

Catholics and conservative non-Catholics in the 1980s. Although the U.S. Catholic bishops opposed the construction of nuclear weapons and criticized Reagan's movement to expand U.S. armaments, John Paul and Reagan shared an uncompromising anticommunism. Meeting with the pope allowed the president to deflect attention from the American Catholic hierarchy's opposition to his arms buildup. When Reagan appointed an official, full-time ambassador to the Vatican in 1984, the president had established a direct diplomatic line of communication with the pope, and subverted the American bishops. Reagan showed none of Johnson's protocol concerns when deciding to stay an extra night in Alaska to coordinate an informal meeting with the pope, whose plane arrived the next day, in May 1984, a year in which a majority of Catholics voted to help him win reelection.

In the most analogous case with George Bush's position this year, Bill Clinton met with John Paul II in 1999 as a second term president unable to run again for reelection. Absent the Cold War, Clinton aggressively pursued common cause with Pope John Paul II in other areas. Due to Clinton's unapologetic support of legalized abortion and artificial contraception, the policies of this president clashed with the pope's absolute opposition to late-term, or "partial birth" abortions. Yet Clinton sought closer connections between U.S. and Vatican economic assistance programs while the Republican congress planned to curtail funding for foreign aid. The Catholic Church also endorsed Clinton's ambitions to provide government assistance to the poor and immigrants. These efforts may have helped Clinton obtain the meeting and photo opportunity with John Paul II at the same time as two Papal Knights in Congress (House Judiciary Committee Chairperson Henry J. Hyde and his legal counsel David P. Shippers) prepared the case for the president's eventual impeachment.

Since George W. Bush cannot legally compete in the 2008 presidential election, Pope Benedict may have more to gain or lose than the president in this year's papal-presidential meeting. Some reports indicate that the pope will court controversy by highlighting abortion in this presidential election year visit to the United States. If so, many Americans will charge the pope with a partisan appeal which threatens America's recent tolerance for Catholicism and church-state cooperation. If Benedict addresses respect for immigrants and the poor, as well as the unborn, however, he can avoid the appearance of favoring one political party platform over another.

CHIEF STANDING BEAR

SPEECH OF

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of one of our nation's greatest advocates for Native Americans, Chief Standing Bear.

I have long said a leader does not make people do the right thing—a leader inspires them to do the right thing.

Chief Standing Bear was such a leader.

Born in Nebraska, the Ponca Chief and his tribe were forcibly moved to Oklahoma. In 1879, Chief Standing Bear was arrested and put on trial for leaving Indian Territory to bury his son in their ancestral home.

After a two-day trial, a federal judge recognized Standing Bear as human under the law and freed him, a landmark decision securing constitutional rights for all Native Americans.

I am proud to cosponsor H. Res. 1043, honoring Chief Standing Bear's life, legacy, and contributions to civil rights.

HONORING GERALD WALKER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gerald Walker upon his retirement from Clovis Unified School District as the Director of Construction and Engineering. Mr. Walker will be honored at a reception on May 3, 2008.

Gerald Walker graduated from Clovis High School in 1953. Shortly after graduation he began to work for the School District. He has served 23 years with the Clovis Unified School District; 16 of those years as a member of the governing board and the past 17 years as the Director of Construction and Engineering. The District was able to complete over a billion dollars of construction related projects and is recognized as a leader in the area of school facilities in California. Under the direction of Mr. Walker, Clovis Unified has successfully completed over 200 projects, including 16 new elementary schools, 3 new intermediate schools, 3 new high schools, and countless modernization and improvement projects. For these accomplishments, Mr. Walker was recognized by the Builder's Exchange in 2007 for "Outstanding Industry Achievement" and by Darden Architects for "Excellence in Building". In addition, Mr. Walker has been a member of the District's Career Technical Education Advisory Committee.

Clovis schools have received many honors over the years, including being named numerous times as a California Distinguished School, a National Blue Ribbon School and National Drug Free Schools Program. Mr. Walker's dedication to providing exemplary school facilities and grounds has assisted Clovis Unified in attaining these achievements.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Gerald Walker upon his retirement from Clovis Unified School District. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Walker many years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, April 30, 2008, I missed the first vote in a series of two votes. I missed rollcall votes Nos. 230, 231, 232, and 233.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall vote No. 230: "aye" (on agreeing to the Miller, George amendment to H.R. 5522); rollcall vote No. 231: "aye" (on agreeing to the Wilson (SC) amendment to H.R. 5522); rollcall vote No. 232: "aye" (on motion to recommit H.R. 5522 with instruc-

tions); rollcall vote No. 233: "no" (on final passage of H.R. 5522).

SPOKANE TEACHER RECEIVES PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Linda Hutchinson, the Mathematics Department Head at Shadle Park High School in Spokane, Wash., on her outstanding performance as a mathematics teacher. In recognition of her exceptional contribution to the academic wellbeing of her students, Mrs. Hutchinson has been awarded the "Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics and Science."

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, PAEMST, is the highest recognition that a kindergarten through 12th-grade mathematics or science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. Mrs. Hutchinson is one of just 108 teachers to receive this honor each year.

Mrs. Hutchinson was evaluated on five dimensions of outstanding teaching. She proved she demonstrated her mastery of mathematics content, and that her teaching methods increase student achievement. In addition, by winning the award, she has demonstrated that she evaluates and improves not only her students' achievement, but how she teaches the material. Finally, Mrs. Hutchinson is committed to improving her personal mastery of the content she teaches. She is also committed to mentoring and supporting other teachers at her school.

Providing quality education is a key to increasing America's competitiveness and creating a skilled, 21st century workforce. Today, over half of China's undergraduate degrees are in math, science, technology and engineering. Yet, only 16 percent of American undergraduates pursue these fields. To meet the demands of an increasingly advanced, global market we must better train and equip our nation's workforce and Mrs. Hutchinson is doing just that. Shadle Park High School is fortunate to have such an inspiring and committed teacher.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Linda Hutchinson for her outstanding work as mathematics teacher. What an honor it is to receive this recognition from the President. I invite my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Mrs. Hutchinson on this great achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to offer a personal explanation of the reason I missed rollcall Vote No. 146 on March 14, 2008. I was meeting off Capitol Hill with over 100 World War II veterans from my