

CROSS PARTY LINES TO PASS
COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION
REFORM

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express a measured degree of optimism that Congress will pass a comprehensive immigration reform package this year.

A Senate bill is likely to be unveiled as early as next week, and I would hope that the House will follow soon after with our version.

To be effective, this legislation must include provisions for increased border security, more support for border patrol agents, sanctions for employers that knowingly hire illegal immigrants, compensation for border communities, and a guest worker program.

In my district in Southern Arizona, the need for reform is critical. In 2006, 4,000 illegal immigrants a day crossed the border into Arizona. Our schools, hospitals, and law enforcement agencies are overwhelmed. Our environment and homeland security are threatened.

We must work across party lines to pass comprehensive immigration reform so we can focus our attention on those crossing the border who wish to do America harm: drug smugglers, human smugglers, and terrorists.

I also want to thank the outgoing chief of the Tucson sector border patrol, Michael Nicley, for his service and hard work. All of us in Southern Arizona appreciate his dedication. I welcome Robert Gilbert as the new chief, and I look forward to working closely with him on this important issue.

TRIBUTE TO DALETTA ANDREAS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Daletta Andreas, executive director of the Hill Country Chapter in Kerrville, TX, who passed away the weekend of February 24 following a brief illness.

Ms. Andreas started working for the Hill Country Chapter in 1989 when the chapter was located in an old two-story house owned by the H.E.B. Foundation and leased for \$1 a year. At the time she was the only chapter employee.

Under her guidance and efforts, the chapter became more active in the community and surrounding areas. Today, it serves seven counties and has three full-time staff members.

Ms. Andreas recruited a large and supportive group of volunteers from Kerrville and surrounding counties. She established a very good rapport with many organizations, such as fire and police departments and the sheriff's offices.

Through her fundraising efforts the Hill Country Chapter was able to obtain and purchase its own building. In 2001, Hill Country Chapter also was able to purchase its own mobile feeding unit or ERV, which can provide meals to disaster affected residents. During the aftermath of Rita and Katrina, the chapter

fed many refugees from Louisiana and south Texas.

Ms. Andreas worked hard for the job she truly loved, that of advancing the Red Cross mission. I want to recognize and honor her for the work she did that will continue to benefit the community and its citizens for years to come.

RECOGNIZING EVANSVILLE MATER
DEI WRESTLING TEAM

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Coach Mike Goebel and the Evansville Mater Dei wrestling team for winning their second consecutive Indiana high school State championship. This is the twelfth title for Goebel as head coach of Mater Dei, an Indiana record. The Wildcats completed their undefeated season on February 24 by mauling the second-ranked Mishawaka Cave-men, 31–18.

Mater Dei took an early lead when junior Stephen Lovelace recorded a pin in the 160-pound class. After Mishawaka cut the Wildcat lead to 15–12, 125-pound sophomore Zeke Zenthoefter responded by pinning his opponent to open a 25–12 advantage. Senior Nick DeWig, the individual State runner-up in the 145-pound class, insured Mater Dei's victory with a 13–5 decision that pushed the lead to an insurmountable 10 points. Wildcat senior Chris DeWitt sealed the win with a 9–5 decision in the final match. Other winners for the Wildcats were Ben Fleming, Zach Goebel, Cody Moll, and Jerry Parkinson.

This championship is the culmination of years of hard work by these young men under the leadership of Coach Goebel. I commend the Evansville Mater Dei wrestling team for all of their success.

Go Wildcats.

RECOGNIZING SPC. RYAN C.
GARBS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Army Specialist Ryan C. Garbs who was recently killed in action in Afghanistan while conducting operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Spc. Garbs was a 20-year-old native of Edwardsville, Illinois who was assigned to B Company, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment out of Fort Benning, Georgia. He was a 2005 graduate from Edwardsville High School, Edwardsville, Illinois. Around his sophomore year, Garbs knew he wanted to be an Army Ranger and he spent the last 2 years at Edwardsville High School rigorously training to meet the requirements of becoming a Ranger.

Garbs is survived by his parents, Doug and Jill Garbs of Edwardsville, Illinois and his sister; Melanie Neely of Fairfield, California. I am proud of the service this young man gave to our country and the service his fellow troops

perform every day. Not enough can be said about Spc. Garbs. His awards and decorations speak to what a great soldier and man he was; the Army Service Ribbon, Combat Infantry Badge, Parachutist Badge and Good Conduct Badge, just to name a few. Like all Rangers, Garbs lived by the Ranger Creed. As the Creed states: "Never shall I fail my comrades, I will always keep myself mentally alert, physically strong, and morally straight and I will shoulder more than my share of the task, whatever it may be, one hundred percent and then some." It is troops like Garbs that are risking their lives day in and day out to ensure our freedom here at home and to others throughout the rest of the world. He shouldered as much as anyone could, and I salute him. My best wishes go out to his family and all the troops fighting to ensure freedom and democracy. May God bless him and may God continue to bless America.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PUSH
POLL DISCLOSURE ACT OF 2007

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, today, along with six of my colleagues, I am introducing legislation to increase the disclosure requirements for telephone "push polls." As many candidates for Federal office have learned through personal experience, these push polls are not legitimate telephone surveys, but "smear polls," campaign devices designed to smear a candidate under the guise of a standard opinion poll.

Legitimate polls are designed to gather information helping candidates to focus their campaigns and refine their messages. Smear polls, on the other hand, are intended to spread information damaging the reputation of one's opponent without public debate or discussion.

Imagine a voter, who has been identified as a supporter of candidate X, being asked in a survey if such support would continue if it was learned that candidate X was guilty of a terrible indiscretion or an outright crime. It doesn't matter whether the allegations are true because the idea that candidate X is somehow unfit for office has been planted successfully. This is a telephone "smear" poll.

My legislation, the Push Poll Disclosure Act of 2007, combats this practice by exposing it to the light of day. Specifically, the bill requires that each participant in a Federal election poll be told the identity of the survey's sponsor whenever at least 1,200 households are included. It also requires further disclosures when a survey's results are not to be released to the public. In this case, the cost of the poll and the sources of its funding must be reported to the Federal Election Commission, along with a count of the households contacted and a transcript of the questions asked.

The Push Poll Disclosure Act of 2007 is a simple bill. It will not hinder legitimate polling, nor will it burden polling firms with excessive regulations. What this bill does do, however, is regulate smear polls for what they are—campaign activities, and questionable ones at that. This legislation is noncontroversial and should be bipartisan, and its passage will make campaigns for Federal office a little bit cleaner. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.