

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DOUG SELLERS OF THE SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Doug Sellers of the San Antonio Independent School District for his active work in our community.

Doug Sellers was born in the great State of Texas in 1952. He attended high school in San Antonio, where he currently serves as District 4 Trustee for the San Antonio Independent School District.

Doug Sellers is the type of educator who listens to our kids. Having started out as a Band Booster, he has been involved in the school district for over 15 years and he understands the unique needs of our children in the San Antonio community.

Doug Sellers believes that positive change in the educational community is the best way to help our city rise to the challenges of the next century. He has striven to make the San Antonio Independent School District a place where he is proud to send his own grandchildren.

Mr. Sellers is dedicated and passionate about improving our schools and he works hard for our community. Under Doug Sellers guidance, our educational and arts communities have a bright future.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to have been given this opportunity to recognize Doug Sellers of the San Antonio Independent School District for his dedication to the educational and arts communities.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES ACT

HON. WAYNE T. GILCHREST

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague, Representative VERNON EHLERS, in introducing a pair of bills that comprehensively address the growing problem of aquatic invasive species in the United States and its territories. These foreign invaders, from Sea Lamprey in the Great Lakes to Asian Carp in the Mississippi to Moon Jellies in the Gulf to Rappa Whelk in the Chesapeake Bay to Zebra Mussels across the U.S. and hundreds of other plants, fish, and invertebrates, cause significant economic and ecological damage throughout North America. In recent estimates, invasive species are demonstrated to cost the U.S. at least \$138 billion per year. Forty-two percent of the species on the federal threatened and endangered species lists are negatively impacted by invasive species. Once established, invasive species displace native species, impede municipal and industrial water systems, degrade ecosystems, reduce recreational and commercial fishing opportunities, and can cause public health problems.

Aquatic invasive species are a particular problem because they readily spread through interconnected waterways and are difficult to

treat safely. Hundreds of exotic species arrive in U.S. waters every day through a variety of pathways such as ballast water, hull fouling, aquaculture and the seafood trade. Without effective federal policies to prevent and control these introductions, we willingly surrender our valuable resource assets to these invasive species.

The National Aquatic Invasive Species Act of 2005 (NAISA) will address these problems by: (1) Establishing a national mandatory ballast water management program, (2) Requiring ships to have an Invasive Species Management Plan that outlines ways to minimize transfers on a "whole ship" basis, (3) Creating a ballast water treatment technology certification program, and (4) Including incentives for ship owners to install experimental ballast treatment technology.

NAISA would also prevent invasive species introductions from other pathways by: (1) Identifying and managing pathways that pose the highest risk of introducing invasive species, (2) Creating a screening process for planned imports of live aquatic organisms, (3) Supporting development and implementation of State Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plans, including early detection, screening and rapid response activities at state and regional levels, (4) Conducting ecological surveys for early detection of invasive species and analysis of invasion rates and patterns, (5) Making available federal funding and resources for rapid response to introductions of invasive species, (6) Preventing inter-basin transfer of organisms by increasing funding and resources for dispersal barrier projects and research, (7) Establishing environmental soundness criteria to ensure all prevention and control measures enacted do not further harm the environment, (8) Creating education and outreach programs to inform the public on preventing transfers of invasive species by proper cleaning of recreational boats, and proper disposal of nonnative organisms for home aquaria, (9) Conducting research on high-risk invasion pathways and alternative prevention and control technologies, and (10) Making available \$170 million in federal funds for aquatic invasive species prevention, control, and research.

Congress has addressed this issue in two past legislative initiatives: the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (NANPCA) and its reauthorization as the National Invasive Species Act of 1996 (NISA). Spurred by the growing concern over the zebra mussel invasion in the Great Lakes, NANPCA created a multi-agency task force, the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, to address the issue of aquatic invaders and empowered the Coast Guard to develop guidelines for ballast water management for the Great Lakes. In 1996, Congress expanded the ballast water guidelines to a national voluntary program to be made mandatory if compliance is not sufficient.

While these laws made some progress, they have not yet solved the problem of aquatic invasive species introductions. For example, the national ballast water guidelines have seen low compliance. In addition, the only prevention option currently available to ships, ballast water exchange, has varying effectiveness that is difficult to measure, causes vessel safety concerns, and is not appropriate for coastal voyages. Development of new methods of combating transfers of organisms from

ballast water has been slow due to the lack of a ballast water standard and low funding for development of new technology.

We need improvements in current law. Our bills have been carefully researched and subjected to broad stakeholder review, and we believe the public and industry stakeholders will support both. We are drastically under-investing in research and efforts to prevent, control, and eradicate aquatic invasive species. We don't get a second chance to prevent an invasive organism from taking hold in our waters. Our bills would make the U.S. proactive in saving its citizens billions of public dollars by allowing us to stop future invasions while effectively controlling and eradicating current invaders.

I urge my colleagues to support the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act and comprehensive prevention, control, and eradication of invasive species in the U.S.

RECOGNIZING SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT'S 1996 S.W.A.T. TEAM

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department's 1996 S.W.A.T. Team. That year was both successful in combating crime and yet terribly tragic as they faced the loss of a fellow S.W.A.T. Team member. The S.W.A.T. Team completed over 550 search warrants, experienced three shootings, and experienced the devastating loss of Deputy Dighton Little, who was killed in action while serving the people of San Joaquin County. His heroism will be remembered by my constituents, and I rise this day to honor his memory.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating each member of the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department's S.W.A.T. Team of 1996 for their exemplary devotion, service, and selflessness in their important role as protectors of the community. The S.W.A.T. Team of 1996 included: Sergeant Walt Shankel, Sergeant Robert Humphreys, Deputy Richard Cordova, Deputy Jody Leberman, Deputy Richard Dunsing, Deputy Adail Thrower, Deputy Mark Dreher, Deputy Steve Rivera, Deputy Gilbert Mendez, Deputy Don Tisher, Deputy Steve Fontes, Deputy Gary Sheridan, Deputy Armando Mayoya, Deputy Jesse Dubois, Deputy Dave Claypool, Deputy Ken Bassett, Deputy Ken Rohde, Deputy Albert Garcia, and Deputy Dighton Little (killed in action). I am in deep admiration of these fine members of my congressional district, and am pleased to honor them today in the chamber of the House of Representatives.

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS DANA BOWMAN (RET.)

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of SFC Dana Bowman, a courageous and dedicated former soldier in the United States Army.

Sergeant First Class Bowman, a former member of the Army Special Forces and the “Golden Knights”—the Army’s elite parachute team—has inspired the world in his recovery and unwavering will to succeed, despite all odds, following his tragic training accident in 1994. At Yuma, Arizona, Sergeant First Class Bowman and his fellow paratrooper, Sergeant First Class Jose Agillon, struck each other midair, severing both of his legs.

Not only did Sergeant First Class Bowman recover and re-enlist in the Army after a mere nine months, thereby becoming the first double amputee to re-enlist, but he became the United States Parachute Team’s recruiting commander and lead speaker, telling others of the great sense of fulfillment and accomplishment such a duty can bring. From his military retirement in 1996 to the present, Sergeant First Class Bowman has encouraged the physically impaired and disabled community to never underestimate their potential to achieve their dreams, succeed in work and thrive in life.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor and recognition of SFC Dana Bowman. His positive outlook on life, personal strength, and will to uplift others touches all who come in contact with him.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF PASTOR ANDREW WILSON

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contributions of Pastor Andrew Wilson of the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church.

A native Texan, Andrew Wilson grew up in San Antonio, Texas. He graduated from Guadalupe Theological Seminary in 1984 and later was named recipient of an Honorary Doctorate of Theology from the Guadalupe District Association College.

Reverend Andrew Wilson has served as Pastor of the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church for over twelve years. Under his active and passionate guidance, the Shiloh “Missionary Baptist Church has taken on numerous important community projects.

He serves as an active member of the Baptist Ministers Union, the Community Churches for Social Action, and as Spiritual Advisor to the San Antonio Chapter of the Texas Gospel Announcers Guild/Gospel Music Workshop of America. He also participates in the Nolan Street Bridge Program, which helps to feed the homeless in our community.

Pastor Wilson is the husband of Yevette Wilson, and father of Andrenette and the Reverend Leonard Wilson.

Mr. Speaker, Pastor Andrew Wilson is a source of tremendous strength for his community, and his commitment to serving his fellow man serves as a powerful example. I am proud to have the chance to honor him here today.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MODESTO
POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Modesto Police Department for being awarded full accreditation by the Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation (CALEA). This accreditation is a significant accomplishment for the Department as only twenty four percent of all full-time police officers in the United States are members of agencies officially accredited by CALEA.

The goals of the CALEA are to strengthen crime prevention and control capabilities, formalize essential management procedures, establish fair and nondiscriminatory personnel practices, improve service delivery, solidify inter-agency cooperation and boost citizen and staff confidence in the agency. The Modesto Police Department was recognized with full accreditation for achieving and sustaining these goals.

Under the leadership of Police Chief Roy Wasden, the Modesto Police Department has worked diligently for many years to ensure that high quality professional police services are provided to the community of Modesto. The Department was finally recognized for their longstanding commitment to excellence in law enforcement after a thorough agency-wide evaluation and exacting outside review. The Modesto Police Department became the 13th law enforcement agency in California to achieve accreditation. It is now the largest police department in California to be accredited.

I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Modesto Police Department for their hard work and commitment to protecting and serving our community. Standing with tradition, the Department can always be counted upon and turned to during times of need. Such outstanding departments are the cornerstones of each member of the Department for their hard work and tireless dedication. They are truly heroes of our community. I am honored to represent such a distinguished police department in the 18th Congressional District of California.

REMEMBERING THE SREBRENICA
MASSACRE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues House Resolution 199, regarding the 1995 massacre at Srebrenica in eastern Bosnian-Herzegovina. In July, ten years will have passed since thousands of Bosniaks perished in what was the worst atrocity committed during the three-and-a-half years of conflict in Bosnia. This was an absolute fiasco by the international community, eroding its credibility and principles. Those of us who worked together at the time in urging a more decisive international response can remember the horror associated with that conflict.

Many may ask: why do this? Why focus on what happened ten years ago in a region that

we are encouraging to look forward to a future that includes further European integration? I believe it is impossible to look forward without acknowledging the past and what really happened at Srebrenica. We have many lessons to learn from the past.

First, the very fact that many of those responsible for the Srebrenica massacre—especially Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic and others—not only have evaded justice in The Hague but may be receiving protection and are held almost as folk heroes by some indicates that the past has not been fully understood. Hundreds of people currently holding positions of responsibility are only now being investigated for possible connections to the massacre. Clearly the myths and propaganda originally used to justify a slaughter still hold sway in the minds of too many people.

Second, the international community must learn not to repeat the mistakes it made with horrible consequences in 1995. Some lessons have been learned. For the first time since World War II, for example, an international tribunal was created to prosecute those responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. That body has borne some results, though its task is not complete.

Intervention in Bosnia-Herzegovina was not some reckless act, as some suggest, but a needed response made increasingly difficult by unnecessary delay. Mutual congratulations will undoubtedly come later this year when commemorating the ten year anniversary of the Dayton Agreement. We would do well, however, to recall that it was the simple shame of allowing thousands to be massacred within one of the international community’s officially designated “safe areas” that finally motivated serious consideration of action against the brazen thugs responsible for these crimes. Unfortunately, it took additional atrocities before effective action was taken.

It is also helpful to listen to some of the words spoken in the aftermath of the Srebrenica massacre. For example, 27 non-governmental organizations—including religious and humanitarian organizations not usually inclined to support the use of force, as well as Muslim and Jewish organizations not known for taking common stands—issued a powerful statement:

Bosnia is not a faraway land of no concern to our “national interest.” At stake is the global commitment to fundamental human values—the right not to be killed because of one’s religious or ethnic heritage, and the right of civilians not to be targeted by combatants.

At about the same time, the U.N.’s rapporteur for human rights in the former Yugoslavia, former Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, explained why he could no longer “continue to participate in the pretense of the protection of human rights” and chose to resign in response to the events at Srebrenica. Known as a thoughtful, principled man, he said:

One cannot speak about the protection of human rights with credibility when one is confronted with the lack of consistency and courage displayed by the international community and its leaders. . . . Crimes have been committed with swiftness and brutality and by contrast the response of the international community has been slow and ineffectual.