

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the national media have conspicuously ignored two recent stories about Judge Sotomayor. The Washington Times reported last week that three out of five majority decisions written by Judge Sotomayor and reviewed by the United States Supreme Court have been overturned. That's a 60 percent overturn rate.

In another story, the Washington Times reported on findings of the Almanac of the Federal Judiciary. It revealed that out of 21 judges reviewed, Judge Sotomayor was the only one who received decidedly negative comments about her demeanor on the bench.

Not surprisingly, there's been no mention of the questions raised about the judge's qualifications in any major newspaper or on any network TV news program.

Supreme Court nominees should face scrutiny from the national media if they're doing their job. Americans need the national media to set aside their bias and report the facts about Judge Sotomayor.

CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT MADE PUBLIC

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, it was reported today in the New York Times that the Federal Government mistakenly made public a 266-page report marked "highly confidential," and it gives detailed information about hundreds of the Nation's civilian nuclear sites and programs, including maps that show the precise locations of stockpiles of fuel for nuclear weapons.

Can you believe that? A confidential document that is supposed to be kept secret was publicized, and every terrorist in the world now knows exactly where our nuclear supplies are stored and maps showing where, in detail, these nuclear supplies are stored.

Now, hopefully, they're very secure and there's a lot of guards around there to protect us. But I think it's tragic that top secret information, highly classified information, is being made public at a time when we're fighting a war against terrorism.

It makes absolutely no sense. And those who are responsible for making this public should be held accountable.

□ 1645

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DRIEHAUS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

LOSING SIGHT OF OLD GLORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, recently, in Texas, we actually had a woman ordered to remove her American flag from her work space. Debbie McLucas works at Kindred Hospital in Mansfield, Texas. She comes from a very patriotic family. Her husband and both of her sons served in the United States military. Her daughter is a combat medic and is currently deployed on her second tour of duty in Iraq.

When Debbie arrived at work the Friday before Memorial Day, her American flag was gone from her hospital work space. She had displayed it in honor of Memorial Day and in honor of our troops. Debbie was met by her supervisor and was told that there had been complaints about the American flag. An immigrant coworker had complained that the American flag was offensive, so the flag was taken down by management. Debbie found her flag wrapped around the pole and laying on the floor in the corner of her supervisor's office.

Debbie McLucas said in an interview that one of her colleagues who had migrated to the United States from Africa 14 years ago had complained to the supervisor. Debbie was then told by management that it only took one complaint, and the so-called "offensive" flag had to come down immediately. Debbie told her supervisor that she was offended that somebody removed the flag. She said she could not fathom that anyone in America would find the American flag objectionable.

As soon as this episode hit the news wires, there was outrage from sea to shining sea and rightfully so. After all, Debbie's freedom of speech to display the flag was stolen by the hospital elites because one person whined and griped. Let me tell you about how some Americans appreciate the flag as Debbie McLucas does.

Several years ago during the Vietnam War, a university student in Houston, Texas, had desecrated the American flag. He was charged under Texas law with the felony of flag desecration. That was before the Supreme Court gave peaceniks the right to burn the flag, saying it was free speech. Anyway, two young prosecutors—Vic Pecorino and Andy Horn, a recent returning Vietnam veteran—had to prove to the jury that the flag was, in legal terms, a venerated object, or one that deserves special treatment.

After proving the case, except for this one requirement, the State called Chris Cole, a judge, to prove that the flag had to be treated in a respectful manner. He came in to testify, accompanied by his seeing eye dog. Judge Cole was a marine in World War II. He was involved in the bloody island hopping of the South Pacific. During the flag trial, he was asked by the prosecutors when the last time was he saw the U.S. flag.

He paused, and with a tearful response, he said, The last time I saw the

flag it was raised on Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima Island in 1945. You see, several days later, Judge Chris Cole had a Japanese hand grenade explode near him, and he permanently lost the sight in both eyes. He never saw Old Glory again.

In the flag trial, the defendant was convicted by the jury because they thought, as Judge Cole testified, that the flag holds special significance to Americans; but the law was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

There are a lot of Americans, especially those who serve in the military, who hold the view that the flag represents everything that is good and right about our Nation and that it is their right to display the flag.

Mr. Speaker, the flag is displayed here on the wall behind me. Each morning, Members of Congress pledge allegiance to the flag as do schoolchildren across the vast plains of America. Obviously, Debbie McLucas is another one of those Americans who respects the values that the flag represents, and she wishes to proudly display it. Debbie McLucas should be praised for exercising her constitutional right of freedom of speech by displaying America's flag.

So, in her honor and to honor her military family, I have requested that an American flag be flown over the United States Capitol on Saturday, June 6, on the 65th anniversary of the D-day landing of Normandy during World War II. The flag will be sent to this American lady in appreciation of her patriotic spirit, of her loyalty to American warriors and to the American flag. May she display it proudly.

And that's just the way it is.

IT IS TIME FOR SMART POWER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, everyone here in the House of Representatives knows that I've been a critic of our Nation's long occupation of Iraq. Our strategy there has relied almost exclusively on military power, which is what got us into this quagmire that we still can't escape. Now I fear we're making the very same mistake in Afghanistan and Pakistan because over 90 percent of the supplemental budget for Afghanistan and Pakistan, which the House passed just a few weeks ago and which I opposed, goes strictly toward military purposes, and less than 10 percent goes toward the building of our smart power in that region.

"Smart power" means investing in humanitarian assistance, in economic development, in reconciliation, and in reconstruction. It means helping the Afghan people to improve their transportation, their health care, their education, and their agricultural systems. It means investing in their judiciary and law enforcement systems to expand the rule of law. It means creating

jobs, building up local capacity and improving the lives of women and girls, and it means strengthening our diplomatic operations in the region.

All of these efforts are desperately needed to shore up the fragile governments in Afghanistan and Pakistan. They're desperately needed because we must offer the people a better life. We must give the people of Afghanistan real hope for a better future because that is the best way to defeat the Taliban, and it is the best way to bring peace and stability to the region. We will never be able to do that if we nickel and dime smart power.

Even our own counterinsurgency strategy recognizes this. It calls for an 80-20 ratio. That means 80 percent of our funds being spent on the smart investment that I just mentioned with 20 percent going to purely military spending. Currently, we've got a 90-10 split going the opposite way. We're actually ignoring our own best strategy.

On this subject, I would like to call the House's attention to remarks that were recently made by Ambassador Akbar Ahmed, the former High Commissioner of Pakistan to Great Britain. He spoke about Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas, the very explosive area on the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Referring to the tribes there, he said, "A successful strategy to deal with them is not to take them head on—sending in troops, throwing grenades and missiles or sending in tanks."

Instead, he said that we should be working to win the hearts and minds of the tribal members, of those who have a great sense of pride and dignity. He said, if America did that, there would be "resistance to the Taliban, not from 30,000 feet in the sky but right here on the ground."

He also said, "The one thing every Pakistani wants for his kids is education." If America helped to improve education in that country, he said that we could turn things around in a few years and that America's greatest enemies will become America's allies.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want a strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, a strategy that will protect the lives of our troops, that will strengthen our national security and that will help the people of that region to lead better lives. I've recommended a plan to accomplish this. It's House Resolution 363, the SMART Security Platform for the 21st Century. I'm hoping every Member of the House reads it and remembers that smart power is not soft power. It's the real power, the power we need to keep America safe and to make our world peaceful.

CONGRATULATING THE 2009 MILITARY SPOUSE OF THE YEAR: TANYA QUEIRO

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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tanya Queiro, who was named the 2009 Military Spouse of the Year.

The honor is presented by USAA to an individual who embodies the best qualities of today's military spouse. USAA is a diversified financial services group of companies that serves the members of the United States military and their families. The award honors the sacrifices and selfless service of the more than 1 million military spouses who provide unwavering support to our Armed Services today and to those who have served in previous generations.

Tanya Queiro was chosen from more than 650 nominations submitted to "Military Spouse" magazine. The criteria used to select the winner include one's impact on community change, one's volunteerism, personal sacrifice, education, career pursuits, and other spouse-related efforts. During an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., Mrs. Queiro was honored for her commitment to the troops, for the ongoing support of her active duty husband, Gunnery Sergeant Jose Queiro, for her volunteer work, and for the many contributions to her community.

Mrs. Queiro, herself, served as an active duty marine for more than 12 years. It was during this time that she met and married her husband, that she began raising her three children and that she began earning her bachelor's degree and also her master's degree. Now, in addition to raising her children—Jose, Marcus and Adrianna—and managing the house while her husband deploys, she works full time as a human resources specialist and is pursuing a doctorate degree in organization and management.

Mrs. Queiro has also managed to find the time to be extremely active in her community. She is a USDA New Leader Program graduate, an active Civilian Career Leadership Development participant and mentor, an American Military University Career mentor, and an Operation Noble Heart volunteer. She has volunteered as a Life Style, Insight, Networking, Knowledge, and Skills mentor, Onslow County Women's Shelter Victim Advocate, and Key Volunteer. As a lifetime member of the Women's Marine Association, Mrs. Queiro is dedicated to cementing the bond and comradery shared by those who have gone through the training to become United States Marines.

Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Queiro last week in my district office in Greenville, North Carolina. She is a resident of Jacksonville, North Carolina, which is part of my congressional district. Her outstanding record of achievement and of continued commitment to her husband, to her children, to the United States Marine Corps family, and to her community are truly inspiring. Once again, I extend my sincere congratulations to Mrs. Queiro for a well-deserved honor.

Mr. Speaker, before closing, as I do frequently on the floor of the House, I

ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform, and I ask God, in his loving arms, to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq, and I ask God three times: Please God, please God, please God, continue to bless America.

□ 1700

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FREEDOMS AND QUALITY OF LIFE ARE BEING THREATENED RIGHT HERE AT HOME

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, the freedoms and the quality of life of Americans is being threatened right here at home not necessarily just by those outside the country but here at home. And I want to tell you why tonight. We're talking about a socialized approach to medicine called national health care that's going to cost billions and billions and probably trillions of dollars. It will take away from people their right to pick their own doctor in many cases; and it will cause the rationing of health care, which will put people, particularly seniors, at the back of the line when it comes to very important things that have to be done to them to keep them alive and healthy. It's going to cost trillions of dollars; and in the budget that we passed earlier, this last month, they put \$635 billion in there as a down payment, the first tranche, on socialized medicine which will take away a lot of the freedoms that people have in choosing their own doctor and getting qualified health care.

The second thing that is being threatened is the control of our financial institutions. We passed a TARP bill that bailed out a lot of Wall Street companies and banks. And because of that, a lot of those financial institutions are now directly or indirectly controlled by the Federal Government. I don't think the American people want that. They don't want socialism in this country. They don't want a government-controlled economy or financial institutions.

So we have national health care that is going to be controlled by the government. They don't do a very good job of controlling other things in this country, as many of us know, but national health care and now financial institutions. And then next we have the automobile industry. The government just acquired 61 percent of the control of