

called Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act. The legislation will have a significant, adverse impact on the ability of civil rights plaintiffs to seek recourse in our courts.

This bill would remove a court's discretion to impose sanctions on attorneys for frivolous lawsuits under Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. By removing a court's discretion to impose sanctions, this bill would make Rule 11 sanctions mandatory.

Mandatory Rule 11 sanctions are a failed experiment. When they were mandatory—between 1983 until they were repealed in 1993—they were disproportionately used to harass civil rights plaintiffs bringing claims to enforce civil rights laws. It would be a mistake to turn back the clock on civil rights.

If such mandatory sanctions are reinstated, what can we expect? The movie, based on the first sexual harassment class action, *North Country*, perfectly illustrates the problem. *North Country* is based on the real life case of Lois Jensen, who in 1975 was a single mother on welfare and took a job working in the taconite mines of northern Minnesota. In that male-dominated work force, she endured extreme sexual harassment and her employer refused to do something about it. After 25 years and three trials, Jensen finally prevailed in 1998. Landmark litigation takes time. And landmark causes of action, often referred to as novel, should not be confused with frivolous claims.

If H.R. 420 passes, motions for Rule 11 sanctions will be disproportionately brought by big corporations against individual plaintiffs to harass, drag-out, and make the costs of their litigation more expensive.

It's important not to make landmark civil rights cases more difficult. Mandatory Rule 11 sanctions would make such compelling cases more difficult by allowing big companies even more opportunities to out-litigate the individual. H.R. 420 will require a mandatory sanctions regime that would apply to civil rights cases and massively skew the playing field against injured victims. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 420, and support the Democratic alternative.

TRIBUTE TO ROSA PARKS

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH K. KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of Rosa Parks.

Rosa Parks took a stand by refusing to leave her seat for a white man on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. She forever changed the course of our nation with one simple act of courage and stubbornness. By keeping her seat in the front of the bus she started a movement which would ensure that African-Americans and other minorities would never again be required to take a back seat to bigotry, prejudice, and racism.

The significance of Rosa Parks' life was not limited to the civil rights movement, as can be evidenced by her reputation with people of all ages. She is just as important to children today as she was to the millions she inspired with her singular act of defiance in 1955. She led the life of a true heroine, refusing to bow

down to intolerance, inequality, and narrowmindedness.

She was the voice of courage, the personification of bravery, and the catalyst of change. She sat down when the world told her to get up, inspiring millions to demand equality. She leaves a legacy built upon strength, pride, and hope. She was the beginning of a movement that sought tolerance and equality not only between blacks and whites, but also between people of all backgrounds.

Rosa Parks remains a role model for us all, having demonstrated the importance of perseverance and principle. I was and always will be proud to say that she was, for at least a portion of her life, a Michigander. She will be missed, but her memory will never fade.

TRIBUTE TO ROSA PARKS

SPEECH OF

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Rosa Louise Parks, a woman whose life was exemplified by quiet courage, strength and conviction.

During her 92 years, Ms. Parks impressed all that all of us with a sense of the possible. It was possible to change Alabama segregation law by refusing to give up a bus seat, it was possible to change Jim Crow across America, and it was possible to do all this in a non-violent fashion.

Her refusal to rise from her seat and subsequent arrest led to the 381-day Montgomery Bus Boycott and to the eventual repeal of the segregation laws of the South. Her individual act of defiance is considered by many to be the beginning of the civil rights movement.

It would be easy to remember Rosa Parks solely for this event. However, her legacy is so much more. I will remember her as someone who was deeply committed to equality. I will remember her as someone who never sought out personal attention, yet whose great actions attracted admiration from all quarters. I will remember her as a role model and as a great American.

However, without a doubt the best way that we can honor the life of Rosa Parks is not by erecting monuments or parading up and down the main streets of American towns and cities. This is not to say that we shouldn't honor her in this manner, but rather, we should continue her life's work and try to live by the ideals that she shared with all of us.

We should encourage grassroots democracy for positive change in our districts. We should encourage non-violent action, to resist intolerance and discrimination much as Ms. Parks did. Above all, we should encourage Americans to continue the fight for civil rights and equality.

The freedoms we enjoy today are because of the sacrifice of exceptional individuals like Rosa Parks who stood up to oppression and changed history. But Rosa Parks's greatest legacy is that she taught generations that acts of courage can precipitate great change.

Let us celebrate the lifetime achievements of a truly remarkable woman.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SCHOOL ENERGY CRISIS RELIEF ACT

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 28, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the School Energy Crisis Relief Act to provide relief to school districts that have been hit hard by rising fuel costs. This bill is widely supported and has received endorsements from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, American Federation of Teachers, National School Boards Association and Council of Great City Schools. I would especially like to thank all 26 of my colleagues who have signed on as original cosponsors.

We all know that gas prices were skyrocketing for months before the major hurricanes disrupted fuel production on the Gulf Coast. While some school districts anticipated rising energy costs and budgeted accordingly this year, many others will fall short of the funding needed to meet these costs. As a result, precious education dollars are being spent to fill the tanks of school buses and to heat classrooms. States with areas with wide-open spaces, including much of the West and Midwest, will be especially hard-hit. Schools in urban areas will bear the brunt of additional fuel costs in order to heat the Nation's oldest, and often least energy-efficient, school buildings.

It's not hard to understand why school buses are gas-guzzlers. According to an article in the *USA Today*, a Fairfax County school district in Virginia which transports 110,000 students daily pays \$2.19 a gallon for diesel fuel. A typical school bus takes 65 gallons. That makes the price of a full tank \$142, and it doesn't go far in a vehicle that gets 7 miles per gallon.

The dramatic increase in gas prices therefore imposes a significant burden. For example, in my district, the Colton Joint Unified School District's buses rack up over a million miles a year. In September, the district paid \$2.72 for a gallon of diesel fuel, which 2 years ago cost under a dollar. As a result, the district is spending at least \$300,000 more to fuel its buses than a couple years ago.

Many school districts across the country are already operating on shoe-string budgets this year. These price hikes threaten to exhaust the budgets of those caught unprepared for higher fuel costs. Recent news reports indicate that some schools are implementing drastic measures to keep their fuel costs under control. In Kentucky, for instance, record gas prices have caused a number of schools to cut back to 4 days of classes a week. Last month, most of Georgia's schools cancelled classes for two days in an effort to conserve fuel.

The School Energy Crisis Relief Act authorizes the Secretary of Energy to issue energy assistance grants to help the poorest school districts across the Nation offset these unexpected and challenging costs. If we don't help school districts cover these energy costs, children won't just get left behind—they will be left at home! At a time when fuel price hikes are creating budget shortfalls for many school districts, America cannot afford to compromise our children's education.

I urge my colleagues to support the School Energy Crisis Relief Act. This legislation will

help schools remain open to educate students. We must provide relief to these school districts most in need now.

RECOGNIZING ANDREA NAOMI LEIDERMAN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 28, 2005

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in gratitude to recognize the extraordinary achievements, community leadership and life of Andrea Naomi Leiderman of Mountain View, California. She had recently celebrated her 10th anniversary on June 21, 2005, as Director of Government and Community Relations Director for Kaiser-Permanente Santa Clara, California. I am proud to have known Ms. Leiderman for over 25 years, and have witnessed her unyielding fervor and tenacity in contributing to the community at large. Andrea Leiderman was a tireless advocate for those with no voice in the fields of health care, education, and youth issues.

Ms. Leiderman helped others as a member of the Santa Clara County Board of Education, serving as president in 1995 and 2000. She was a trustee of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District, adjunct professor at Evergreen Valley College, a member of the Human Relations Commission, and former Member of the Executive Board of the California Democratic Party. In fact, Ms. Leiderman was the youngest chairwoman of the Santa Clara County Democratic Party in 1987 (at age 28) and to date, the only woman to hold this position.

Born in Boston, Andrea came to our Valley when she was 4. She grew up on the Stanford University campus and later attended Vassar College, majoring in Political Science. After college, she was a legislative assistant to former Representative Matt McHugh of New York. She was later an LBJ Congressional Fellow for Representative Norm Mineta of San Jose. Andrea received two graduate degrees from the University of California, Berkeley in both Public Policy and Education Administration. She served on the Joint Child Care Commission for the county and was on the Boards of the Mission City Community Fund and the Euphrat Museum of Art.

During her last year and a half struggle with cancer, Andrea was instrumental in getting the necessary approvals for Kaiser Permanente's new Medical Office Building for the South Bay Region.

The loss of Andrea is a terrible blow to our community, her friends and her family. We can take comfort, however, in knowing that in the short time she was with us she made a difference. She enriched the lives of others, especially those in need. She was a true friend and a heroic leader. I join so many others in mourning her.

CONGRATULATING DICK HAUSERMAN ON BEING INDUCTED INTO THE COLORADO SKI AND SNOWBOARD HALL OF FAME

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 28, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Dick Hauserman on being inducted into the Colorado Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame for 2005. Mr. Hauserman's accomplishments have greatly impacted Vail and Steamboat Springs, and he deserves recognition for the many contributions he has made to the promotion of Colorado's ski areas.

One of Vail's founding fathers, Mr. Hauserman helped make Vail prosper into a world class ski destination and also shaped the image of Steamboat's Ski Area. He served on Vail's first board of directors and was one of the primary developers of Vail, participating on the town architecture committee. He worked on the Lodge at Vail and the Hill Building, in addition to building the Plaza Building. In order for Vail to blossom into a world class ski resort, Hauserman realized the resort would need an image. He created Vail's logo, which is still in use today, and helped to design the signature ski school parkas. In 1969, he turned his talents to helping promote the Steamboat Ski Area, widening the trails, creating the Steamboat Springs logo, and making Billy Kidd the resort's spokesperson. In addition to his work at the resorts, Mr. Hauserman has also written two books: "Inventors of Vail" and "On the Road to Vail and Beyond."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring Mr. Hauserman for contributing to Colorado skiing in far-reaching ways. We recognize his accomplishments in helping make Vail and Steamboat Springs premier ski resorts. I'm proud to offer congratulations to Mr. Hauserman on his well deserved induction into the Colorado Ski Museum's Hall of Fame and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING THE STATE OF ISRAEL ON THE ELECTION OF AMBASSADOR DAN GILLERMAN AS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE 60TH UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 368, congratulating the State of Israel on the election of Ambassador Dan Gillerman as Vice President of the 60th United Nations General Assembly. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important resolution.

In June 2005, Ambassador Gillerman was elected to serve as the Vice President of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Incredibly, Ambassador Gillerman is the first Israeli to serve as Vice President of the General Assembly in the past 53 years. The last

Israeli to hold this prestigious post was the legendary Abba Eban, who served as Vice President in 1952. Ambassador Gillerman is bringing years of notable experience to this international body which historically has not been supportive of the State of Israel.

Ambassador Gillerman has played a prominent role in helping to steer Israel towards economic liberalization and a free market economy. He has served on the Prime Minister's National Economic and Social Council, the President's Committee of the Coordinating Council of Israel's Economic Organizations, and as Chairman of the Israel-British Business Council, as well as being a member of the executive board of the International Chamber of Commerce.

Most importantly, Ambassador Gillerman has been personally involved in the economic aspects of the Israeli/Palestinian peace process. He has honorably represented Israel during talks with Palestinian and Arab leaders trying to further economic cooperation within the region. I hope that his appointment at the United Nations will lead to further progress on a final peace settlement between Israel and Palestine.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ambassador Gillerman and the State of Israel on this historic occasion.

RESOLUTION HONORING THE FALLEN IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 28, 2005

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today today to express my strong support for the resolution introduced by my colleague, Congressman RAHM EMANUEL, which pays tribute to all the many men and women who have died in defense of our Nation. This week we hit a devastating milestone, marking the death of our 2000th military soldier. They gave their lives to ensure that we enjoy the principles of liberty, justice, and democracy. This resolution allows us to remember, honor, and reflect on the men and women who paid the ultimate price for their country.

Over the course of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, my district alone has lost 11 soldiers: PFC Matthew Bush, SPC William Dusenbery, CPT John Tipton, SGT Christopher A Wagener, LCpl Drew M. Uhles, SGT Benjamin K. Smith, LCpl Aaron C. Pickering, Cpl Matthew A Wyatt, PFC Wyatt D. Eisenhauer, SPC. Brian M. Romines, and SSG George T. Alexander, Jr. Further, in my district, Jack Montague, a civilian KBR employee for the Halliburton Corporation, died while working in Iraq. Today and every day, we honor their memories and their families who bear the heaviest burden of our freedom. They are not simply statistics; these fallen soldiers were dads, brothers, sons, neighbors, and community leaders. While the grief and pain may not have faded, I hope it is comforting for them to know that their fallen heroes are loved, honored, and respected for their service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution honoring our fallen soldiers and pray for peace.