

motion a history which still fascinates and touches us today. When the war was over 2 years later, the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo changed the face of our nation and forever shaped our relationship with Mexico.

The historical significance of this war and its aftermath was a defining one for the young nation of the United States; for the Republic of Mexico; and for the descendants of both countries who populate our communities today. The Mexican-American War has consistently been a major omission in U.S. history. That omission has a hidden cost. Because *who we are* is shaped by our history, we need to know that history. But it is not the past that shapes our future, it is today's new era of cooperation existing between the United States and Mexico.

Since the days when the United States and Mexico met on the battlefield, their descendants have grown together as flowers upon their graves. Our cultures and traditions are intermingled, not by design, but by fate and circumstance. We understand that our futures are interwoven; we share an economic and cultural bond.

The most important element of this shared bond is the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The spirit of NAFTA has brought about a mutual frankness and a newfound respect for one another. All across the Southwest, our mutual histories and customs are mingled, and they are evident in our daily lives. Our commonalities are evident in the food we eat, the music we prefer, and the dual languages we speak.

Economically, the outcome of the Mexican-American War immediately benefited the United States with the addition of the Southwest to the nation's territory. The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo in 1848 was a turning point in our history. U.S. citizens in the rugged west joined the existing Mexican population, making the American Southwest a fascinating melting pot. This cultural blend produced some of the most enduring legacies of the American West: rodeos, cowboys, and the wild West.

Today, our economic fortunes are profoundly bound together. NAFTA is making North America the largest, most prosperous, and most efficient free trade zone in the world. Let me note here that it was Mexican President Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, in 1853, who first advocated the commemoration of those killed in the war and at the Battle of Palo Alto. So, it is fair to say that Mexico began the long process of making one-time adversaries into the friends and economic allies we are today.

Our political debates today so often touch on sensitive subjects that engender misunderstandings. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in offering a message of hope and friendship to Mexico, based on where we have been, where we are now and where we hope to go.

TALBOTT RETIRES: 4TH ESTATE SUFFERS LOSS

HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, this week, a "30-" will be placed on Basil Talbott's jour-

nalism career when he retires from the Chicago Sun-Times. For Chicago's newspaper readers, journalists and politicians, the loss is significant. Three decades of irreplaceable journalistic experience guided each of his stories. He had covered the Triple Crown of Chicago journalism—Chicago politics, Springfield's State House and Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.—for one of the nation's largest daily newspapers. Basil's forceful personality and zeal for news enabled him to find ways to plow through the obstacles to the information he needed. He combined tenacity with directness and integrity, qualities that caused Congressmen to view him with a little trepidation and a lot of respect. Few answered lightly when greeted by Talbott's trademark: "What's up?"

Few reporters were less susceptible to the wiles of spinmeisters than Basil Talbott. He could trample a thin story idea with a single, devastating question. Like the best reporters, he was always skeptical, never cynical. Congressmen looking for high-calorie, low-substance puff pieces should look elsewhere; Basil put the interests of his readers first. As a former philosophy student at one of the nation's top universities, the University of Chicago, he was well-acquainted with Greek and Roman thought. But Basil Talbott's news judgment seemed guided by the more modern philosophy of Yogi Berra: "If it ain't interesting, it ain't interesting." Officials who had the smarts and will to make news found Basil with a ready pen.

Because of his wide experience, his stories got to the heart of the matter. He was always fair, always offered a chance to make a full case. His precise questioning could quickly expose a thin understanding of an issue or coax unexpected, intriguing details; in fact, transcripts of Basil Talbott interviews could serve as models for would-be cross-examiners.

Taken as a whole, the thousands of stories he filed in his career would make a small mountain. Anyone who understands the deadlines, knowledge, the source-work and the scrappiness that went into compiling that small mountain could only call it a substantial achievement.

Basil Talbott made a sustained commitment to compiling the first-draft of Chicago's recent history. His contribution to helping Chicagoans understand their city and their colorful politicians deserves commendation from this Congress. As Basil hits the send key on a 30-plus year career in journalism, we should lament the loss to Chicago's Fourth Estate, salute his fine example and wish him well in his quest to put a good lead on the next phase of his life.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I am dismayed to learn that the House of Representatives will once again delay a vote on campaign finance reform. We were promised a vote before May 15th, but now it appears that the leadership of the House has broken their promise again.

Mr. Speaker, there has been a great deal of attention paid recently to the internal debate over the campaign finance investigations in

the House. This debate has diverted attention away from the real issue, fixing the abuses in the system that are currently legal. I fear that perhaps that is the goal of the Republican leadership in Congress. By continuing to spend taxpayer dollars on Congressional hearings and keeping the attention on abuses that occurred in the past the leadership feels it will not need to fix the system for future elections. I will not let that happen.

The people of this country have spoken loud and clear, they want campaign finance reform. If you doubt the will of the public just look at all the Republican members who returned from the Easter recess willing to challenge the leadership and sign the campaign finance discharge petition. At that time the leadership gave their word that they would allow an open and honest vote on campaign finance reform. I hope that the leadership keeps its word and allows a vote next week.

HONORING REV. SPURGEON EUGENE CRAYTON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Spurgeon Eugene Crayton, Pastor, Mount Ollie Baptist Church. Rev. Crayton has dedicated his life to the church and the community of Brooklyn, New York.

The 65-year-old Brownsville pastor is one of the busiest in the city. He conducts as many as fifteen revivals a year, preaching in a style that he describes as a combination of old fashioned flare mixed with contemporary versions of biblical stories. As a specialist in teaching Baptist doctrine, Rev. Crayton has held a variety of posts in the Eastern Baptist Association, representing Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk counties, and is presently an Area Vice President of the Empire State Baptist Convention, which represents some 500 churches from Niagara Falls to East Hampton.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Rev. Crayton has managed to author several books, including a collection of short stories about his Korean War experiences called "Screams and Protest", which is used by the public school system. He has also written "God's Star in the East", a guide to Baptist congregations, and is working on a third book entitled, "The Black Baptist Church of Today". Always a man of action, Rev. Crayton has even found time to write plays, including "Another One Gone" and "The Erudite".

Through his commitment to work on behalf of the community, this dynamic minister has also served as a charter board member of the Half Way House Rehabilitation Center for Drug Abuse; as a Protestant Chaplain for the Madonna Heights School for Girls, a Catholic School; and is an instructor of English at Central Commercial High School in New York City.

Rev. Crayton's own words exemplify his extraordinary sensitivity to the needs of God's people: "We have a lot of dedicated ministers who want not only to be good preachers, but will help fight for social causes for their parishioners. There is a greater interest now on the part of the ministry to understand the religious, political, social, and economic problems of our

communities." He has truly left an indelible mark for all to follow.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Rev. Spurgeon Eugene Crayton for his valuable contributions to the community of Brooklyn.

THE U.S. ARMY SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS: COMMITTED TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY IN OUR HEMISPHERE

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, as many of my colleagues have come to know, there is an ongoing movement led by the Maryknoll Order of the Catholic Church to attack American foreign policy and her right to defend her interests through closure of the U.S. Army School of the Americas. The School is our nation's preeminent training facility for Spanish speaking militaries and police forces and for U.S. military officers slated to be stationed in South America, Central America, or the Caribbean. The School of the Americas provides training in professional military and police operations (including a Spanish-language Command and General Staff Officer Course). Other coursework includes drug interdiction and eradication, peacekeeping, and resource management. Most importantly, each course focuses on supporting and maintaining democracy and protecting human rights. The School is widely recognized as having developed the foremost human rights training program available at any military training institution in the world, including other U.S. training centers.

Unfortunately, you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink. While the vast majority—well over 99 percent—of the School's graduates have returned to serve their nations honorably, those who oppose U.S. foreign policy in the region have seized upon the horrible actions of a very few School graduates as justification for U.S. disengagement throughout our own hemisphere. These former students have acted illegally and immorally in spite of what they learned at the School, not because of it. Suggestions that the Army's School of the Americas has somehow been responsible for, or complicit in atrocities committed by rogue Latin American soldiers are outrageous, inflammatory, and completely unsubstantiated. Implicating our own dedicated soldiers in the wrongdoings of criminals throughout Latin America represents an attack not only on the School, but also on the U.S. Army, on the U.S. Armed Forces as a whole, and on American foreign policy and the American government's right to protect her national interests abroad.

Today, the United States pursues its foreign policy in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean with fewer military deployments than are required in any other region of the world. We are able to accomplish this because of the confidence that we have in the American-trained military leadership of the region's democracies. If there were no School of the Americas, pursuit of our foreign policy in Latin America would be very costly both in human and monetary terms.

Large military deployments would probably be required to continue current international

drug interdiction, peacekeeping, and humanitarian relief missions throughout the region. Such deployments would not only put thousands of American lives at risk, but would also vastly increase the region's burden on the taxpayer. Currently, the entire Southern Command Area of Responsibility (which encompasses 1/6th of the Earth's surface, including all of Central America, South America, and the Caribbean) requires an investment of only about \$550 million per year to protect our national security interests. Compare this to the costs associated with operations in the much smaller regions of Bosnia, costing over \$2 billion last year, or Iraq, costing over \$1.6 billion last year.

An honest assessment of Latin American history over the last 50 years demonstrates clearly that the U.S. Army School of the Americas saves lives.

Recently, Latin American military officers trained at the School were responsible for negotiating a peaceful settlement to the Ecuador/Peru border dispute.

During the 90s, military coups threatened in Venezuela and Paraguay have been averted through U.S. contacts and cooperation with soldiers trained at USARSA.

Jose Serrano, Colombia's new drug czar who was featured recently in the Wall Street Journal, has made great progress in eliminating police corruption and in attacking the operations of that nation's drug kingpins. He is a former guest instructor at the School.

Jaime Guzman, the Minister of Defense of El Salvador, has nearly eliminated human rights abuses by the Salvadoran military. During the 1980s, such abuses numbered nearly 2000 incidents each month. Now they nearly never occur, thanks to the School of the Americas human rights training that General Guzman received at Fort Benning, and then implemented in El Salvador.

While most of the turmoil of the 1980s has receded in the region, new threats have emerged and must be addressed. The Army School of the Americas continues to be an important support structure for many of the region's fledgling democracies, particularly in fighting on the front lines of the war on drugs. With all of the progress that has been made in the region, it would be irresponsible to turn our backs while drug traffickers and terrorists chip away at freedom and democracy in Central and South America and continue to kill our children on our own streets.

Recently, the Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Southern Command General Charles Wilhelm referred to the inter-American drug supply as the greatest chemical weapons threat currently faced by the United States. Every year, hundreds of billions of dollars worth of deadly, addictive chemicals flow across our borders from Mexico and South America and end up in the bodies of American citizens—many of them children. We must have the School so that we may continue to train Spanish-speaking soldiers and police to interdict drugs and eradicate them at their source. Hundreds of thousands of Americans have died of the effects of narcotics smuggled from without our hemisphere, yet the School's opponents still seek to close this institution which is having a more profound impact on inter-American drug trafficking than any other military training facility in the world.

Opponents of the Army School suggest that it should be closed in the interest of human

rights. But whose human rights are we talking about? Through its training programs, the School of the Americas protects the human rights of Latin American citizens from both wayward military officials and drug death squads (like the one that recently ambushed a Colombian National Police scout team, killing them all). Furthermore, the School protects U.S. human rights and interests by attacking the drug crisis at its source and by maintaining peace and constructive relations throughout the militaries of our region. The only humans whose rights would be protected by closing the School are those of the drug lords and criminals who are the enemies of democracy and the murderers of our children and those of Latin America.

Ironically, the School's closing would eliminate the opportunity for Latin America soldiers to study democracy and human rights. Not only are such courses unavailable at other nations' military training facilities, they are not even offered at other U.S. Department of Defense schools. The School's critics seem to be suggesting that the best way to effect a better understanding of human rights and democracy in Latin American militaries is to close down the only facility providing Latin American soldiers and police with training in democracy and human rights. I respectfully disagree.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL NURSES WEEK, MAY 6-12

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in recognition of National Nurses Week. The 2.6 million registered nurses in the United States make up our nation's largest health care profession. Throughout our country's history, nurses have been the backbone of our health care system. The nursing profession plays a vital role in meeting the different and emerging health care needs of the American population in a wide range of settings. Moreover, nurses are the human face of our health care system. As the primary care givers, nurses have the most contact with patients and play a direct role in a patient's recovery. As a nurse, I know from firsthand experience that when it comes to patient recovery, good nursing care makes a difference.

Nurses are also the future of our health care system. As our country places renewed emphasis on primary and preventive health care, we will require better utilization of all our nation's nursing resources. The cost-effective, safe and quality health care services provided by registered nurses will be an ever more important component of our health care delivery system in the future. Therefore, we must do everything we can to promote and advance the nursing profession.

I am proud to be the cosponsor of a number of bills that advance the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the economic and general welfare of nurses in the workplace and projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing. Some of the bills I proudly sponsor include H.R. 1165, the Patient Safety Act of 1997, legislation that provides whistle-blower protection for nurses