

him a brilliant public servant in the 46 years that have followed. Prior to his present post as clerk, Mr. Tabb served as Magistrate on the Hardin County Fiscal Court, as Assistant Principal at East Hardin High School and Principal at Sonora Elementary.

Today, I would like to correct a four-decade old administrative oversight and finally recognize Mr. Tabb, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his childhood heroism and for his dutiful service to the Elizabethtown, KY, community in the years since. His efforts, then and now, make him an outstanding American, worthy of our collective respect and honor.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON CONGRESSIONAL SUCCESSION

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I have just introduced a constitutional amendment on congressional succession. Much has been said over the last couple years about the need to make sure we have a functioning Congress that is perceived as legitimate in the case of a national disaster that kills or incapacitates a large proportion of Members of Congress. So far, none of the proposals that have been introduced have been able to appeal to a broad, bipartisan cross-section of Congress. I believe the constitutional amendment I have introduced today addresses the major criticisms that have been leveled against the "continuity of Congress" constitutional amendments that have been introduced so far.

Under my proposal, each general election candidate for the House or Senate would be authorized to publicly appoint, in ranked order, 3 to 5 potential temporary successors. The legitimacy of a successor designated in this way temporarily succeeding a deceased or incapacitated Representative or Senator is similar to that of a Vice President succeeding a deceased or incapacitated President—not separately elected, but chosen by the principal and known well in advance of the election.

The problem faced by other proposals of how to determine when sufficient members have died or been incapacitated to trigger emergency procedures is avoided in my proposal because no such determination is necessary. If a congressional continuity solution is good enough to use when 110 Representatives are killed or disabled, it should be good enough to use when 50 or 20 or even one Representative dies or becomes unable to discharge his or her duties. Continuity of Congress is certainly important, but so is continuity of representation. Death or incapacity of Representatives and Senators (as in the case of the late Senator Paul Wellstone) should not change the control of either House of Congress or the outcome of votes. Also, the legitimacy of a congressional succession plan is more likely to be accepted in a national emergency if it has previously worked in smaller tragedies.

To further legitimize temporary successors, my proposal would repeal the current power state governors have to appointment temporary Senators. Since the adoption of the 17th Amendment, the American people have

expected that the members of both Houses of Congress should be democratically elected. When a more democratic solution is available, we don't need to perpetuate the practice of a governor of another party being able to change the composition and control of the Senate just because a Senator tragically dies or is incapacitated.

My proposal would allow governors to appoint temporary Senators and Representatives only if the elected Senator or Representative has not submitted a list of successors or if none of the listed successors is able to serve. This backup appointment authority provides an incentive for Senators and Representatives (and potential Senators and Representatives) to make sure their "political will" is in order, since otherwise their governor could appoint someone they may not like. The backup authority of course also provides a further assurance of congressional continuity.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that my congressional succession constitutional amendment would solve the continuity of Congress problem in a way that would appeal to both sides of the aisle. I ask my colleagues for their support.

WELCOMING THE ACCESSION OF BULGARIA, ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, ROMANIA, SLO- VAKIA, AND SOLVENIA TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY OR- GANIZATION

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to this resolution. I do so because further expansion of NATO, an outdated alliance, is not in our national interest and may well constitute a threat to our national security in the future.

More than 50 years ago the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was formed to defend Western Europe and the United States against attack from the communist nations of Eastern Europe. It was an alliance of sovereign nations bound together in common purpose—for mutual defense. The deterrence value of NATO helped kept the peace throughout the Cold War. In short, NATO achieved its stated mission. With the fall of the Soviet system and the accompanying disappearance of the threat of attack, in 1989–1991, NATO's reason to exist ceased. Unfortunately, as with most bureaucracies, the end of NATO's mission did not mean the end of NATO. Instead, heads of NATO member states gathered in 1999 desperately attempting to devise new missions for the outdated and adrift alliance. This is where NATO moved from being a defensive alliance respecting the sovereignty of its members to an offensive and interventionist organization, concerned now with "economic, social and political difficulties . . . ethnic and religious rivalries, territorial disputes, inadequate or failed efforts at reform, the abuse of human rights, and the dissolution of states," in the words of the Washington 1999 Summit.

And we saw the fruits of this new NATO mission in the former Yugoslavia, where the US, through NATO, attacked a sovereign state

that threatened neither the United States nor its own neighbors. In Yugoslavia, NATO abandoned the claim it once had to the moral high ground. The result of the illegal and immoral NATO intervention in the Balkans speaks for itself: NATO troops will occupy the Balkans for the foreseeable future. No peace has been attained, merely the cessation of hostilities and a permanent dependency on US foreign aid.

The further expansion of NATO is in reality a cover for increased US interventionism in Europe and beyond. It will be a conduit for more unconstitutional US foreign aid and US interference in the internal politics of member nations, especially the new members from the former East.

It will also mean more corporate welfare at home. As we know, NATO membership demands a minimum level of military spending of its member states. For NATO's new members, the burden of significantly increased military spending when there are no longer external threats is hard to meet. Unfortunately, this is where the US government steps in, offering aid and subsidized loans to these members so they can purchase more unneeded and unnecessary military equipment. In short, it is nothing more than corporate welfare for the US military industrial complex.

The expansion of NATO to these seven countries, we have heard, will open them up to the further expansion of US military bases, right up to the border of the former Soviet Union. Does no one worry that this continued provocation of Russia might have negative effects in the future? Is it necessary?

Further, this legislation encourages the accession of Albania, Macedonia, and Croatia—nations that not long ago were mired in civil and regional wars. The promise of US military assistance if any of these states are attacked is obviously a foolhardy one. What will the mutual defense obligations we are entering into mean if two Balkan NATO members begin hostilities against each other (again)?

In conclusion, we should not be wasting US tax money and taking on more military obligations expanding NATO. The alliance is a relic of the Cold War, a hold-over from another time, an anachronism. It should be disbanded, the sooner the better.

YOU CAN BE A PART OF BUILDING SAFETY WEEK

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Building Safety Week, observed April 4–10. Building safety affects many aspects of American life. Because of building safety code enforcement, we enjoy the comfort of structures that are safe and sound. Building safety and fire prevention officials work with citizens to address building safety and fire prevention concerns everyday.

The dedicated members of the International Code Council, including building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, engineers, and others in the construction industry, develop and enforce the codes that safeguard Americans in the buildings where we live, work, play and learn. The International Codes, the most widely adopted building safety and

fire prevention codes in the nation, are used by most U.S. cities, counties and states.

Building safety codes provide safeguards to protect the public from natural disasters that can occur all across the country, such as snowstorms, hurricanes, tornadoes, wildland fires, and earthquakes. Building safety codes also work to minimize other potential building catastrophes.

Building Safety Week, sponsored by the International Code Council Foundation, is an opportunity to educate the public. It is a perfect time to increase public awareness of the role building safety and fire prevention officials, local and state building departments, and federal agencies play in the first line of defense to protect the public.

This year's theme, "You Can Be a Part of Building Safety Week," encourages all Americans to raise our awareness of building safety, and to take appropriate steps to ensure that the places where we live, work, play and learn are safe. Countless lives have been saved because of the building safety codes adopted and enforced by local and state agencies.

This year, as we observe Building Safety Week, I ask all Americans to consider projects to improve building safety at home and in the community, and to recognize the local building safety and fire prevention officials and the important role that they play in public safety.

I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize building safety and fire prevention officials today and urge all people to participate in Building Safety Week activities and to commence efforts to improve building safety.

RECOGNIZING THE LATIN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Latin Business Association (LBA) for its 28 years of performing exceptional work in promoting business growth, advocacy and education for the Latino community.

Established in 1976 as a private nonprofit organization, the LBA is the nation's largest Latino business entity with an active membership of 1,200 and overall outreach to Latino business owners. LBA's membership and outreach efforts enable it to fulfill its mission of being the fastest and most effective leader of Latino business opportunities in the market place. In addition, the LBA helps Latino-owned businesses grow by providing business-training workshops and developing effective advocacy programs.

More than a leader in the business world, the LBA transcends political, cultural, and language barriers that impact our nation's economic balance. As a result of the LBA's hard work, Latino businesses, executives, and entrepreneurs are not only nationally recognized, but have the opportunity to influence the nation's economic public policy.

As the Latino population continues to grow, the development of new corporations and entrepreneurial businesses will jumpstart our economy. I believe the LBA will be at the forefront among strong and influential business organizations offering support and direction to the Latino business community.

Tonight's 28th Annual Sol Business Awards Gala is a testament to the emerging significance and influence of the Latino business community. I am proud to recognize the LBA, its Board of Directors, and its members for 28 years of successfully generating business opportunities, providing advocacy, and educating the Latino community for business growth. The LBA has distinguished itself as an exceptional leader in Latino business development and I wish it much longevity and prosperity.

COMMENDING MARK PEPOWSKI

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor that I stand before you today to recognize the achievements of a fine college professor, Mark Peplowski, in Henderson, NV. He has dedicated himself to the service of Henderson students through his loyalty to the Community College of Southern Nevada. Beginning with his appointment as an adjunct professor in 1976 he has been determined to make Henderson, NV a better place by dedicating his career to Community College of Southern Nevada.

During his career as an adjunct professor and a professor, he has created programs to bring his students into the political world by providing ways for them to travel to our Nation's Capitol to work and meet with the many leaders of our Nation. He has been there as a mentor and counselor to his students in helping them accomplish their career goals in politics.

Mark Peplowski has also had a long-term goal of creating a Grass Roots Institute of Politics at the Henderson campus to give students from all backgrounds a chance to participate in and understand the political process with the opportunity to get involved in government.

I commend Mark Peplowski for his dedication to his students and his loyalty to his country. He has demonstrated that he is an effective teacher and has continuously taught his students the meaning of good government through his example and dedication to learning.

SPIRITUAL LEADER, BLESSED PRESENCE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, one of Michigan's finest citizens recently passed away. I have been searching for the right words to express my high esteem for Bishop Kenneth E. Untener. Having just read the editorial in the Saginaw News of Saginaw, Michigan, I feel that they have expressed well the love in which the Bishop was held by those whose lives he had touched.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the Saginaw News editorial be reprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Saginaw News, Mar. 31, 2004]

SPIRITUAL LEADER, BLESSED PRESENCE

For the better part of a quarter century, Bishop Kenneth E. Untener served the Saginaw Diocese with humility, humor and unflinching devotion. His faith and commitment to God are unquestioned. Yet Untener's fidelity to the welfare of the region's people—people of all faiths, creeds and colors—was an equally profound reflection of his humanity and ability to lead.

His death this weekend of leukemia leaves a deep void in the Saginaw Valley, and not just among Catholics. The bishop's work to improve the community, to unite its interconnected and diverse components, was tireless. He was an inspiring presence within the region's religious and civic communities.

As former Saginaw Mayor Henry Marsh, his friend and compatriot in community affairs put it, Saginaw cannot replace him. His outreach brought hundreds of the region's leaders together via his monthly "bishop's breakfast" meetings. He was active in Saginaw County Vision 2020, Habitat for Humanity and myriad youth initiatives. He abolished perceived barriers among individuals and between groups.

There is no doubt Bishop Untener was taken, in the transitory, earthly way, too soon. It was only a few weeks ago that he announced his battle with cancer. He was 66.

The church, of course, will name a successor to lead the 140,000-member, 11-county Saginaw Diocese. The community will welcome the next bishop, and Untener's successor will embark on a path to leave his own mark.

Yet Untener's legacy will survive through his civic example and in his acclaimed religious writings. His "Little Books" are inspirational guides used by Catholics and non-Catholics alike. The level of praise from within the religious community, from clergy of all faiths, is a testament to Untener's bridge-building skills. His outreach sometimes rankled members of his own faith, as in his support for female priests, as contradictory to traditional church doctrine.

As a man living among us, however, Bishop Untener's humble march toward unity serves as an example we all would wisely strive to follow.

The community was blessed by Bishop Untener's presence for nearly a quarter century. The people he touched are forever changed; the community he served was changed for the better, too.

IN HONOR OF ALVIN "SAM" SHRADER

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Alvin "Sam" Shrader's dedication to public service as the Breakfast Rotary Club of Camarillo recognizes him for 60 years of perfect Rotary Club attendance.

As my colleagues are aware, the object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service in all aspects of one's life—business, personal and community. Alvin Shrader epitomizes that ideal.

Alvin Shrader and his wife, Avis (or Suzy as she's better known), will celebrate 70 years of marriage this June. They have three wonderful children, including my lovely wife, Janice. Alvin Shrader is as dedicated to his wife, children, eight grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren