

PLEDGE PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2389) to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the jurisdiction of Federal courts over certain cases and controversies involving the Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. KIND. Mr. Chairman, I am a strong supporter of the Pledge of Allegiance. I believe "under God" should be in the Pledge of the Allegiance. But what I cannot support today is legislation that basically tells the third branch of our government, go home, no thanks, we don't need you anymore.

Judicial review has been a part of our democracy in this constitutional government for over 200 years. And now with the fancy language embodied in this legislation and other pieces of legislation that have been pending, they are trying to disrupt that delicate balance of power, the checks and balances that exist that allow the Federal courts from time to time to take a look at the work that we are doing in the Congress to see whether or not we are complying with the highest law of the land, the United States Constitution. That is what judicial review is all about.

What is so ironic about today's debate is that the courts have already weighed in and said that the Pledge is okay; "under God" is okay. So what are we doing here when we have anemic economic job growth in this country, rising health care costs, and tuition that is placing college out of the reach of students? We can do better by the American people.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
JOHN HENRY LENEAR

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mr. John Henry

Lenear, dedicated husband, father, grandfather and friend, whose brilliant legacy as a journalist has served to elevate the lives of all who knew him and his work.

Mr. Lenear's convictions, framed by integrity and wisdom, consistently graced the pages of Cleveland's oldest and Ohio's most respected African-American newspaper, the Call & Post. During his decades-long career as a newspaperman, his unwavering focus and commitment to our African-American community's struggle for civil rights and equal opportunity for all helped shape public policy throughout the State of Ohio.

As an objective and conscientious journalist, Mr. Lenear developed strong ties with local, county, State and Federal government officials. Mr. Lenear's sense of compassion for those in need reflected in his numerous volunteer efforts and leadership, which included providing tangible assistance through neighborhood programs designed to help pave a way for individuals to rise above the cycle of poverty and despair.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mr. John Henry Lenear, whose life and legacy served to bring critical issues into the rational light of day and whose deep sense of humanity will continue on in raising our own individual and collective humanity. I offer my deepest condolences to his entire family and to his many friends. John Henry Lenear lived his life with energy and joy, and the memories of his affable nature and kind heart will forever light the hearts of all who knew and loved him well, and will forever shine throughout Cleveland, OH and far beyond.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT AT-
TACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF
ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. BONILLA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my solidarity with the State of Israel in its ongoing struggle against terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah. Despite U.N. Resolution 1559 which demands the disarming

of Hezbollah, the organization still operates as an armed force in Lebanon threatening the stability of the region and freedom throughout the world. In fact, prior to September 11, 2001, Hezbollah was responsible for more American deaths due to terrorism than any other organization. This organization continuously fires rockets into Israel, and on July 12 conducted an unprovoked attack into Israel, killing at least three soldiers and kidnapping two.

It is without question that Israel is exercising its inherent right of self-defense by taking action against Hezbollah. Israel's military actions appear appropriate to prevent the further removal of the two kidnapped soldiers into Syria or Iran. It is clear that Hezbollah is supported by direct financial, military, and political aid from Syria and Iran, and Hezbollah also receives important support from sources within Lebanon. In fact, Iranian Revolutionary Guards continue to operate in southern Lebanon, providing support to Hezbollah and reportedly controlling its operational activities.

Congress has already enacted several laws, including the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003, and the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 which call for the imposition of sanctions on Syria and Iran for, among other things, their support for terrorism and terrorist organizations.

Israel is and will continue to be one of our greatest allies. Some examples of their cooperation include Israeli produced Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, UAV, that have been used by the United States military to identify targets, survey damage caused by bombs, and provide air support for United States soldiers. The United States military is also currently using Bradley Reactive Armor Tiles, BRAT, originally designed by the Israeli military. One hundred United States Bradley vehicles, which were installed with BRAT, overcame direct anti-armor fire and repelled each attack successfully in Iraq. Most importantly, however, Israel is among our strongest allies in the global war on terror. No free nation can allow this scourge to continue to grow and spread unchecked. The brave and proud people of Israel are standing up to terror and we must stand with them.