

someone in the city of Colón posted stickers declaring “CAMBIO,” meaning change in Spanish. The regime charged Mr. Pedrosa on January 7 with the crime of possessing “subversive propaganda.” It is not known yet how long a sentence Mr. Pedrosa will face for this so-called crime. This may be because the tyrannical regime is attempting to scare other peaceful political dissenters by making an example with the unjust arrest of Mr. Pedrosa.

Mr. Pedrosa is a member of the Pedro Luis Boitel Democratic Party. He has a long history of nonviolent political dissent and has previously faced time inside the repressive gulags of the Cuban tyranny.

Even outside prison the regime's thugs have repeatedly harassed Mr. Pedrosa. According to reports, in September 1998, Mr. Pedrosa was threatened by the despot chief of police in San José de los Ramos, Matanzas province. The policeman publicly said that he had orders to shoot Mr. Pedrosa in the head and then a few days later said he had his gun ready.

A few months later Mr. Pedrosa was summoned to the headquarters of the Sistema Unico de Vigilancia y Protección, SUVP, Unified Vigilance and Protection System, where he was told that he needed to stop his human rights work and “get a job” or he would be charged with the crime of “dangerousness.” However, Mr. Pedrosa was unable to find employment because of his past peaceful political activities. One week later, he was arrested and “convicted” of “dangerousness” and received a two-year sentence in the gulag.

My colleagues, it is unconscionable that someone can be sent to a gulag just because a dictatorship suspected he was posting stickers with the word “CAMBIO.” Why are they so afraid of the word “change”? What has them so scared of such a simple and peaceful word? What they are really scared of is anyone in any way challenging their tenuous grip on the Cuban people and putting a spotlight on their condemnable, abhorrent treatment of the Cuban people.

Madam Speaker, the arrest of Mr. Pedrosa is yet another example of the totalitarian dictatorship's total disregard for human rights in that enslaved island. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Juan Pedrosa Esquivel and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

HONORING SCOTTY LIPPERT, JR.

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated community servant and a national leader in his profession.

Scotty Lippert, Jr., is a standout in his field. For twenty-one years, he has worked for Clopay Plastics Products, a global leader in specialty films, extrusion coatings, custom-printing and engineered laminations. As a planned maintenance specialist and lubrication systems leader, he is one of only 745 people worldwide to meet the education, training, and examination standards required to achieve Machinery Lubrication Technician Certification.

Scotty Lippert helped design and construct a lube room that was judged best in the world

by a panel of national and international lubrication engineers. He is beyond doubt an expert in his field, authoring training books on lube-room construction and articles on lubrication systems and lending his services to a number of Fortune 500 companies. Just as importantly, Scotty Lippert's best practices in the field of lubrication, inspired, designed and implemented at Clopay, are now being used by the U.S. Navy.

On November 2, 2007, Scotty Lippert was chosen as the 2007 Kentucky Manufacturing Employee of the Year. He was chosen by a panel of judges on account of his innovation, teamwork, community service, and leadership credentials.

In addition to his dedication to his company and profession, Scotty Lippert serves his community as a magistrate in Bracken County.

Scotty Lippert deserves praise for his contributions to his vocation and community, and I know the citizens of Bracken County and the Fourth Congressional District join me in recognizing his many achievements and contributions to our region.

INTRODUCTION OF EQUITABLE MINERAL LEASE REVENUE SHARING RESTORATION ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, with my Colorado colleague, Representative JOHN SALAZAR, I am today introducing a bill to restore the equitable sharing between the Federal Government and the States of revenues from federal onshore mineral leases.

Leasing of federally-owned onshore minerals is governed by the Mineral Leasing Act, which provides that the royalties paid by the producers are split equally between the Federal Government and the government of the State where a lease is located.

This is very important for Colorado, which in recent years has received between \$30 million and \$60 million from this source. And many other States—especially in the West—have benefited as well. In fact, the most recent report by the Interior Department indicates that 34 States received a total of \$1.9 billion pursuant to this part of the Mineral Leasing Act in 2007.

Regrettably, the just-enacted appropriations bill for the Interior Department includes a provision that in effect amends this part of the Mineral Leasing Act by reducing the share of royalty funds going to affected States by 2 percent—so that Colorado and other States will get only 48 percent (instead of half) of the royalties from Federal leases within state boundaries.

My understanding is that this change was prompted—at least in part—as a way to offset some of the costs to the Interior Department of administering the leasing program and the distribution of royalty revenues.

But I do not think such a drastic change in the law should be accomplished by inclusion of such a provision in an appropriations bill, especially when it will have such a serious adverse effect on Colorado and our communities—especially those on the Western Slope—that are experiencing the impacts of

intensive development of Federally-owned natural gas and other energy resources.

Accordingly, our bill would reverse this recently-enacted change and so restore the equitable division of royalty revenues provided by the Mineral Leasing Act.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, it is February 6, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand—just today. That is more than the number of innocent American lives that we lost on September 11, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,798 days since the tragic judicial fiat called *Roe v. Wade* was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million children. And all of them had at least four things in common.

They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. And each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it immediately or not, will never be the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever.

Madam Speaker, those noble heroes lying in frozen silence out in Arlington National Cemetery did not die so America could shred her own Constitution, as well as her own children, by the millions. It seems that we are never quite so eloquent as when we condemn the genocidal crimes of past generations, those who allowed their courts to strip the black man and the Jew of their constitutional personhood, and then proceeded to murderously desecrate millions of these, God's own children.

Yet even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to blindness and invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date, those yet unborn.

Perhaps it is important for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here.

Thomas Jefferson said, “The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government.”

Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath. The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says: “No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law.”

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the Declaration, not the casual notion, but the Declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this

core self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are.

And yet another day has passed, Madam Speaker, and we in this body have failed again to honor that commitment. We failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died without the protection we should have given them.

Madam Speaker, I believe that this discussion presents this Congress and the American people with two destiny questions.

The first that all of us must ask ourselves is very simple: Does abortion really kill a baby? If the answer is "yes," there is a second destiny question that inevitably follows.

And it is this, Madam Speaker: Will we allow ourselves to be dragged by those who have lost their way into a darkness where the light of human compassion has gone out and the predatory survival of the fittest prevails over humanity? Or will America embrace her destiny to lead the world to cherish and honor the God-given miracle of each human life?

Madam Speaker, it has been said that every baby comes with a message, that God has not yet despaired of mankind. And I mourn that those 4,000 messages sent to us today will never be heard. Madam Speaker, I also have not yet despaired. Because tonight maybe someone new, maybe even someone in this Congress, who heard this sunset memorial will finally realize that abortion really does kill a baby, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express, and that 12,798 days spent legally killing nearly 50 million children in America is enough. And perhaps they will realize that America is great enough to find a better way than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are numbered and that all too soon each of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we hear the cries of the unborn at last. May that be the day we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect the least of these, our tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is February 6, 2008—12,798 days since *Roe v. Wade*—in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I was ill today and was not present for naming bills S. 2110 (Roll No. 23) and H.R. 4140 (Roll No. 24). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both measures.

HONORING THE CAREER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. RONALD F. SURAL

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, I join with those who are recognizing the extraordinary accomplishments of a distinguished constituent Dr. Ronald F. Sural who recently retired. His career was one of remarkable contributions to the practice of medicine, and manifold successes and abiding dedication to the people of Greensboro, North Carolina.

Ron was born in Saginaw, Michigan, and educated in a one-room schoolhouse. He knew he wanted to be a doctor at an early age after seeing how a local physician took care of the people in his hometown and the respect and admiration the physician enjoyed. Not being from a wealthy family, Ron worked to put himself through college and medical school.

Ron is a 1967 alumnus of the University of Michigan Medical School. Shortly after his medical residency Ron joined the United States Air Force as a surgeon. He faithfully served his Nation during the Vietnam War, eventually being promoted to the rank of Major.

In 1974, after retiring from the Air Force, he moved his family to North Carolina after visiting the state only once. He immediately fell in love with Greensboro and decided that it was the place he would raise his family.

Ron served the people of the Greensboro area as a urologist for 33 years, providing help and healing to the young and old alike, sometimes without pay. He never refused to help anyone in need and those patients often showed their appreciation by bringing him vegetables from their gardens or firewood—the only payment they could afford.

He served the Greensboro community through his involvement with the Summit Rotary Club of Greensboro, the Knights of Columbus and as a parishioner of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church. He is a member of the Greensboro Country Club, where he has skillfully won several golf championships.

He is the proud, adoring father of four children, three grandchildren, and the loving husband to his wife of 41 years, Sharon.

Dr. Sural exemplifies all of what is good and positive about the practice of medicine. And now, his 33 year career as a physician, servant and educator has come to a close. He has left an indelible mark on his patients and on the medical professionals with whom he has worked, mentored, advised, and inspired. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we commend Dr. Ronald Sural for being a distinguished physician, father and husband, and an exemplar of strong character and generosity.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference.

This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 7, 2008 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 12

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine Air Force nuclear security; to be followed by a closed session in SR-222.

SR-325

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the Federal Aviation Administration.

SR-253

Budget

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for defense and war costs.

SD-608

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Program, and the implementation of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007.

SD-406

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine ways to address healthcare workforce issues for the future.

SD-430

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of James Randal Hall, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Georgia, Richard H. Honaker, to be United States District Judge for the District of Wyoming, Gustavus Adolphus Puryear IV, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee, and Brian Stacy Miller, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

SD-226

11 a.m.

Appropriations

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, and Related Agencies.

SD-138