

PROTECTING UNBORN CHILDREN

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

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, a piece of legislation that is now rightfully receiving overwhelming support and one that I am proud to now be an original cosponsor of.

It is the responsibility of every public elected official to try to do all that we can to protect those who cannot protect themselves. And that is exactly what this piece of legislation does. It does that by punishing those who would intentionally try to harm or in some cases kill an unborn child.

This piece of legislation has the further benefit of actually trying to encourage the efforts to discourage crimes against women, the mothers. It does that by punishing those who would inflict the crimes against women and their unborn children.

So I would encourage people today from both sides of the aisle to do what all public elected officials should do: protect those who cannot protect themselves.

PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, George Bush made his first address to the Nation as President-elect from the chamber of the Texas House of Representatives. Today that same House is in lockdown. He was introduced by Democrat Speaker Pete Laney. Today, Mr. Laney is at work with 50 courageous colleagues in Ardmore, Oklahoma, while some Republicans outrageously call them "fugitives" and "criminals."

Throughout his campaign, Mr. Bush professed to be a "uniter, not a divider." If that quickly-abandoned moniker is ever to achieve any meaning, perhaps home in Texas is the best place for him to practice what he preached. Mr. President, tell Karl Rove to stop messing with Texas. Mr. President, tell TOM DELAY to withdraw his redistricting plan that slices and dices communities across our State.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Remarks in debate must address the Chair, not the President of the United States. The Chair reminds the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) that he is to address his remarks to the Chair, not to the President of the United States.

Mr. DOGGETT. A distinguished predecessor as President of the United States, Dwight David Eisenhower, pledged, "I shall go to Korea."

To achieve peace, why don't you simply pledge, "I shall go to Austin."

UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ACT

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the Unborn Victims of Violence Act. For too long Federal law has failed to recognize what is obvious to so many Americans, that when an unborn child is injured or killed during the commission of a crime of violence, there are two human victims, not just one.

Already 26 States have enacted criminal penalties. Now Congress must lead a national effort to bring justice to criminals who would harm pregnant women and their children. To those who would perform these heinous acts, we should say we, as Americans, will no longer tolerate your callous disregard for human life and for the families that you devastate.

Mr. Speaker, this bill requires the Federal law recognize an unborn child as a victim if he or she is harmed during a Federal crime by letting the assailant be charged with a second offense on behalf of the second victim, the unborn child, the exact charge depending on degree of harm done to the child.

We should all take a moment and reflect on the profound loss and sorrow suffered by a family and their community when a new life is extinguished by an act of violence and let that thought guide this debate.

HONORING TEXAS HOUSE DEMOCRATS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let there be no mistake, this action by 51 heroes and heroines is by no means dealing with the political aspect of redistricting. These individuals are dealing with the constitutional principles of freedom and human dignity.

The Houston Chronicle today said the ability of the Democrats to thwart DELAY is good for all Texans. I am going to add something else: it is good for America. Because you do not know the kind of oppressive leadership that the majority leader is bringing to the State. He says he will not relent. He indicates that at a breakfast the President of the United States said when he said redistricting is ongoing, the President said, well, I would like to see that happen. Fair enough. But this is a divisive, impulsive act by the majority leader. This is Washington telling Texas what to do. And do you know why? Because TOM DELAY says he is not going to compromise because Republicans are in control in Austin and Washington.

Well, let me thank Garnet Coleman, Jessica Farrar, Joe Moreno, Senfronia

Thompson, Kevin Bailey, and Rick Noriega. The Governor of Texas said they should resign. Mr. Governor, you need to consider your own words. Maybe some believe you should do the same.

HONORING SAVANNA, GEORGIA, PORTS

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

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contribution to the economy that the port of Savannah provides to the port city in Savannah, Georgia, in the 12th district.

Last year, the port city served more than 50 steamship lines serving more than 150 countries around the world. Exports of kale and clay, wood pulp and machinery helped send Georgia products abroad, and the port is responsible for more than 80,000 Georgia jobs, paying more than \$585 million in State and local taxes. These jobs provide a total of \$1.8 billion of personal income to the citizens of Savannah and the surrounding areas of Georgia.

The economic impact from my district and the State of Georgia is enormous, and we must make sure that the port remains open, efficient, and secure. I support the efforts of the Governor and the Georgia Port Authority to maintain and improve this vital commercial center. I look forward to working with all branches of government to secure the necessary resources to protect this asset and expand its influence in the community.

HONORING THE TEXAS 53

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor today to salute heroes in my State, the Texas 53. Yes, these 53 State House representatives have taken a courageous stand to preserve justice and democracy in Texas. As those State representatives said in a written statement, they are taking a courageous stand for fair play for all Texans. We refuse to participate in an inherently unfair process that slams the door of opportunity in the face of Texas voters.

The proposed redistricting plan blatantly violates the Voting Rights Act and the U.S. Constitution. In south Texas, border cities are cut up into as many as three different congressional districts and grouped into residents of downtown Austin over 350 miles away.

□ 1030

Democratic representatives have no voice in the development of this redistricting plan, nor did citizens throughout the State of Texas, in violation of State law.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I commend these 53 representatives for their courageous

stand, especially those heroes from south Texas: Kino Flores, Jim Solis, Rene Oliveira, Aaron Pena, Miguel Wise, Ryan Guillen and Juan Escobar. We support them.

ARMED FORCES DAY

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. This weekend is Armed Forces Day, and are not our men and women in uniform doing a great job.

I hear all this talk about the Texas Legislature. We have got a lot of deserters down there, the guys that are afraid to stand and fight like our armed services do.

Fox TV said, and I thought it was pretty good, and I paraphrase, they said, Are you not a Texas legislator? The guy answered yes. He said, Well, what are you doing in Ardmore, Oklahoma? The legislature meets in Austin, Texas.

It is a shame that we cannot have formal debate in our capital in Texas. Thank God we did not have those Democrats at the Alamo. God bless them.

TEXANS STANDING UP FOR PRINCIPLE

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

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I had some prepared remarks, but in response to my colleague's remarks about these 53 individuals not being at the Alamo, I would say this. They are exhibiting the same type of courage and bravery that the defenders of the Alamo exhibited on that eventful day. They are standing up for principle. They are saying our voices will be heard.

We are duly elected representatives of equal status with every member of the majority party in that Texas Legislature, and what the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) has attempted to do is export a corrupt and unfair system that in which we engage in this House floor to the Texas floor, and we have 53 brave and courageous Democrats that are saying, no, we will not allow the gentleman to export that kind of divisive political game into our House of Representatives.

So I applaud and I commend these individuals, and it is time that someone would say something. After all, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) has indicated that Democrats are irrelevant. Each one of us in this Chamber represents the same number of people. Since when is anyone irrelevant in the Texas House of Representatives or the United States Congress?

CELEBRATING FUNNY CIDE'S RUN

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to applaud the accomplishments of a man from my hometown in Marion County, Florida, the Sixth Congressional District, because Tony Everard has been training horses in Marion County for over 35 years.

He purchased a remarkable horse, a gelding, in 2001 in Saratoga, New York, and he trained it, but on May 3, this horse became champion at the pinnacle of horse racing, the Kentucky Derby.

His horse, Funny Cide, beat the odds with a stunning victory over favored Empire Maker and Peace Rules before more than 140,000 people at Churchill Downs, and none could be cheering louder than Tony and Beth, who named the champion gelding.

Funny Cide became the fourth Derby winner since 1997 to emerge from the Marion County breeding and training industry. I am proud of the long-standing heritage of horse training in my district. Tony and his wife Beth deserve many accolades for their work with Funny Cide and many champions to come.

PENSION REFORM LEGISLATION

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today the House will debate H.R. 1000, the Pension Security Act, and the bill has an appropriate number because it will make employees 1,000 times worse off than they are today.

We need real pension reform that protects the pensions of all the workers and gives more protections to employees with 401(k) accounts. Real pension reform must include independent investment advice for 401(k) investors, the ability to diversify company-matched stocks within a year, and a voice for employees on pension boards.

Real pension reform must also include language that would require companies that are converting to cash balance plans to ensure that older workers receive the same amount of benefits they would have received under their existing defined benefit plan.

As the President has said, what is good for the captain is good for the crew. The bill as it is currently written allows executives to sell off their stock while the ship is sinking, while the workers see their retirement savings disappear.

I urge my colleagues to vote against the pension insecurity act.

PRINCIPLE ABOVE PARTISANSHIP

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

Mr. TURNER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a former member of the Texas Sen-

ate and the Texas House, I know the value that the 53 Texas Democrats who are in Ardmore, Oklahoma, today place on the proud tradition of placing principle above partisanship. When the Republican leader of the Texas House agreed to the political handiwork of the majority leader of the U.S. House, he abandoned a tradition that has served Texas well.

When Texas House Republicans drew a redistricting map without public hearings, behind closed doors, a map handed to them by Washington, they trampled on a tradition in Texas, and they trampled on bipartisanship, which has always been the hallmark of the Texas Legislature.

In Texas, the name Texan has always meant more than Democrat or Republican. The Texas Democrats from my area, Jim McReynolds, Chuck Hopson, Dan Ellis and Joe Deshotel, were denied the right to protect the interests of rural east Texas. They were shut out of the process, and they joined in breaking a quorum, a regular feature of American politics, practiced by none other than Abraham Lincoln as a member of the Illinois Legislature in 1840 when he had to do so when he was under the heavy hand of the majority.

All Texans who believe in fair play owe a debt of gratitude to our Texas legislators who have said to Washington today, Do not mess with Texas.

IS FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION UNPATRIOTIC?

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

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I find it appalling that the majority leader of this body can in one breath suggest that our Texas heroes, the 53 men and women of conviction currently in Ardmore, Oklahoma, are unpatriotic and in the next breath suggest the Federal authorities be brought in to force them to pass someone's own political agenda, because what the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) suggested yesterday is unpatriotic is actually an impressive example of the very fabric that holds this Nation together. It is everything our fathers and grandfathers have fought and died for in two great wars.

Mr. Speaker, is freedom of expression unpatriotic? Is the freedom to take a stand against recklessness unpatriotic? Mr. Speaker, when Rosa Parks refused to sit in the back of the bus, was that unpatriotic? The willingness to take a stand for what is right is what defines America.

I would like to applaud my Democratic colleagues in the Texas House from Houston for having the courage to stand up to the gentleman from Texas' (Mr. DELAY) political agenda: Garnett Coleman, Rick Noriega, Jessica Farrar, Scott Hochberg, Joe Deshotel, Kevin Bailey, Harold Dutton, Joe Moreno and Senfronia Thompson. They are heroes, and the people of Texas are with them.