

by the Committee on House Administration and supported by the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, the Office of Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Operations, the House Sergeant at Arms, the Inspector General, the Chief Administrative Officer, and the Office of Compliance.

The policy specifies only limited circumstances in which items may be placed or stored in a hallway or exit access area of a House Office Building. The policy also governs the removal of easels and similar signage, electronic kiosks, flag stands, and sign-up tables.

As the attached document indicates, the Chief Administrative Officer and the Superintendent of the House Office Buildings will share responsibility for implementation and enforcement of policy. The Committee on House Administration has directed us to provide a transition period over the next three months, which begins as of the date of this letter. During that period the House Superintendent also will ensure that appropriate wall-mounted flag holders are installed for Committee offices.

It is our hope the new policy will result in unobstructed hallways to ensure the protection of all Members, staff, and visitors in the case of emergencies.

Should you have any questions, please contact First Call Plus or the House Superintendents Service Center. We sincerely appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

DANIEL BEARD,
Chief Administrative Officer, House of Representatives.

FRANK TISCIONE,
House Superintendent, Office of the Architect of the Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, it seems like a lot of bureaucrats are involved in patrolling the hallways of Congress, and I wonder what all this nonsense costs the taxpayer. As you will notice, Mr. Speaker, the letter refers to a single complaint, and then all of these bureaucrats went into action.

The visitors to my office call this poster a fitting tribute and thank me for honoring our troops. Apparently, the congressional hall monitors have nothing better to do with their time and taxpayer money than to regulate hall traffic and posters. One would think that in the big scheme of things, American citizens, especially the families of the fallen, would want Members of Congress to display these tributes rather than not display them. But the hall police say that if I don't take it down by the end of the month that they will remove it and trash it because it's an "obstacle" in their steely bureaucratic eyes.

I hope the Architect of the Capitol changes this improper edict. Is Congress going to have to pass a law to keep these tributes on display? Well, maybe. By the way, Mr. Speaker, this arbitrary rule, in my opinion, violates the first amendment of free speech and freedom of expression.

In the meantime, I am going to have to respectfully refuse to comply. Our poster isn't going anywhere. To coin a phrase used in the Texas War of Independence, "Come and take it" if you dare.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING TERRY DEVINE

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

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, it's with a great sense of sorrow that I rise to remember a prominent North Dakota journalist and friend, Terry DeVine, whose funeral was held today in Fargo.

If North Dakota had a hall of fame for journalists, Terry DeVine would go in by acclamation. He was tough, smart, hard working, and fair. Fortunately for us, he spent most of his career at the Fargo Forum, where over the years we came to know that he had a mighty big heart as well.

My indelible memories of Terry include his early years at the Forum, which coincided with my early years in politics. As if my first trip to the Fargo Forum, our State's largest newspaper, wasn't unnerving enough, there was hard-charging Terry DeVine, former collegiate football player, Marine Corps combat veteran. He presented a gruff demeanor that clearly conveyed "Don't even think of trying to B.S. the Fargo Forum."

In fact, his journalist skepticism was a point of pride for Terry. After a politician sparked his ire by complaining about what he saw as the unnecessary intrusions of reporters in pursuit of a story, Terry wrote about the role of the press in holding officials accountable. "The relationship between a reporter and a politician should be like the relationship between a barking dog and a chicken thief," he proudly quoted from his former colleague Jules Loh.

True to his writing, Terry relished the watchdog role of the press. I consider it a true privilege to have known and worked with Terry DeVine for nearly three decades. I came to admire not just his prowess at writing and running a newspaper but his unflagging intellectual curiosity, his deeply anchored sense of right and wrong, and his compassion for the "average Joe."

The Terry we knew ran the gamut, from hard-charging city editor like a character out of "Front Page" in the early days to a quieter but steady leader through years of personal health adversity. His quick humor and core values never changed, and in his determined perseverance, he gave us the very best lessons of a remarkably dedicated and talented journalist.

I called him a week ago to say goodbye. I wanted to tell Terry of my respect for his career, my enjoyment of our visits over the years, and that in our dealings I felt he had always been fair. Whether I got all that across or not, I don't know. I'm not good at saying good-bye. But Terry, without a hint of self pity, thanked me for the call and he thanked me for our friendship. That was so like Terry: strong, direct, on point.

Terry DeVine's career has set a high bar for journalists in North Dakota. Come to think of it, he set a high bar

for all of us. He had a life well lived, a career of distinction, and an impact that we will never forget.

God speed, Terry.

THE UNJUST PROSECUTION OF 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, as the Members of the House are aware, in February of 2006, U.S. Border Patrol agents Ramos and Compean were convicted of shooting and wounding a Mexican drug smuggler who brought \$1 million worth of marijuana across our borders into Texas. The agents were sentenced to 11 and 12 years in prison and now have been in Federal prison, in solitary confinement, for 545 days.

On June 18, 2008, I sent a letter, signed by Congressman TED POE, Congressman DANA ROHRABACHER, Congressman VIRGIL GOODE, Congressmen LOUIE GOHMERT, JOHN CULBERSON, and DON MANZULLO, to ask the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Professional Responsibility to investigate the actions of U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton in this case.

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At this point, we have not received the response from the Justice Department. And I only hope they are thoroughly examining the details of this prosecution. One of the main reasons for our request for this investigation stems from the firearm charges used by his office in prosecuting the agents. The charge carried a 10-year minimum sentence. Without this charge, one of the agents, Agent Ramos, would have already completed his sentence and would be out of prison and with his family today.

When you look at the history of why Congress enacted this statute, one reason stands out, to warn criminals to think twice before they put a gun in their pocket on the way to the scene of a crime. The reason for this statute clearly does not apply to law enforcement Officers Ramos and Compean. These men were not carrying guns so they could commit a crime. They were required to carry guns as part of their job.

The real criminal in this case, the Mexican drug smuggler, has since pled guilty to smuggling additional loads of drugs. He is scheduled to face sentencing in Federal Court tomorrow. This is the same drug smuggler who the prosecution portrayed as a one-time offender and gave him free medical care, border-crossing cards and immunity to testify against our border agents.

While the American people won't wait for the Fifth United States Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans

to render its decision on the agents' appeal, I am hopeful that the House Judiciary Committee will soon hold a hearing to investigate this injustice. I thank Chairman JOHN CONYERS and his staff for their interest in investigating this case.

This case deserves a hearing because Ramos and Compean were doing their job to protect our borders. They should never have been prosecuted. During oral arguments for their appeal on December 3, 2007, one of the judges considering the case, Judge E. Grady Jolly said, and I quote the judge, "It does seem to me that the government over-reacted here. For some reason this one got out of hand."

I want the families of Agents Ramos and Compean to know that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and I will continue to do all we can to see that this miscarriage of justice corrected.

NATIONAL BOULE CONFERENCE

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my enthusiastic congratulations and support for the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority during its National Boule Conference, celebrating 100 years of its organization and existence. The sorority, founded at Howard University on January 15, 1908, is the first Greek-lettered sorority established and incorporated by a group of nine African American college women. The AKA sorority broke barriers for African American women in areas where little power or authority existed due to a lack of opportunities for minorities and women in the early 20th century.

Headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, the sorority consists of college-educated women of African, Caucasian, Asian and Hispanic descent. The sorority serves through a membership of more than 200,000 women in over 900 chapters in the United States and several other countries. Since its inception, Alpha Kappa Alpha has helped to improve social and economic conditions through community service programs. Members have improved education through independent initiatives, contributed to community building by creating programs, and influenced Federal legislation by advocacy through the National Non-Partisan Lobby on Civil and Democratic Rights.

My wife, Vera, is a proud member of Tau Gamma Omega, the graduate chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. Two of my sisters, Ceola and Floretta, are also AKAs. They often meet in our home. And I have always been very proud of the leadership and mentoring relationship my wife has established and continues to display with younger women who join. Tau Gamma Omega is a strong voice and positive presence in the community where they serve.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that there are 26,000 AKAs in the District of Columbia this week. And today I was very pleased to receive, along with my wife, State representative Connie Howard, and the immediate past president of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, the Honorable Bobby Steele and a large contingent of AKAs from my hometown of Chicago, Illinois.

And so, Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and the United States House of Representatives, I commend the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority on all their continuing endeavors to help the community. And I welcome the 26,000 attending members of the 2008 Centennial Boule to their founding place of Washington, D.C.

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

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

NIGERIAN SWEET CRUDE OIL

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I think everybody in America knows that we import an exorbitant amount of the oil that we use in this country. We are dependent on oil from the Middle East. We are dependent on oil from South America, from Venezuela and elsewhere. And as a result, we are at the mercy of these countries if they decide to cut back on the amount of oil that they are selling to this country or if OPEC decides to raise the price per barrel of oil.

As a result of our dependency on foreign oil, we now see gasoline at the pump of between \$4 and \$5 per gallon. And everybody in this country, in fact, almost everybody, about 70 percent of people in recent polls, have said they want America to move towards energy independence. They want us to drill here in the United States. They want us to drill offshore on the continental shelf. They want us to drill in ANWR up in Alaska. They want us to use coal share converted into oil for energy. And they want us to drill for natural gas. But unfortunately, we are not going to do it because we can't get the votes in the House or the Senate to get this job done.

Now today we had a meeting. And we found out that in addition to our dependency on foreign oil from sources like Saudi Arabia or Venezuela or elsewhere in the world, we find out that from Nigeria we import almost 37 percent of our sweet crude oil, which is the preferable kind of oil you want for many of the refineries on the east coast because they can convert that in

an easier way into gasoline to be sold at the pump. Now if they have to rely on heavier crude oil, as I understand it, they won't be able to convert that because they are not geared up for that. They are used to using, and the refineries are geared to using the sweet crude oil.

So as a result, we see 37 percent of the sweet crude oil coming from Nigeria and almost 1 million barrels of oil a day coming from that country. And they have problems over there right now we found out today, Mr. Speaker. They have rebel groups that are stealing as much as 500,000 barrels of oil a day and selling it on the world market to put into their own pockets. And if they decide to go further into the pockets of Nigeria, they can dig into the 1 million barrels of oil that we receive from Nigeria a day. And that is about 9 percent of the oil that we get from around the world.

The reason I'm bringing all this up is that we are dependent on Saudi Arabia. We are dependent on Venezuela. We are dependent on Canada. And we are dependent on Mexico. And now I find that we are dependent on Nigeria for about 9 percent of the oil we have, which is about 37 percent of the sweet crude oil we get, which is the preferable kind of oil that we need for refining on the east coast of this country.

We are dependent on the rest of the world. And the price of gasoline at the pump is between \$4 and \$4.50 a gallon. And if there is a disruption because of OPEC or what goes on in Nigeria, we could see the cost of gasoline per gallon go to \$5, \$6 or \$7 a gallon. And the American people and our economy cannot stand that kind of a price for gasoline. People are spending \$70, \$80 or \$90 for one tank of gasoline. And seniors and people that live in rural areas and business people trying to get to and from work cannot afford that. We can't afford the cost of getting food to the marketplace and for us to buy it without raising the price of these products. Everything is going up because of the price of oil.

And we find that we can be energy independent in this country. We can move rapidly toward energy independence if we drill off the continental shelf and Alaska, and drill for natural gas and convert coal shale into oil. We can be energy independent, and we don't have to depend on the rest of the world.

And the American people, Mr. Speaker, need to contact their Congressmen and their Senators and tell them that we need to move toward energy independence. We need to drill here in America. We can get the job done. We're a can-do country. And we need to get with it right away.

IT IS TIME TO BAIL OUT MAIN STREET

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