

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF LAREDO INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOL DISTRICT PRESIDENT  
DENNIS CANTU

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 9, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished public service of Laredo Independent School Board President Dennis Cantu.

Dr. Cantu grew up in Texas, graduating from J. W. Nixon High School. He majored in Biology at Baylor University in Waco, and received his Doctorate in Medicine from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston at the age of 23. He specialized in internal medicine, and is currently a Board Certified Internist who practices at Laredo Medical Center and Doctor's Hospital.

Dr. Cantu continues to serve the community as Medical Director of the Laredo Fire Department Paramedics. He was recently honored for his enormous contribution to the health and safety of Laredo when one of the Laredo schools was renamed the Dr. Dennis D. Cantu Health Science Magnet School in his honor.

Dennis Cantu is now serving his fifth term as President of the Laredo Independent School District Board of Trustees. He has been a trustee for 15 years, and has previously held the posts of Secretary and Vice President. Dennis Cantu is an invaluable resource for Laredo, Texas, and a tireless advocate for the health and education of his fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize Laredo Independence School District Board President Dennis Cantu, and to thank him for his service.

CONGRATULATING NIAGARA UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

### HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 9, 2005*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Niagara University Men's Basketball Team on winning the 2005 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Tournament on March 7, 2005. Their win by a score of 81–59 over Rider University clinched the Purple Eagles' second NCAA Tournament berth, the first appearance since 1970.

After heartbreaking losses in the conference title game two out of the last three years, the Purple Eagles showed their perseverance to break through to the "big dance." The accomplishments of Juan Mendez, who was the MAAC player of the year and named tournament MVP, and all-tournament teammates Lorenzo Miles and David Brookshad are im-

pressive, but each member of the team needs to be congratulated for this title game win.

However, a team is only as successful as its leader, and Coach Joe Mihalich, now in his seventh season at Niagara University, exemplifies everything that is good about college athletics. He demands accountability from his players both on and off the court, and is a strong role model for the entire University community. Under Mihalich's guidance, the Purple Eagles have won three of the past seven MAAC regular-season titles, advanced to the MAAC Championship game three times, and has posted seven-straight winning seasons. Along the way, Mihalich quietly has collected the second-most wins in school history and was the first Niagara coach to reach 100 wins in just his sixth season at the helm.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot be prouder of the Niagara University's Purple Eagles, and I wish to commend University President Father Joseph Levesque, the coaching staff and players, and students at Niagara University for this championship season. I will be eagerly watching the team's first round game in the NCAA tournament as they proudly represent Niagara University on the national stage.

### HAITI

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 9, 2005*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to open the CBC Special Order on Haiti.

Haiti should be in the hearts and minds of all who support justice, democracy, and freedom.

Until Haiti knows peace, we who are here tonight, "the conscious of the Congress" will remain duty-bound to bring our neighbors struggles to light.

This week commemorates the one-year anniversary of Haiti's 33rd coup d'etat.

As we reflect on the internationally orchestrated ousting of President Jean Bertrand, I am convinced now more than ever that President Bush undercut the potential for a diplomatic solution to last year's violent revolt and overthrow of democratically elected President, Jean Bertrand Aristide.

One year later, the result of the coup has left Haiti a breeding ground of the morally corrupt.

Drug dealers, thugs and brutal militia men who have taken the lives of hundreds of Haitians, raped and tortured women and children, and filled the coffers of the Haitian rich and elite who support and sponsor their terror now rule the country.

The interim Haitian Government has even gone so far as to reward these thugs with positions in government and label them "freedom fighters".

Today, Tom Griffin, renowned human rights activist, addressed the CBC Haiti Task Force and gave us a first-hand account of the

human rights abuse and climate of destruction in Haiti.

He showed us gruesome pictures and reviewed the abysmal human rights report from his November trip.

The pictures show the battered-bloody bodies left in the street. A morgue full of hundreds of nameless, silenced voices that died at the hands of Haitian National police.

Babies who have no chance at life—because there is no food, no clean water, and no hope for the future—were placed in cardboard boxes.

Where were the U.N. troops?

Mr. Griffin's report was based on only 10 days in Haiti show but a glimpse of what the conditions are in Haiti. What about Haitians who have had to live in this corrupt-police state since Aristide's departure?

Who will Haitians call on for safety and protection? For basic electricity, health care, food and water?

They can't call on their elected officials, because they weren't elected—they were installed.

And who is to blame for the removal of democracy and Haiti's transformation toward hopelessness?

Mr. Speaker, the current state of affairs in Haiti is the product of this Administration's doing.

By refusing to work bilaterally with the Government of Haiti and President Aristide, by embargoing aid and humanitarian assistance to the government, by funding and encouraging opposition groups, thugs, rebels and the like, not to work with Aristide toward a political settlement, and by bullying the CARICOM countries to turn a blind eye to their fellow member state; the Bush Administration contributed to the current political instability and provided the environment for a coup d'etat to occur.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the issue of Haiti is simply an issue of democracy, and the Bush Administration has been instrumental in toppling a democratically-elected government. Step by step they have worked to undermine President Aristide, for example:

1. First, the Administration propped up Haitian opposition leaders; allowing political obstructionists to refuse and reject any plan for peace and democratic elections since the passage of OAS Resolution 822, and ultimately stonewall the elections process by rejecting the Catholic Bishops Plan, the CARICOM Plan, and finally the International Peace Plan.

2. Second, the Administration funded civil society and political opposition parties with USAID funding and arming paramilitary and military factions in the Dominican Republic where Guy Phillippe and other insurgents began their recent assault on democracy.

3. Lastly, the Administration hindered the instant support of peacekeepers and bullied the international community into blocking peacekeeping support that would have secured Haiti and protected "then" President Aristide.

The Bush Administration must never again pre-empt democracy but instead allow the Haitian people, and the Caribbean community to set the course for Haiti.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.