

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO
UNITED STATES DELEGATION OF
CANADA-UNITED STATES INTER-
PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d, clause 10 of rule I, and the order of the House of December 18, 2005, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the United States Delegation of the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group:

Mr. MANZULLO, Illinois, Chairman
Mr. MCCOTTER, Michigan, Vice Chairman
Mr. DREIER, California
Ms. SLAUGHTER, New York
Mr. PETERSON, Minnesota
Mr. ENGLISH, Pennsylvania
Mr. GUTKNECHT, Minnesota
Mr. SOUDER, Indiana
Mr. TANCREDO, Colorado
Mr. BROWN, South Carolina
Mr. LIPINSKI, Illinois

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, today on Capitol Hill and in churches large and small across America, our Nation, many of our citizens, are huddled in the National Day of Prayer remembrances.

The Bible tells us that the effective and fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. And what is true of a man is true of a nation. And I am confident that the prayers offered today all across this land on behalf of the men and women, Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives in this institution, and who serve in this great city and this great Nation are reaching the Throne of Grace.

The first time I saw President Bush after 9/11, I told him I was praying for him, by name, just about every day on my knees. He looked at me and he said, "Mike, keep it up. It matters."

And so I say humbly to all of those millions of Americans who are remembering the likes of us on this day, keep it up. It matters. And thank you on this National Day of Prayer.

CONGRATULATING SOUTH TEXAS
ISD

(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 rise today to congratulate the staff, the administration, and the students and families of the Science Academy of South Texas and the South Texas High School For Health Professions in my hometown of Mercedes, Texas. I congratulate them on being named among the Newsweek magazine's "Best High Schools in America for 2006."

This year, our science academy ranked 11th and our health professions high school ranked 91st. As you can tell, my heart swells with pride for our magnet schools. Both these schools are located in a community that possesses some of the highest rates of poverty and the lowest levels of education attainment in the Nation.

These schools serve as a shining example to our Nation that when students are provided with the right opportunities they can and they will excel despite whatever socioeconomic challenges they must overcome.

I congratulate these institutions and their students for their successful efforts and commend their parents, faculty, administration and staff. I hope that their story will provide our Nation with added inspiration to continue to forge the best educational system possible for our youth.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the staff, administration, students, and families of the Science Academy of South Texas and the South Texas High School for Health Professions in my hometown of Mercedes, TX on being named among Newsweek magazine's "Best High Schools in America for 2006." This year, our Science Academy ranked 11th and our Health Professions High School ranked 91st. As you can tell, my heart swells with pride for our magnet schools.

Both these schools are located in a community that possesses some of the highest rates of poverty and lowest levels of education attainment in the Nation. These schools serve as a shining example to our Nation that when students are provided with the right opportunities they can excel despite whatever socioeconomic challenges they must overcome.

A quality, comprehensive and challenging education is the most valuable gift we can give to our children. This is the third time schools from the South Texas Independent School District have received this prestigious recognition, and it solidifies their standing as a model of excellence and a community that crafts exemplary institutions. The teachers and administrators of this district are truly committed to educating and encouraging our future leaders.

As the country continues to move forward into the 21st century, the need for mathematicians, doctors, scientists, nurses, engineers and the leaders of tomorrow continues to be of the utmost importance, and a high school diploma is the first step to becoming a successful contributor to society.

The programs of study at these high schools ensure that students graduate ready to succeed in college, and more importantly they help students secure the building blocks that lead to successful lives and careers. Their story is truly inspiring.

I would also like to congratulate Superintendent Marla Guerra, as well as the members of the school board of trustees, the faculty, students, parents and alumni on 40 years of achievement. This school district demonstrates a regional commitment to excellence. The recognition that these two high schools have received is just one of many accolades earned by the South Texas Independent School District.

My involvement in establishing the magnet high school system for South Texas is one of

my proudest achievements. Over 20 years ago, as a member of the Texas State Board of Education, I led a delegation from South Texas to Houston to visit that city's highly regarded magnet schools.

We knew that we wanted that caliber of opportunity for our students. However, we were told that such a program could not work in South Texas. We were told that we did not have the financial resources and that we could not find the students. But we did not believe the nay-sayers. We knew it could be done.

Today, two South Texas magnet high schools, with student populations that are almost 80 percent Hispanic and over 50 percent eligible for free or reduced priced lunches, are among the most elite high schools in the Nation. Every day, they bring students and observers closer to realizing the vast potential of our community. They are a model of what is possible when we invest in our children and demand the very best.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Science Academy of South Texas and the South Texas High School for Health Professions on a job well done.

□ 1500

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GINGREY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HUGO CHAVEZ'S ASSAULT ON
PRIVATE PROPERTY

Mr. MACK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim Congressman GINGREY's time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. MACK. Mr. Speaker, around the world, freedom is under attack every day; and many in this body have heard me express my strong concerns to one of freedom's greatest enemies, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez.

I have spoken at length about the Chavez government's systematic elimination of freedom and liberty; and his recent assaults on private property, particularly the energy markets, in Venezuela serve as another reminder that Hugo Chavez is doing all he can to force his countrymen to live in a socialist state similar to his mentor Fidel Castro's Cuba.

In recent years, Hugo Chavez has become a prime example of how crude prices have sparked a resurgence of petro-nationalism around the world. He has squeezed more money out of American companies by raising taxes and royalties, imposing fines, strengthened