. It is a disservice to the people that we serve that we do not straighten out the problems with the elections, not just in Florida but all over this country; and we have not properly funded the program.

Also, let me mention the coup d'etat that took place a couple of weeks ago in Haiti. It is very unfortunate that this Bush administration has chosen to go in and take out a duly elected president. Just take him out. Just take him out. The poorest country in the western hemisphere. We have to make sure that the Haitian people get the assistance that they need from the super Bush administration, after going in and taking out the duly elected president.

And I would also like to comment on the recently announced bank merger that the Federal Reserve approved of the Bank of America Corporation and FleetBoston Financial Corporation merger.

I am concerned about the recent Bank of America-FleetBoston bank merger announced today, particularly since it went through with very little public input. What concerns me even more is that although Bank of America has made significant Community Reinvestment commitments to other states, I am disappointed that Bank of America did not ensure the state I represent, Florida, that it too will receive its fair share of resources for minority communities.

On February 16, in the City Hall of Orlando, Florida, I hosted a Public Hearing so that Bank of America could better understand its responsibility to make a difference in Florida's African-American, Asian and Hispanic communities. Many minority groups and activists from across Florida attended this hearing, along with local elected officials of Florida, and Congressman EDOLPHUS TOWNS of New York. The groups testified that significant Community Reinvestment dollars were necessary for home loans for minorities, the development of affordable housing, small business loans for minorities, procurement opportunities for minority businesses, community lending for minorities, and community investment for industrial, commercial and social facilities in minority communities. The Bank of America sent representatives to this hearing, but the pleas from the minority communities in Florida fell on deaf ears, and Florida was never promised a specific dollar amount for Community Reinvestment. Bank of America has shown the minority communities of New England and California great respect, but refuses to do the same for our Florida minority communities. It is imperative that the leadership of Bank of America meet immediately with minority leaders at a general forum to discuss the specifics of a Bank of America commitment for Florida.

I am concerned about what occurred in 1994, when Bank of America publicly announced its plans to initiate certain lending programs in the state of Hawaii for Native Hawaiians on Hawaiian Home Lands. The Bank of America publicly called these programs "commitments" but did not pledge these commitments to the Federal Reserve Board, nor did Bank of America fulfill its public commitments to Hawaii. The Federal Reserve has

stated that the enforceability of this third-party pledge is a matter outside of the Community Reinvestment Act, and to this day, Hawaii has been left without redress. How are we to trust that Florida will receive its share of Community Reinvestment Act money when Bank of America could not keep its word to Hawaii?

The Federal Reserve noted in its Order Approving the Merger of Bank Holding Companies, that there were requests for state-specific goals for certain loan products and programs, but that it viewed such third-party agreements as outside of the Community Reinvestment Act. I wholeheartedly disagree. The Board focuses on existing Community Reinvestment Act performance rather than promises of future activities, and anyhow, what type of organization does not have a plan for the future? My office was told that Bank of America has no plan for future Community Reinvestment activity in Florida or how much money would be spent in Florida—but not to worry. I think that this is a poor way to do business. Noting the experience that Hawaii had with Bank of America, I am wary of trusting that Bank of America has the needs of minority communities in Florida at heart.

HONORING THE AFGHAN AMERICAN CUISINE OF FREMONT, CALIFORNIA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article that appears in the current issue of VIA Magazine, celebrating the culinary contributions of several Afghan American restaurateurs in my city of Fremont, California.

These establishments deserve praise, not only for satisfying many appetites with delectable food, but for enriching our community with their enterprise and important cultural gifts that make Fremont a better place to live.

I am honored to represent the largest Afghan American community in the nation and gladly invite my colleagues to come to California to enjoy, as the author of this article exclaims, "some of the best Afghan food and goods this side of Kabul." I couldn't agree more myself.

[From VIA Magazine, Mar.-Apr. 2004]

LITTLE AFGHANISTAN: DISCOVER THE FLAVORS OF KABUL IN THE BAY AREA

(By April Thompson)

Handmade Afghan ravioli and rugs in sleepy, suburban Fremont? The Northern California city is home to the nation's largest Afghan American community and some of the best Afghan food and goods this side of Kabul. Afghanistan's cuisine has been influenced by Russia, India, China, and Persia, and its dishes star the rich, sweet, and tart tastes of cardamom, cilantro, rose water, and homemade yogurt.

The storefronts on Fremont Boulevard may look plain, but inside their shelves are stocked with pomegranate juice, sugared chickpeas, apple tobacco, and other goods imported from Bombay, Cairo, and numerous points between.

At the Pamir Food Mart, you can buy long loaves of Afghan naan warm from the oven. Bring a hearty appetite and sense of adventure to Salang Pass, one of four Afghan res-

taurants on the boulevard. Don't miss gabili pilau, Afghanistan's national dish of baked brown rice with lamb and raisins; aushak, ravioli stuffed with leeks and spices; or the burani kadu, soft pumpkin sauteed with garlic and cardamom. Across the street, carnivores should check out the De Afghanan Kabob House, where every plate features skewered meat.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker on rollcall Nos. 54, 55, 56, and 57, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

A PROCLAMATION HONORING JEFF FREEMAN AND NICOLE PALYA

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Jeff Freeman and Nicole Palya have decided to dedicate their lives to each other; and

Whereas, Jeff and Nicole have shown the love and commitment necessary to live a long and beautiful life together; and

Whereas, Jeff and Nicole have chosen to share their special day with friends and family;

Therefore, I join with the Members of Congress and their staff in congratulating Jeff Freeman and Nicole Palya on the occasion of their marriage.

CONGRATULATING THE ST. MICHAEL-ALBERTVILLE KNIGHTS IN THEIR VICTORY IN THE MINNESOTA CLASS AA STATE WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the St. Michael-Albertville Knights on their victory in the Minnesota Class AA State Wrestling Tournament. This is the Knights' seventh consecutive and 14th overall state tournament appearance, and their third championship.

Coached by Gregg Greeno, the Knights finished a perfect 32-0 this season, winning all of their meets by at least 10 points. This was truly a team effort; they rose to the challenge in big meets and avoided injuries during the season.

Individually, the Knights qualified 12 of a possible 14 individuals for the state tournament. Two wrestlers, 112-pounder Mike Thorn and 160-pounder Chas Betts, won individual championships and six others finished in the top six.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the students, coaches and fans from St. Michael-Albertville on their championship season. It's a great tribute to their hard work, dedication and overall