

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

workforce skilled in the creative endeavor of problem solving. The education of our engineering workforce must also be a focus of our work for the future of our Nation. We must more fervently welcome into the science and engineering workforce underrepresented groups, for their unique perspectives and diverse background enrich the problem solving environment. We must create an educational system that maintains high expectations and intellectually challenges each student to find their role in solving the problems that we will face as a Nation. This is about our future, our Nation's future, and we must act now.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ETHICS REFORM ACT OF 2006

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, hailing from the Oregon climate of a small state legislature where political openness and integrity is highly prized, I have been pained by both the recent revelations in Congress of wrongdoing and the inability of the Congressional ethics process to operate in an effective manner. The House has long been in need of a comprehensive solution to the oversight of Members' ethical conduct. Sadly, it has necessitated a series of egregious violations by Members to bring this issue to the forefront of public attention. The current proposals, however, do not address the core issue behind the ethics problem—oversight.

Today, I am proud to introduce with my colleague and fellow Oregonian, GREG WALDEN, the "Ethics Reform Act of 2006." While it is the responsibility of each and every Member of Congress to adhere to the spirit of the law, as a practical matter, history shows there needs to be additional enforcement and oversight. Unfortunately, history also shows that the expectation for Congress to oversee the conduct of its Members is unrealistic. The "Ethics Reform Act of 2006" would create an independent Ethics Commission, appointed by Congress, that would objectively oversee and bring charges against Members of Congress who violate the rules.

Congress needs an independent ethics review process, similar to that found in many states. We need an independent panel that can make independent decisions without worrying about the effect those decisions will have on its members' political futures. We need an independent panel whose members understand the reality of public service and the need to ensure the integrity of that service through adherence to the rules. We need an independent panel that can meet the test of public scrutiny and restore trust that today is missing.

This bill would replace the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct with an 11-member outside Ethics Commission and a full-time professional staff to provide oversight, investigations and recommendations for ethical enforcement. Each of the members would be former House members—five from each party—who have been out of office at least 2 years and an 11th member appointed by the consensus of the other 10. These Commission members would bring the experience of public

service and the understanding of the complexity of our duties.

Professional staff, headed by an executive director, would serve the Ethics Commission. The Speaker of the House and the Minority Leader of the House would choose the executive director in a manner similar to the appointment of the director of the Congressional Budget Office. The executive director would serve for a seven-year term and could be re-appointed only once.

In addition to taking over the investigation and review functions of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, the Lobbying Disclosure Act would be brought under the Commission's jurisdiction. The new ethics panel would maintain all records and ensure compliance with reporting requirements and rules.

Any recommendations of the ethics panel beyond advisory opinions, letters of reproof and admonishment would go to the full House. Actions that fall short of official discipline would not require action of the House.

In reviewing both lobbyist disclosures and member disclosures, the Commission would review for potential joint financial interests between the two. Additionally, this bill mandates quarterly posting of lobbyist disclosures on the internet for easy public scrutiny.

Current Members of Congress will no longer be obligated with the task of policing their peers—a task which Members do not have the proper amount of time or impartiality to perform. It is time for the American people's faith in Congress to be restored. The "Ethics Reform Act of 2006" has the power to allow the Congressional oversight process to work in the fair, efficient, and transparent manner that many of us seek and our constituents demand.

RECOGNIZING MARCH 8, 2006— INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY— SPOTLIGHT ON THE PLIGHT OF MINORITY WOMEN—THE HIDDEN VICTIMS OF MULTIPLE-DISCRIMINATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say a few words in recognition of International Women's Day and to enter into the RECORD a very profound statement titled "Meeting the Challenges of Discrimination against Women from Minority Groups," authored by Gay McDougall, a human rights lawyer and a United Nations Independent Expert on Minority Issues. In the country and around the world, holidays and special recognition days come and go every year. We all celebrate and/or reminisce briefly to honor the occasions. Many times there are occasions that deserve more than just a cursory acknowledgement. International Women's Day is one such occasion.

March 8th—International Women's Day is a day marked by women's groups around the world. This date is commemorated at the United Nations and is designated in many countries as a national holiday. The idea of an International Women's Day first came about at the turn of the century during a period of expansion and turbulence, booming population

growth and radical ideologies. Great strides in women's rights have been made since the turn of century and everyone, especially women, can look back to a tradition that represents at least nine decades of struggle for equality, justice, peace and development. In the present day, women on all continents often divided by national boundaries and by ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic and political differences continue to come together to celebrate International Women's Day.

The United Nations has played a pivotal role in ensuring that International Women's Day continues to receive their support. The growing women's movement has been strengthened by four global United Nations women's conferences which served to make the commemoration a rallying point for coordinated efforts to demand women's rights and participation in the political and economic process.

Few causes promoted by the United Nations have generated more intense and widespread support than the campaign to promote and protect the equal rights of women. The charter of the United Nations, signed in San Francisco in 1945, was the first international agreement to proclaim gender equality as a fundamental human right. Since then, the organization has helped create a historic legacy of internationally agreed strategies, standards, programs and goals to advance the status of women worldwide.

With so much awareness of the issues facing women in this day and time, one would believe that women have come close to reaching the pinnacle of achievement and recognition in today's society. Yes, great strides have been made but the reality is that new and urgent attention must be given to the rights of women facing multiple forms of discrimination, exclusion and violence. Amongst the most disadvantaged and vulnerable are women from minority communities who face problems compounded by their uniquely disadvantaged positions in society. These women face two forms of discrimination—first because they belong to certain minority communities and secondly because they are women.

This article that I enter into the RECORD today thoroughly exposes some of the challenges of discrimination against women—particularly women from minority groups—and clearly brings the unfinished business of equal rights for women to the forefront. Gay McDougall the U.N. Independent Expert on Minority Issues has written this article to remind us that much is left to do to confront the reality of the present unacceptable situation facing millions of women worldwide.

MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN FROM MINORITY GROUPS (By Gay McDougall)

All women share common bonds in the fight for equal rights. In every region and in every society, women are undervalued, face issues of personal insecurity because of violence in their homes and communities, and must wage a constant struggle for self-determination over their bodies and personal destinies. While some gains have been made in those battles, gender based discrimination remains a persistent and universal problem.

However, some women's problems are compounded by their uniquely disadvantaged position in society as members of national, racial, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities that are targets of discrimination. The damage done to individuals, families, communities and societies by discrimination, exclusion and racism on these grounds is immense. Women from these groups must often