

TRIBUTE TO THE GOODYEAR
BLIMPS

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company and its Goodyear blimps, which are celebrating their 80th anniversary as international symbols of American culture and innovation.

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, headquartered in Akron, Ohio for over a century, launched the first Goodyear blimp, the Pilgrim, in 1925. Since then, the company has built more than 300 of these graceful aerial giants, including numerous airships in a partnership endeavor with the U.S. Government to assist in military surveillance activities.

Although Americans are probably most familiar with seeing the Goodyear blimps at sporting events, during World War II, the Goodyear blimps protected American ships and armed forces while escorting convoys and task forces across the Atlantic Ocean.

Today, the Goodyear blimps support national and local charities every year, helping secure millions of dollars in donations. Perhaps even more important, the Goodyear blimps help federal and state emergency service agencies and victims of national disasters.

For all of the above, and in many thanks to a distinguished American manufacturer, I am proud and honored to recognize the extraordinary contributions Goodyear blimps have made to our nation.

AMEND THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
ACT OF 1961

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, last week I introduced a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to limit the provisions of the United States military assistance and the sale, transfer or licensing of United States military equipment or technology to Ethiopia.

The bill requires that before the United States provides military equipment to the regime in Addis Ababa that our President certifies that the Government of Ethiopia is not using our equipment or assistance against pro-democracy advocates or peaceful civilian protesters in Ethiopia. Is that too much to ask?

It is an outrage that in Ethiopia that over 80 opposition leaders and human rights activists and journalists have been recently charged with treason, violent conspiracy and genocide. These prisoners of conscience face brutal captivity and the possibility of death sentences. They include 10 newly elected members of the Parliament and other officials of the opposition Coalition for Unity and Democracy Party, also known as the CUD.

These brave souls face charges filed against them by a corrupt and repressive government. This same government blatantly stalled the last election, making a sham out of the democratic process. Five of those being charged with criminal behavior work for the

Voice of America. One of those being held is Dr. Berhanu Nega. He is mayor of Ethiopia's largest city and has lived, studied and taught in America. Dr. Nega is an advocate of democracy. He faces the death penalty for his involvement in mass protests over the election fraud that took place in Ethiopia during their last election.

Now, in January, the British Government cut the equivalent of \$88 million in aid in support to Ethiopia. This was due to its concerns about the governance and human rights issues arising from this disputed election. Other international donors have taken similar measures.

My legislation requires certification by the President of the United States that our military equipment provided to Ethiopia is not being used to beat down those who would bring honest and democratic government to that troubled land. In Ethiopia, it is incumbent upon us as Americans to be on the side of those struggling for honest and democratic government, not on the side of their oppressor.

No pragmatic strategy can justify the United States backing a regime that stole the last election and has brutalized their own people and will, at some point, disintegrate from its own corruption and incompetent ways. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and supporting the democratic movement in Ethiopia, just as we did with a similar movement in Ukraine just two short years ago and in other countries throughout the world where the future was in play and human freedom was in the balance.

That is what being an elected representative of the American people is all about, standing for our ideals and our principles. And nowhere could that be made more clear than to stand with the people of Ethiopia, who are struggling to make a democratic government, to form a democratic government, and to have honest government and the recognition and respect for people's rights within their own country.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK CASHDAN

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Patrick Cashdan, a young resident of the San Fernando Valley that recently became the high school winner of the 2006 USA Today National Sportsmanship Day Essay Contest.

The Sixteenth Annual National Sportsmanship Day was held across the United States and in over 100 countries around the world on Tuesday, March 7, 2006, by the Institute for International Sports. The purpose of the day is to raise awareness about issues related to sportsmanship and ethics in athletics and daily life. The essay competition is in its twelfth year and receives thousands of essays from elementary, middle, high school, and college students on the topic of ethics and sportsmanship in sports. Patrick is the 2006 winner in the high school category for his essay on the need to resurrect sportsmanship.

My. Speaker, Patrick is a junior at Chaminade College Preparatory High School in West Hills, California. He is a varsity wrestler and lacrosse player, and understands the

importance of sportsmanship and the difficulties encountered by young athletes who must face peer pressure to excel and win. While most children, of course, want to impress their friends and parents with their athletic abilities, Patrick understands that winning at all cost is not what is important. He believes and competes with the knowledge that one can play their very best while also being committed to being a good sport. Patrick has the strong support of his father, Daniel, and mother, Allisyn, who raised him to play fair—to understand that it is most important to do your best and enjoy yourself. Patrick also has two younger brothers, Christopher and Daniel, and has shared with them the value of good sportsmanship.

Patrick plans to attend college next year and is interested in United States history. He plans to continue playing sports and hopes to spread the value of sportsmanship to his fellow teammates.

My. Speaker, I pay tribute today to Patrick Cashdan as the high school winner of the 2006 USA Today National Sportsmanship Day Essay Contest, and as an inspiration to all sports fans. I ask that his essay on sportsmanship be included in the RECORD.

High school winner: Patrick Cashdan, age 17, junior at Chaminade College Preparatory High School, West Hills, Calif.

Sportsmanship is dead. However, it has died many times in history. For instance, it was buried the moment a Major League Baseball player purposely spiked the other team while stealing a base. In all sports both sides have to shake each other's hand and wish each other good luck, but how sincere are they? True sportsmen show grace and poise throughout their lives as athletes and role models, regardless of the game's outcome. There are many contributors to the death of sportsmanship, including the media, the over inflation of sports stars' egos, and most surprisingly, parents.

Unlike the Medieval Ages where opposing soldiers would greet each other on the battlefield and "embrace them with a soldier's arm" (Henry IV, Shakespeare), today's competitors only care about personal gain and fame. The modern media tries to find out everything about celebrities, including professional athletes, and when an athlete is caught doing something wrong, the attention makes him or her even more famous. This portrayal, even though it's bad, is addictive to a celebrity and only inflates an athlete's ego.

Such attention causes professional athletes to act childishly. Athletes consistently show vulgar and immature displays of unsportsmanlike activity. Fights with fans, alleged illegal drug use, and extra-marital affairs should not be the factors that define a great sportsman. Such athletes care only about money and fame rather than the love of the game. Their examples thus get passed on to the children of today showing that it is ok to act in an unsportsmanlike manner.

Perhaps the final nail in the casket for the death of sportsmanship starts when we are children. A parent is the first coach of life and young athletes get over-influenced by them. As a varsity wrestler, baseball and lacrosse player, I see first-hand how a parent causes unsportsmanlike conduct. The young athletes would do anything in their power to impress their parents or "make them proud" even if it means cheating or hurting themselves or their opponent. Recently, at a wrestling tournament during the match, a parent was yelling to his son to "club", or illegally hit, his opponent's head. So, the son did what his father told him to do. Believe it or not,

he won! He was cited for unsportsmanlike behavior and advanced. His father was very proud. As a witness, it was very upsetting to see such unsportsmanlike conduct being taught by a parent, and ultimately being rewarded.

It is unfortunate that there is not much sportsmanship seen anymore today. How did the idea of winning or losing gracefully leave our society? We need to resurrect it by taking out the media. This would make most of our role models act more maturely and less egotistically, and would make parents stop putting too much pressure on their kids to win at all costs. Sportsmanship needs to be brought back into our lives for all of humanity's sake.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer a personal explanation of the reason I missed rollcall votes 19 through 38. Due to an emergency appendectomy I was unable to be present for votes the week of March 6th. I respectfully request that it be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that if present, I would have voted on rollcall 19 (H.R. 4054 Designating the Dewey Bartlett Post Office), "aye"; rollcall 20 (S. 2771—Reauthorization of the Patriot Act), "no"; rollcall 21 (Previous Question to H.R. Res 710 Providing for Consideration of the Food Uniformity Bill), "no"; rollcall 22 (Motion to Instruct Conferees to H.R. 2830), "aye"; rollcall 23 (H.R. 4192 designating Hope Arkansas as the President Clinton Birthplace), "yea"; rollcall 24 (H.R. 1053 Extending Normal Trade Relations to the Ukraine), "aye"; rollcall 25 (H. Res. 673 Expressing Support for the People of Belarus to Establish a Full Democracy), "aye"; rollcall 26 (H.R. 3505 to Provide Regulatory Relief for Insured Depository Institutions), "aye"; rollcall 27 (Cardoza Amendment to H.R. 4167—To Amend the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to Provide for Uniform Food Safety Warnings), "aye"; rollcall 28 (Waxman Amendment to H.R. 4167), "aye"; rollcall 29 (Capps Amendment to H.R. 4167), "aye"; rollcall 30 (Wasserman Shultz Amendment to H.R. 4167), "aye"; rollcall 31 (Stupak Motion to Recommit to H.R. 4167), "aye"; rollcall 32 (Final Passage of H.R. 4167), "no"; rollcall 33 (Previous Question of H.R. 2829 Reauthorize the National Drug Control Policy Act), "no"; rollcall 34 (Chabot Amendment to H.R. 2829), "aye"; rollcall 35 (Hooley Amendment to H.R. 2829), "aye"; rollcall 36 (Paul Amendment to H.R. 2829), "no"; rollcall 37 (Rehberg Amendment to H.R. 2829), "aye"; rollcall 38 (Final Passage of H.R. 2829), "aye".

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOUSE DEMOCRACY ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it was one year ago today—March 14, 2005—

that the House gave final approval to the formation of the House Democracy Assistance Commission. Today I am pleased to report that the HDAC, which is chaired by Rep. DAVID DREIER and on which I serve as ranking member, is off to an energetic and encouraging start.

My hope in first proposing creation of the Commission in the 108th Congress was to build upon and extend the pioneering work of the Frost-Solomon Task Force, which in the early 1990s extended support to the emerging democratic parliaments of Central and Eastern Europe. Those hopes began to be realized as Speaker HASTERT got behind the idea, the authorizing resolution was refined and passed, and both Speaker Hastert and Leader Pelosi appointed serious, committed Members to carry out the work of the Commission.

During calendar year 2005, the Commission entered into agreements with five parliaments around the world to provide material, technical, and procedural assistance to members of Parliament as they learn how to govern their nations responsibly, effectively, and—in many cases for the first time ever—democratically. The Commission has now, begun its work with these nations: East Timor, Georgia, Indonesia, Kenya, and Macedonia.

Our relationship with these countries will continue, hopefully over the course of several years. At the same time, the Commission will be undertaking programs with a new round of emerging democratic parliaments in 2006. We hope to continue to support our country's ideals and interests in key nations around the world through our assistance.

While our program is still in its early stages, we have already seen clear evidence of the impact it can have. Last month, the Commission's first delegation of members of Congress traveled to Indonesia and East Timor and began to train members of those nations' parliaments. I want to especially thank the members of this delegation—Rep. JIM KOLBE, Rep. LOIS CAPPs, Rep. ADAM SCHIFF, and Rep. ALLYSON SCHWARTZ—who I understand were greeted with warm welcomes and rapt attention in both countries. While in East Timor, this delegation announced that the House Democracy Assistance Commission would be helping East Timor build a parliamentary library from the ground up, no small accomplishment in a nation with extremely limited resources. Our Commission's work goes far beyond building physical structures, however; we are helping to build the foundations of effective and lasting democracy.

Mr. Speaker, the House Democracy Assistance Commission is an all-too-rare example of sincere bipartisan cooperation. Chairman DREIER, who chairs our commission, has helped us carry out our work with no considerations other than the best interests of the House, the United States, and our partner parliaments. Under his leadership, our Commission's 16 members have been able to demonstrate to our partners our deeply-felt, shared respect for and admiration of American democracy and the esteemed institution of the House of Representatives. We also owe a particular debt of gratitude to the Commission's Staff Director, John Lis, whose energy and vision have helped us launch the Commission in such a promising way.

Every day, members of Congress are called upon to assess and oversee our Nation's policies toward developing democracies around

the world. The House Democracy Assistance Commission offers the House an opportunity to directly contribute to the sustainability and effectiveness of these democracies. We are working to establish democracy not just in name but also in practice, training our partners in the nuts and bolts of democratic government. Mr. Speaker, I can think of no more important work for ensuring our national security and maintaining our role as leader of the free world. I thank you and I thank my colleagues for your support, and I look forward to continuing our work.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL ENGINEER'S WEEK

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of National Engineer's Week and the fact that we are recognizing the importance of engineering in our lives. Too often we forget that engineering gives us our Blackberries, computers, cell phones, Ipods, pagers, high definition televisions, remote controls, and many other conveniences of modern living. For example, a Ford Taurus has 120 computer chips in it, giving the Ford Taurus more computing power than the Apollo lunar excursion modules.

I often speak of "good old American know-how", the ingenuity that created innovations which propelled our Nation to the superpower status we enjoy today. Yet, Mr. Speaker, we cannot grow complacent—innovation is slowing down, the innovation landscape is changing, and others are trying to take the gauntlet from us as I stand here now. We will not remain the leader of technological innovation in the world if we do not act. Resting on our laurels is not an option. We have done that long enough.

We must lead the Nation forward into the cultural shift required for our continued technological dominance. Every action that we take in this chamber sends a message to the world. Will we send the message that the United States understands the acceleration of technology through engineering and that these technologies will fundamentally change the structure of society and challenge the vision that we have of the future? Will we embrace the challenges that are before us as the global economy unfolds and we strive to find our role in it?

As we celebrate National Engineer's Week, we recognize the abilities that engineers have to translate scientific knowledge into innovative technologies which fulfill the needs and desires of society. By taking time on the floor of the House of Representatives to give commendation to engineering and National Engineer's Week, we are telling the Nation that engineering IS important to our future. However, celebrating engineering is not enough. We must focus resources and increase funding into research and development. Without a strong foundation in basic research and development, engineering loses the source of knowledge which feeds the engineering innovation pipeline.

Innovation spurs from creative thinking, and engineering benefits from the highly trained