

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF LAREDO INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT PRESIDENT
DENNIS CANTU

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished public service of Laredo Independent School Board President Dennis Cantu.

Dr. Cantu grew up in Texas, graduating from J. W. Nixon High School. He majored in Biology at Baylor University in Waco, and received his Doctorate in Medicine from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston at the age of 23. He specialized in internal medicine, and is currently a Board Certified Internist who practices at Laredo Medical Center and Doctor's Hospital.

Dr. Cantu continues to serve the community as Medical Director of the Laredo Fire Department Paramedics. He was recently honored for his enormous contribution to the health and safety of Laredo when one of the Laredo schools was renamed the Dr. Dennis D. Cantu Health Science Magnet School in his honor.

Dennis Cantu is now serving his fifth term as President of the Laredo Independent School District Board of Trustees. He has been a trustee for 15 years, and has previously held the posts of Secretary and Vice President. Dennis Cantu is an invaluable resource for Laredo, Texas, and a tireless advocate for the health and education of his fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize Laredo Independence School District Board President Dennis Cantu, and to thank him for his service.

CONGRATULATING NIAGARA UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Niagara University Men's Basketball Team on winning the 2005 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Tournament on March 7, 2005. Their win by a score of 81–59 over Rider University clinched the Purple Eagles' second NCAA Tournament berth, the first appearance since 1970.

After heartbreaking losses in the conference title game two out of the last three years, the Purple Eagles showed their perseverance to break through to the "big dance." The accomplishments of Juan Mendez, who was the MAAC player of the year and named tournament MVP, and all-tournament teammates Lorenzo Miles and David Brookshad are im-

pressive, but each member of the team needs to be congratulated for this title game win.

However, a team is only as successful as its leader, and Coach Joe Mihalich, now in his seventh season at Niagara University, exemplifies everything that is good about college athletics. He demands accountability from his players both on and off the court, and is a strong role model for the entire University community. Under Mihalich's guidance, the Purple Eagles have won three of the past seven MAAC regular-season titles, advanced to the MAAC Championship game three times, and has posted seven-straight winning seasons. Along the way, Mihalich quietly has collected the second-most wins in school history and was the first Niagara coach to reach 100 wins in just his sixth season at the helm.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot be prouder of the Niagara University's Purple Eagles, and I wish to commend University President Father Joseph Levesque, the coaching staff and players, and students at Niagara University for this championship season. I will be eagerly watching the team's first round game in the NCAA tournament as they proudly represent Niagara University on the national stage.

HAITI

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to open the CBC Special Order on Haiti.

Haiti should be in the hearts and minds of all who support justice, democracy, and freedom.

Until Haiti knows peace, we who are here tonight, "the conscious of the Congress" will remain duty-bound to bring our neighbors struggles to light.

This week commemorates the one-year anniversary of Haiti's 33rd coup d'etat.

As we reflect on the internationally orchestrated ousting of President Jean Bertrand, I am convinced now more than ever that President Bush undercut the potential for a diplomatic solution to last year's violent revolt and overthrow of democratically elected President, Jean Bertrand Aristide.

One year later, the result of the coup has left Haiti a breeding ground of the morally corrupt.

Drug dealers, thugs and brutal militia men who have taken the lives of hundreds of Haitians, raped and tortured women and children, and filled the coffers of the Haitian rich and elite who support and sponsor their terror now rule the country.

The interim Haitian Government has even gone so far as to reward these thugs with positions in government and label them "freedom fighters".

Today, Tom Griffin, renowned human rights activist, addressed the CBC Haiti Task Force and gave us a first-hand account of the

human rights abuse and climate of destruction in Haiti.

He showed us gruesome pictures and reviewed the abysmal human rights report from his November trip.

The pictures show the battered-bloody bodies left in the street. A morgue full of hundreds of nameless, silenced voices that died at the hands of Haitian National police.

Babies who have no chance at life—because there is no food, no clean water, and no hope for the future—were placed in cardboard boxes.

Where were the U.N. troops?

Mr. Griffin's report was based on only 10 days in Haiti show but a glimpse of what the conditions are in Haiti. What about Haitians who have had to live in this corrupt-police state since Aristide's departure?

Who will Haitians call on for safety and protection? For basic electricity, health care, food and water?

They can't call on their elected officials, because they weren't elected—they were installed.

And who is to blame for the removal of democracy and Haiti's transformation toward hopelessness?

Mr. Speaker, the current state of affairs in Haiti is the product of this Administration's doing.

By refusing to work bilaterally with the Government of Haiti and President Aristide, by embargoing aid and humanitarian assistance to the government, by funding and encouraging opposition groups, thugs, rebels and the like, not to work with Aristide toward a political settlement, and by bullying the CARICOM countries to turn a blind eye to their fellow member state; the Bush Administration contributed to the current political instability and provided the environment for a coup d'etat to occur.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the issue of Haiti is simply an issue of democracy, and the Bush Administration has been instrumental in toppling a democratically-elected government. Step by step they have worked to undermine President Aristide, for example:

1. First, the Administration propped up Haitian opposition leaders; allowing political obstructionists to refuse and reject any plan for peace and democratic elections since the passage of OAS Resolution 822, and ultimately stonewall the elections process by rejecting the Catholic Bishops Plan, the CARICOM Plan, and finally the International Peace Plan.

2. Second, the Administration funded civil society and political opposition parties with USAID funding and arming paramilitary and military factions in the Dominican Republic where Guy Phillippe and other insurgents began their recent assault on democracy.

3. Lastly, the Administration hindered the instant support of peacekeepers and bullied the international community into blocking peacekeeping support that would have secured Haiti and protected "then" President Aristide.

The Bush Administration must never again pre-empt democracy but instead allow the Haitian people, and the Caribbean community to set the course for Haiti.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

When the Administration was questioned regarding their involvement in Haiti, they justified their actions by critiquing President Aristide's effectiveness as a President.

Mr. Speaker, I myself have had many issues with the policies of President Bush. And I have always questioned the flaws of the 2000 elections that brought this Administration to office, but I refuse to believe any AMERICAN who believes in democracy would allow another country to help overthrow our government.

We do not teach people to violently overthrow our U.S. government, and we must not teach other people in the international community, particularly Haiti, to participate in activities that taint the hope for democracy by use of violence.

Mr. Speaker, this is a sad week for Haiti, the United States, and moreover democracy.

It is our moral obligation to find out the truth about this coup d'etat and cast light on the alleged covert activities of the Bush Administration.

It is time to stop the political pillaging of the country and begin saving Haitian lives for the future stability of the country.

Members of this Congress must condemn the continued violence and murders of Haitians, and call on the Bush Administration, OAS, and the U.N. to fully support democracy, the release of political prisoners like Yvonne Neptune, and disarm the thugs and rebels who continue to stifle democracy and create an environment of fear, intimidation, and anarchy.

We must press the transitional government, the OAS and the international community to respect the regional leadership of CARICOM.

And finally, we must push the United Nations to develop a special court in Haiti to try those who are most responsible for crimes against humanity instead of rewarding them with offices in the new government.

I call on the Bush Administration to do what is right for the Haitian people. I have introduced The TRUTH Act, or H.R. 945, which would commit President Bush and his administration to tell the truth about Haiti, and the Administration's involvement in President Aristide's ousting.

It is TRUE, that the Administration has, in essence, carried out a form of 'regime change,' a different form than it took in Iraq, but still regime change, and we must bring their actions to light.

Shame on President Bush and the international community that is silent as thousands of young Haitian poor men, women and children are murdered in the streets and stripped of their chance for democracy, peace, and a basic decent life.

Mr. Speaker, Haiti boils down to democracy, fairness, and freedom, concepts that the Bush Administration must learn to respect and uphold.

IN HONOR OF TILLIE FOWLER,
FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of the honorable

Tillie Kidd Fowler. Mrs. Fowler was a distinguished member of this House from 1993 to 2000. She was a personal friend and someone who I admired greatly.

Tillie was as good a Representative as this House has seen. She was tenacious in the defense of her constituents; principled to a point; and, willing to listen to any good argument.

Raised in an era when professional women were passed over regardless of qualifications for their male counterparts, Tillie used her sharp intellect to climb to the highest levels of government and public service; and our Nation is the better for it.

Today, as we grapple with how best to defend our Nation against the threats of the 21st Century, each of us in the public arena will have to double our efforts in order to fill the knowledge void created by Tillie's absence. We all relied on her keen insights and the significance of her efforts to rebuild our Nation's military and maintain the world's most elite armed services cannot be understated.

While I could go on and on about Tillie's policy successes as a United States Representative and later as Chairwoman of the Defense Policy Board Advisory Committee, it is her work off this floor that I will miss most. When the day's work was done, Tillie had an amazing ability to cut through the clutter and remind you what matters most; to keep you focused; and, to give you a renewed sense of energy with which to tackle the issues of the day.

Just as she was in life, her memory will continue to serve as an inspiration to all of us who knew her. May God receive and keep her, and hold her family close in their days of mourning.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF LAREDO INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPER-
INTENDENT SYLVIA BRUNI

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important of contributions of Laredo Independent School District Superintendent Sylvia Bruni.

Ms. Bruni graduated from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in English, Spanish, and Education. She became a high school English teacher, and taught at the United Independent School District for 17 years.

In addition to providing an education for others, Sylvia Bruni has served as an example herself of the importance of continuing education throughout life. While teaching at the United ISD, she received her Master of Science in Education from Laredo State University. She also completed programs certifying her as a professional reading specialist, professional supervisor, professional mid-management administrator, and superintendent.

Ms. Bruni has held a variety of prestigious posts in Texas education. She was principal at Salinas Elementary School, Director of Curriculum and Instruction at the United ISD, as a faculty member at Laredo Community College, and as Director for the Office of Special

Programs at Texas A&M International University. She held the post of Director of Research, Planning, and Development before being named Superintendent of the Laredo Independent School District.

These activities, along with her commitment to community volunteerism, have earned Ms. Bruni a variety of awards, including Laredo Community College Top 50 Distinguished Alumni and Laredo Morning Times "Laredoan of the Year."

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to add my name to the long list of people who have congratulated Sylvia Bruni on her competent and dedicated service, and her enormous contribution to the state of education in Southwest Texas.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE WOMEN'S CEN-
TER OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA
AND WASHINGTON, DC—ANNUAL
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate The Women's Center of Northern Virginia and Washington, DC on the 20th anniversary of its Annual Leadership Conference.

The Women's Center has been a resource for women in the workplace from its beginnings. The first Conference in 1985 was titled "On the Job Issues for Working Women." Held at the Vienna Community Center, the conference addressed four related areas of professional development: career strategy; development of management skills; networking and mentoring; and work relationships. It was at this event that the Center's hallmark program, The Information and Career Advisory Network (ICAN) was introduced. ICAN makes a customized network of professionals available to each of its participants. As the number of women in management positions grew, so, too, did the scope of the Annual Conference. Recent titles included "The Global Community of Women," "The Economic Equity of Women," "Caregiving in a Time of Change," and "Women Leaders, Changing the Dynamic." With this year's Conference, "Women in Leadership: Your Success Portfolio," the Women's Center continues its legacy of relevance and diversity by addressing the multiple definitions of and opportunities for leadership now available to women.

As the scope and size of the Annual Leadership Conference grew, so did the services of The Women's Center. Founded as a counseling and educational organization in 1974, the Center now offers a wide range of services and programs addressing the psychological, career, financial and legal issues of women and families. Counseling services, including group therapy and support groups, are now offered to women, couples, families and children. The Center's Information and Referral Service, which acts as a resource gateway for local human service issues, handles about 25,000 calls a year.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate The Women's Center on its comprehensive range of services and unique contribution to the