

then known as Coahuila y Tejas: the elimination of the State's legislative body; the denial of religious freedom; the elimination of the civil justice system; and the confiscation of firearms, which was one particularly intolerable act among Texans.

Finally, it stated that because of the injustice of Santa Anna's tyrannical government, Texans were severing their connection with the Mexican nation and declaring themselves "a free, sovereign, and independent republic . . . fully invested with all the rights and attributes" that belong to independent nations; and a declaration that they "fearlessly and confidently" committed their decision to "the Supreme Arbiter of the destinies of nations."

Mr. Speaker, I hope that Congress and this whole country join all Texans in honoring these brave men who stood up for liberty and freedom 171 years ago.

#### MORROW COUNTY ROADS AND ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS

(Mr. WALDEN of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, the failure of Congress to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act is a breach of faith to more than 600 forested counties and 4,400 school districts across our great country.

There are more than 400 miles of paved road in Morrow County, Oregon, where every county road leads to a national forest. Loss of this program and funds means no portion of any paved road will be replaced and basic maintenance will stop. One of the most expensive roads for the county to maintain runs through the Umatilla National Forest and is a designated scenic byway.

Without county payments, people won't be able to safely access their public lands, and the hope of a new outdoor recreation economy to replace the lost timber jobs goes unfulfilled.

County Public Works Director Burke O'Brien says: "We are not the ones who stopped our sustainable Federal timber harvest. However, now we are being forced to lose even the funds promised to replace the lost forest revenues."

My colleagues, Congress must keep the Federal Government's word and its promise to the timbered communities. It is time to get a hearing and a mark-up and to pass H.R. 17. Time is running out for forested timber communities.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF UGANDA RESOLUTION

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the dire situation in Africa that does not receive the attention it deserves.

Today, along with Senator RUSS FEINGOLD, I introduced a concurrent resolution that I hope will eventually

bring some peace to the ravaged region of northern Uganda. Specifically, it calls on the Government of Uganda and the so-called Lord's Resistance Army to recommit to a political solution to the conflict in northern Uganda and to recommence peace talks that are vital.

It also urges immediate and substantial support for the ongoing peace process from the United States and the international community.

Mr. Speaker, the tragedy in Darfur rightfully has been receiving a great deal of attention as of late. But to the southeast of that region, another tragedy has been developing for nearly two decades. More than 200,000 Ugandans have died from the violence and disease brought about by the conflict between the Ugandan Government and the LRA.

What is particularly disgusting about this conflict is the forced recruitment of children by LRA. The boys are turned into killing machines and the girls into sex slaves.

Former U.N. Under Secretary General Jan Egeland has called the crisis in northern Uganda the biggest forgotten humanitarian emergency in the world today.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WELCH of Vermont). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### FORMER U.S. BORDER PATROL AGENTS RAMOS AND COMPEAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today is the 48th day since a great injustice took place in this country. On January 17 of 2007, two U.S. Border Patrol agents entered Federal prison to begin serving 11- and 12-year sentences respectively.

Agents Compean and Ramos were convicted last spring for shooting a Mexican drug smuggler who brought 743 pounds of marijuana across our border into Texas. The smuggler's van contained \$1 million worth of marijuana.

These agents never should have been prosecuted, but they are now handcuffed in Federal prison.

The U.S. Attorney's Office granted immunity to the smuggler and prosecuted the agents almost exclusively on the testimony of an admitted drug smuggler who claimed he was unarmed. The drug smuggler received full medical care in El Paso, Texas, was permitted to return to Mexico, and is now suing the Border Patrol for \$5 million for violating his civil rights.

Mr. Speaker, he is not an American citizen. He is a criminal.

Mr. Speaker, countless citizens and dozens of Members of Congress want to

know why our government is on the wrong side of this case. Over the past 6 months, Members of Congress have repeatedly petitioned President Bush to pardon these agents.

Since the agents' conviction, new details continue to emerge that call into question the prosecution and the outcome of this case. Recently, I sent a letter to the President detailing the troubling revelations that the prosecutors in this case may not have provided crucial evidence to the defense. This evidence includes a Homeland Security memo that states two supervisors at the scene knew about the shooting, but failed to report it. This contradicts the prosecution's claim that the agents knew they did something wrong and tried to cover up the shooting.

Since then, Drug Enforcement Agency, DEA, reports have also revealed that the Mexican drug smuggler brought a second load of 752 pounds of marijuana, but the prosecutors succeeded in keeping this information sealed from the jury and the public.

Citizens across this country and Members of Congress want to know why does the U.S. Attorney's Office in western Texas choose to go after law enforcement officers while protecting illegal aliens who commit crimes in this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, every day that these men remain behind bars is a travesty of justice. Because the President has so far refused to stand up for justice in this case, last month Agent Ramos was assaulted in prison.

But, Mr. Speaker, the President has the power to immediately reverse this injustice by granting a pardon to these two innocent men.

And, Mr. Speaker, before I close, I want to say that the American people have rallied behind these two Border agents who are heroes in this country, not criminals. And it is time that this White House wake up and listen to the American people.

#### HONORING THOMAS F. EAGLETON FOR 50 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CARNAHAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, this evening I would like to speak about a true statesman that we have lost in our country and in my home State of Missouri. We lost, over the weekend, former U.S. Senator Thomas F. Eagleton. Not only was he a true statesman, but he had a giant heart, a powerful intellect, and a keen wit.

He leaves behind his wife, Barbara, whom he married in 1956, two children, son Terence and daughter Christie, three grandchildren and a brother.

Not long ago, friends gathered in St. Louis and celebrated 50 years since Senator Eagleton had entered public service. And he had many chapters in an amazing life. He served his country honorably in the United States Navy,

stationed at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center from 1948 to 1949, continued on to graduate with honors from Amherst College in 1951 and Harvard Law School in 1953.

He was admitted to the Missouri Bar in 1953; proceeded in a series of offices, beginning, he was elected as the youngest circuit attorney in the city of St. Louis in its history at the age of 27. He followed that by being elected the youngest Missouri State attorney general at the age of 31, and the youngest Lieutenant Governor of the State of Missouri by age 35.

He went on and in 1968 was elected to the United States Senate representing Missouri. In his first term in the United States Senate, at the age of 42, he was selected by George McGovern to be his Vice Presidential candidate. And while he was only that nominee for a few days, and he will be known as such in history, he went on to serve three terms in the United States Senate, sponsoring legislation, varied, but of great importance to our country, the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, an amendment which halted the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War, and as the chief author of the Federal War Powers Act that limits the authority of the President to conduct war without congressional approval.

After an amazing career in public service, he came home to St. Louis, and there he gave back to his community, to new generations of people to encourage them in public service, to new generations of students. He was a professor at Washington University in St. Louis and St. Louis University where he shared his vast knowledge and experience with young people who will be our leaders of tomorrow.

To others in public service, myself, I am fortunate to say, included, he was a great mentor, example and friend. He never failed to promote the people and the notions that he felt strongly about.

In his private life in St. Louis, he was well known for acting with regard to the civic good and giving back to his community. He worked to bring the St. Louis Rams to St. Louis, and recently, in the 2006 elections, was a chief advocate for Missouri's amendment to the Stem Cell Initiative which passed by a vote of the people.

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In downtown St. Louis, our new Federal courthouse is named after Senator Eagleton. It towers in our downtown just west of the famous St. Louis Arch. Thomas Eagleton's career and life towers in our country as a great example for all of us, whether we are involved in public service or not.

He was legendary for writing lengthy notes to people. I will treasure those notes that he has sent to me; those notes, that advice, that wise counsel that he shared with so many.

The impact that he has had on young people, their leadership for the future and what he has given to our great State and our country, he will be sorely missed but very well remembered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### DR. MICHAEL ELLIS DEBAKEY, FATHER OF CARDIOVASCULAR SURGERY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor of the House tonight to ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1154. This bill designates a Congressional Gold Medal for the famed Houston heart surgeon, Dr. Michael DeBakey. This legislation has been introduced by my good friend from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN), but I feel it is incumbent upon me, as one of the physicians of the House of Representatives, to come to the floor and talk about how important this award is for this individual because, truly, Dr. Michael DeBakey changed the face of medicine forever in this country. His motto, as always, was, "Strive for nothing less than excellence," a motto that we might adopt in the House of Representatives today.

Dr. DeBakey received his bachelor's and his M.D. degree from Tulane University in New Orleans. While in medical school, Dr. DeBakey invented what became known as the roller pump, later to become a major component in the heart-lung machine used in open-heart surgery. This was a groundbreaking development because previous mechanical pumps had destroyed so many red blood cells in the mechanical action of pumping. The roller pump was truly a visionary change that Dr. DeBakey popularized when he was still in medical school in the 1930s.

He completed his internship at Charity Hospital in New Orleans. Charity Hospital, unfortunately, is no longer with us because of the ravages of Hurricane Katrina. Dr. DeBakey completed his residency in surgery at the University of Strasbourg, France and the University of Heidelberg in Germany.

He volunteered for service in World War II and subsequently was named director of the Surgical Consultants' Division of the U.S. Surgeon General's Office. His work during that war led that office to the development of the Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, so-called MASH units, those indeed that were popularized by movies and television shows back in the 1970s and were the forerunners of our forward surgical combat teams that have saved so many lives in Iraq and Afghanistan today.

He helped establish the specialized medical and surgical center system for treating military personnel returning home from war, subsequently known as the Veterans' Administration Medical Center System.

But it was at Methodist Hospital in Houston where Dr. DeBakey performed many of his groundbreaking surgeries, including the first removal of a carotid artery blockage in 1950, the year that I was born; the first coronary artery bypass graft in 1964; the first use of a ventricular assist device to pump blood and support a diseased heart in 1966; and some of the first heart transplants in 1968 and 1969.

He developed the self-contained miniaturized left ventricular assist device to pump blood for a diseased heart, something that is in use to this day. The techniques used to miniaturize the device's inner workings were developed with engineers working on the Nation's space program at nearby NASA.

He served as an adviser to nearly every United States President for the last 50 years. Think of that, Mr. Speaker: The medical adviser to every United States President for the last 50 years, as well as to heads of state throughout the world. He traveled, famously, to Russia in 1996 to consult on the surgery for Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

During his professional surgical career, he performed more than 60,000 cardiovascular procedures and trained thousands of surgeons who practice around the world. His name is affixed to a number of organizations, centers for learning and projects devoted to medical education and health education for the general public.

But think of this, Mr. Speaker, Dr. DeBakey also underwent an operation that was named for him. I picked up a copy of the New York Times last December and read a story about how Dr. DeBakey had undergone the surgery that he himself had described many years before. In fact, Dr. DeBakey admitted at that time that, although he knew he was ill, he never called his own doctor, and he never called 911. Quoting here, "if it becomes intense enough, you're perfectly willing to accept cardiac arrest as a possible way of getting rid of the pain," he told the New York Times. A wonderful, pragmatic individual.

He helped establish the National Library of Medicine, which is now the world's largest and most prestigious repository for medical archives.

Mr. Speaker, as we talk in this Congress about the need for improving the computer technology for medical records and medical information, Dr. DeBakey was on the forefront of that while most of us were still in grammar school.

In 1969, he received the highest honor a United States citizen can receive: the Presidential Medal of Freedom with Distinction. In 1976, his students founded Michael E. DeBakey International Surgical Society.

His contributions to medicine and his breakthrough surgeries and innovative devices have completely transformed our view of the human body and its longevity on this planet. At age 98, he deserves the highest award that Congress can bestow: the Congressional Gold Medal.