TRIBUTE TO CYNTHIA MATHEWS

HON. SAM FARR
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of rising this evening to honor Cynthia Mathews, who recently retired after 40 years of service with Planned Parenthood Mar Monte organization. I have had the pleasure of working with Cynthia for many of those years and I can attest to her commitment to our community as well as her steadfast support of civil liberties that will continue to protect women’s health.

In 1965, Cynthia began her involvement with Planned Parenthood as a volunteer in San Diego County. She later served as both staff and board member of the organization. She was instrumental in ensuring the well-being of young mothers by organizing an abortion referral service to Mexico prior to the Therapeutic Abortion Act of 1967.

After moving to Santa Cruz in 1970, Cynthia was instrumental in forming Planned Parenthood of Santa Cruz County, where she served as the executive director. After a brief absence during which she gave birth to her second child, she rejoined the organization in 1979. Cynthia guided the growing affiliate to eventually become part of Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, a network that includes much of California and Nevada. Officially, she was a part-time public affairs staff member, however, all who know her were aware that she worked well beyond her outlined duties. Cynthia actively built coalitions, engaged volunteers, sustained Planned Parenthood’s community presence, and protected the civil liberties and health of her community.

Beyond Planned Parenthood, Cynthia’s outstanding reputation as a public figure and liberal activist is strengthened by her tireless dedication to the City of Santa Cruz. Ms. Mathews has served as a city council member, a founding member of the Downtown Neighbors Association, a member of the Planning Commission and Zoning Board, a participant in Vision Santa Cruz, a cochair of the Santa Cruz High Centennial Campaign, and a volunteer on four successful election campaigns for schools and municipal revenues. She now holds the seat of Mayor of Santa Cruz. Through her involvement in these organizations she has positively affected the quality of life for many residents in our community. She is an ideal role model for those who seek to create change through activism and I am honored to have worked with her throughout the many positions she has held. Though Cynthia has retired from her official position with Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, her position as Mayor will allow me to continue to work with her to support and strengthen our community and ensure that women have safe access to quality reproductive healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, in a time where women’s health and medical care is threatened by budget deficits and a conservative agenda, I am immensely thankful for Cynthia’s selfless service. I am confident that her legacy will continue and that she has inspired others to take up the torch and encourage a new generation of voters to honor their promise to America’s women.

IN HONOR OF THE ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF ST. LOUIS

HON. W. TODD AKIN
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of St. Louis. In 2005 alone the AGC has been involved in more than $52 billion worth of construction projects that employed approximately 80,000 workers. The members of the AGC provide the skill, teamwork and spirit of innovation that makes a lasting contribution to our community; building facilities that support and enhance the quality of life in the St. Louis region. Whether it is a church or school, road or utilities, these skilled craftsmen conduct themselves and their work in a safe manner so as to avoid accidents and injuries. Their commitment to exceptional standards has been recognized by both the U.S. Department of Labor and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) along with receiving the coveted first place award for safety excellence from the National AGC Safety Awards (NASA) Program for 2004 and prior years. The AGC has also created a special safety training unit, Operation SafeSite, which includes two full-time construction professionals who provide on the jobsite training along with construction training school classes. I applaud the AGC’s vision and commitment toward improving construction safety in the St. Louis metropolitan community. I would like to recognize February 21–February 28 as Construction Safety Week in St. Louis County.

IN HONOR OF THE ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF ST. LOUIS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 97th Anniversary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on this day of their 97th Anniversary.

The mission of the NAACP continues today and the Saint Paul Branch of the NAACP continues to work towards equality, education and justice for all. My local NAACP chapter is well known for its tireless work addressing the injustices affecting individuals and the diverse communities of Minnesota. Recently, they have worked to bring our community together to seek healing and justice after an appalling act of discrimination and intimidation was perpetrated upon a local church. In addition, Saint Paul NAACP is instilling hope through its establishment of the Heart of Child to Read Project, where volunteers are connected with students to develop their reading ability.

A key component of the success of the NAACP has been the implementation of a holistic approach, through the promotion of understanding and education, to the eradication of race and other problems that have long plagued our society. This nonviolent approach has put students through college, given the vote back to the voiceless, and ensured that the American people will not continue to be divided by differences, but rather be brought together by mutual compassion and kinship.

It is with great admiration and encouragement that I commend the NAACP on this occasion of their 97th Anniversary. The necessity of the continued push for equality and justice for all citizens presents a great burden on all our shoulders, but the work of groups such as the NAACP gives our society the necessary guidance and reminder of our responsibilities towards one another.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the courageous and guiding history of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on this day of their 97th Anniversary.

WELCOMING OUR TROOPS HOME

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
OF IDAHO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House to the brave men and women from my district returning home from fighting for freedom and democracy in Iraq. During a visit to Iraq last year, I was fortunate enough to witness firsthand these patriots’ dedication to their country and commitment to expanding the frontiers of freedom. I also was reminded of the great sacrifice that they and their families make to secure the blessings of liberty to all Americans, and help bring hope to people who have been oppressed for decades.

From decorated Marine Sergeant Luke B. Miller’s selfless rescue of critically injured Marines in Karablah to the opening of a medical clinic in Kikuy by the 116th Brigade Combat Team, these men and women serve as an example of our mission to fight terrorism and tyranny wherever it exists. The heroic efforts of these and many other individuals bring great and lasting credit to Idaho and all American armed forces.

I encourage my colleagues to join me, Mr. Speaker, in applauding and recognizing the exemplary individuals from Idaho who are returning home from the current conflict, dedication, and patriotism truly mark them as America’s newest generation of heroes. They deserve our utmost respect and heartfelt thanks.

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Pensacola has been proud to call WCOA one of the longest running call-in shows in the United States. During its inaugural year, a hurricane devastated the city of Pensacola and took WCOA off the air. Soon thereafter and ever since, it has stood as a source of information that people rely on during the times of emergency and has been designated as the Emergency Alert System radio station in the area. After broadcasting music for many years, in 1991 the station turned to an all news/talk format, while WCOA broadcasts programs that feature prominent national radio personalities, such as, Rush Limbaugh and Bill O'Reilly, it is proud to be home to many local shows, including Pensacola Speaks, one of the longest running call-in shows in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the 80th Anniversary of NewsTalk Radio 1370 WCOA and its service to the communities of Northwest Florida.

**INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO RE-STRAIN FEDERAL COURTS FROM INTERFERING IN THE INDEPENDENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES AND TO PROTECT THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND CONSCIENCE OF STATE LEGISLATORS**

**HON. MICHAEL E. SODREL**

**OF INDIANA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, February 16, 2006**

Mr. SODREL. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to address a problem in Indiana and throughout the nation. A federal court in Indiana has imposed itself on the independence of state legislators. A federal district court judge, David Hamilton, in the case of Hinrichs v. Bosma, has ruled ministers invited to deliver invocations before the Indiana State Legislature, and the legislators themselves, must not make any reference to Jesus Christ or to the Christian religion. This decision goes beyond freedom of religion, to threaten freedom of speech, and imperils the foundation principles of our representative republic. If federal courts can regulate any speech of the members of a legislative body, then those courts can regulate all speech.

The U.S. Constitution guarantees to each state a representative form of government, and it is Congress’ duty to enforce this guarantee. This decision by Judge Hamilton is an unprecedented order of federal courts on the independence of a state legislative body. The courts are now going beyond interpreting laws, and have begun inserting themselves in the legislative process. Hundreds of years of precedent argue against this court decision. It violates the principles of separation of legislative, executive, and judicial power, and separate sovereignty between state and federal power. Judge Hamilton’s court is presuming to dictate what state legislators may or may not say, and decide how they should represent their constituents.

To protect the speech, conscience, and independence of legislators from unelected and unaccountable judges serving for life, I am introducing a bill to do the following: remove all power of courts in the legislature from the jurisdiction of federal courts; provide immunity for the content of speech during a legislative session by a legislator or lawfully invited guests, excluding witnesses, unless such speech constituted treason, an admission of a crime, or a breach of the peace; prohibit the use of federal funds to enforce this or similar decisions; and prohibit the use of fines against the state as a body in order to enforce such a decision.

It is vital to representative government to preserve the ability of state legislators to represent their constituents as their consciences provide through the power of free speech. I ask the Congress to act to stop this cancer on the legislative power.

**HEROIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS ABOARD USS “HOUSTON” WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN**

**HON. TED POE**

**OF TEXAS**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, February 16, 2006**

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the USS Houston, a 9050-ton Northampton class light cruiser, was lost a great teacher, citizen, and friend.

Beginning with John E. Frenkel, Sr., who originally came up with the call letters WCOA, or “Wonderful City of Advantages”, for generations, its radio personalities have entertained its listeners. Along the journey, WCOA gave us Don Priest, Ted Cassidy, Sally Henderson, along with so many others. It is no wonder why, with a current broadcast team made up of Luke McCoy, Don Reilly, Jim Roberts, and Bryan Newkirk, many North- west Floridians can be found tuning into 1370 daily. This station earned the respect and loyalty of its listeners.

During its inaugural year, a hurricane devastated the city of Pensacola and took WCOA off the air. Soon thereafter and ever since, it has stood as a source of information that people rely on during the times of emergency and has been designated as the Emergency Alert System radio station in the area. After broadcasting music for many years, in 1991 the station turned to an all news/talk format. While WCOA broadcasts programs that feature prominent national radio personalities, such as, Rush Limbaugh and Bill O'Reilly, it is proud to be home to many local shows, including Pensacola Speaks, one of the longest running call-in shows in the United States.

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