

by the Committee on House Administration and supported by the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, the Office of Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Operations, the House Sergeant at Arms, the Inspector General, the Chief Administrative Officer, and the Office of Compliance.

The policy specifies only limited circumstances in which items may be placed or stored in a hallway or exit access area of a House Office Building. The policy also governs the removal of easels and similar signage, electronic kiosks, flag stands, and sign-up tables.

As the attached document indicates, the Chief Administrative Officer and the Superintendent of the House Office Buildings will share responsibility for implementation and enforcement of policy. The Committee on House Administration has directed us to provide a transition period over the next three months, which begins as of the date of this letter. During that period the House Superintendent also will ensure that appropriate wall-mounted flag holders are installed for Committee offices.

It is our hope the new policy will result in unobstructed hallways to ensure the protection of all Members, staff, and visitors in the case of emergencies.

Should you have any questions, please contact First Call Plus or the House Superintendents Service Center. We sincerely appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

DANIEL BEARD,
Chief Administrative
Officer, House of
Representatives.
FRANK TISCIONE,
House Superintendent,
Office of the Archi-
tect of the Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, it seems like a lot of bureaucrats are involved in patrolling the hallways of Congress, and I wonder what all this nonsense costs the taxpayer. As you will notice, Mr. Speaker, the letter refers to a single complaint, and then all of these bureaucrats went into action.

The visitors to my office call this poster a fitting tribute and thank me for honoring our troops. Apparently, the congressional hall monitors have nothing better to do with their time and taxpayer money than to regulate hall traffic and posters. One would think that in the big scheme of things, American citizens, especially the families of the fallen, would want Members of Congress to display these tributes rather than not display them. But the hall police say that if I don't take it down by the end of the month that they will remove it and trash it because it's an "obstacle" in their steely bureaucratic eyes.

I hope the Architect of the Capitol changes this improper edict. Is Congress going to have to pass a law to keep these tributes on display? Well, maybe. By the way, Mr. Speaker, this arbitrary rule, in my opinion, violates the first amendment of free speech and freedom of expression.

In the meantime, I am going to have to respectfully refuse to comply. Our poster isn't going anywhere. To coin a phrase used in the Texas War of Independence, "Come and take it" if you dare.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING TERRY DEVINE

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

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, it's with a great sense of sorrow that I rise to remember a prominent North Dakota journalist and friend, Terry DeVine, whose funeral was held today in Fargo.

If North Dakota had a hall of fame for journalists, Terry DeVine would go in by acclamation. He was tough, smart, hard working, and fair. Fortunately for us, he spent most of his career at the Fargo Forum, where over the years we came to know that he had a mighty big heart as well.

My indelible memories of Terry include his early years at the Forum, which coincided with my early years in politics. As if my first trip to the Fargo Forum, our State's largest newspaper, wasn't unnerving enough, there was hard-charging Terry DeVine, former collegiate football player, Marine Corps combat veteran. He presented a gruff demeanor that clearly conveyed "Don't even think of trying to B.S. the Fargo Forum."

In fact, his journalist skepticism was a point of pride for Terry. After a politician sparked his ire by complaining about what he saw as the unnecessary intrusions of reporters in pursuit of a story, Terry wrote about the role of the press in holding officials accountable. "The relationship between a reporter and a politician should be like the relationship between a barking dog and a chicken thief," he proudly quoted from his former colleague Jules Loh.

True to his writing, Terry relished the watchdog role of the press. I consider it a true privilege to have known and worked with Terry DeVine for nearly three decades. I came to admire not just his prowess at writing and running a newspaper but his unflagging intellectual curiosity, his deeply anchored sense of right and wrong, and his compassion for the "average Joe."

The Terry we knew ran the gamut, from hard-charging city editor like a character out of "Front Page" in the early days to a quieter but steady leader through years of personal health adversity. His quick humor and core values never changed, and in his determined perseverance, he gave us the very best lessons of a remarkably dedicated and talented journalist.

I called him a week ago to say good-bye. I wanted to tell Terry of my respect for his career, my enjoyment of our visits over the years, and that in our dealings I felt he had always been fair. Whether I got all that across or not, I don't know. I'm not good at saying good-bye. But Terry, without a hint of self pity, thanked me for the call and he thanked me for our friendship. That was so like Terry: strong, direct, on point.

Terry DeVine's career has set a high bar for journalists in North Dakota. Come to think of it, he set a high bar

for all of us. He had a life well lived, a career of distinction, and an impact that we will never forget.

God speed, Terry.

THE UNJUST PROSECUTION OF FORMER U.S. BORDER PATROL AGENTS RAMOS AND COMPEAN

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as the Members of the House are aware, in February of 2006, U.S. Border Patrol agents Ramos and Compean were convicted of shooting and wounding a Mexican drug smuggler who brought \$1 million worth of marijuana across our borders into Texas. The agents were sentenced to 11 and 12 years in prison and now have been in Federal prison, in solitary confinement, for 545 days.

On June 18, 2008, I sent a letter, signed by Congressman TED POE, Congressman DANA ROHRBACHER, Congressman VIRGIL GOODE, Congressmen LOUIE GOHMERT, JOHN CULBERSON, and DON MANZULLO, to ask the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Professional Responsibility to investigate the actions of U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton in this case.

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At this point, we have not received the response from the Justice Department. And I only hope they are thoroughly examining the details of this prosecution. One of the main reasons for our request for this investigation stems from the firearm charges used by his office in prosecuting the agents. The charge carried a 10-year minimum sentence. Without this charge, one of the agents, Agent Ramos, would have already completed his sentence and would be out of prison and with his family today.

When you look at the history of why Congress enacted this statute, one reason stands out, to warn criminals to think twice before they put a gun in their pocket on the way to the scene of a crime. The reason for this statute clearly does not apply to law enforcement Officers Ramos and Compean. These men were not carrying guns so they could commit a crime. They were required to carry guns as part of their job.

The real criminal in this case, the Mexican drug smuggler, has since pled guilty to smuggling additional loads of drugs. He is scheduled to face sentencing in Federal Court tomorrow. This is the same drug smuggler who the prosecution portrayed as a one-time offender and gave him free medical care, border-crossing cards and immunity to testify against our border agents.

While the American people won't wait for the Fifth United States Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans