

The Constitution mandates a simple head count by a Census taker, not an audit by some bureaucratic intrusive nincompoop. I yield back the manipulations of both American citizens and our great Constitution by the Census Bureau.

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COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF  
LON FOLGER, JR.

(Mr. BURR of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of a great man, Mr. Alonzo Folger, Jr., of Rockingham County, North Carolina, who passed away this morning. Lon was the son of one of my predecessors and the nephew of another.

His father, Alonzo Folger, Sr., represented the 5th District of North Carolina from 1939 to 1941, and his uncle, John Folger, represented the district from 1941 to 1949.

Lon Folger was a family man, an attorney, a community leader, a political activist, and a friend to many. I will never forget the support he, a leading Democratic figure in North Carolina, gave me, a Republican, when I ran for Congress in 1994. Lon not only supported me in that election but, from that time until his death, he was always willing to serve as an adviser to me on many issues we dealt with here in Congress.

Lon Folger was the type of person whose word was his bond. A handshake could be counted on to be a valid written contract. Lon was honest and forthright. He was fair in his dealings with people, even those who he disagreed with.

Lon was a leader in his community and, over the years, involved himself in numerous efforts to make his hometown, Madison, North Carolina, a better place to live. He could always be counted on to answer the call when there was a need, and he consistently devoted his time and energy to helping others.

If we are fortunate enough in our lifetimes, we have the occasion to cross paths with a handful of very special people who teach us and are willing to help us understand where they have been before us. Lon Folger was that type of special friend for me, and I will always be grateful for the opportunity to have sought his counsel, knowing that I could trust his judgment.

I extend my sympathy to his wife Elizabeth and to the rest of the family on their loss. Lon Folger's death is a loss not only for his family but for the community and the State he loved so much, and he will certainly be missed by all who knew him.

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INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell the story of Robert Marquette and his children, Ben and Rhea. Their story is the ninth in a series of 1-minutes on more than 10,000 children who have been taken, abducted, to foreign countries.

In 1997, Robert Marquette's ex-wife, Rose Marie Marquette, abducted Ben and Rhea from Irving, Texas, and took them to Germany. Although Robert's home was named as the primary residence, Robert subsequently filed a Hague Convention petition through the State Department. His petition was heard by a German judge who violated the Hague Convention by refusing to return Ben and Rhea. He has filed numerous appeals, but they have all been denied.

On June 15 this year, it will be 3 years since Robert has seen his children or spoken with them. The German authorities refuse to tell him where they are.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to help me reunite parents with their children and to support the resolution that I introduced, along with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), which urges signatories to uphold the Hague Convention on the civil aspects of international child abduction. We must bring our children home.

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MISGUIDED LEGISLATION ON  
ILLEGAL GAMBLING

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, legislation has been introduced in this Congress that calls for preempting the State laws of Nevada and closing down legal sports wagering entities.

Certainly the problem of illegal gambling and the results of illegal gambling are serious and must be addressed by this Nation. However, banning the highly regulated and closely supervised legal sports betting located in Nevada is not the solution.

According to FBI experts, the strict regulations on sports betting in Nevada have helped law enforcement officials in their efforts to stop illegal sports betting. Mr. Speaker, legislation banning legal sports' wagering is simply not the solution to stopping illegal betting.

I have introduced H.R. 3800, which calls for the U.S. Justice Department to analyze illegal sports gaming and make recommendations in combating it. Enforcement of our current laws is the solution, outlawing a law that enforces these laws is not a solution.

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SUCCESS IN AMERICA BEGINS IN  
THE CLASSROOM

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, every American child has a right to a quality education. Yet our education system, as a whole, has been failing to deliver, particularly to minorities.

For example, 63 percent of nonurban fourth graders can read at a basic level, while only 43 percent of urban fourth graders can meet the same standards. And the dropout rate for African American students is about 15 percent, while the Hispanic student dropout rate is between 30 and 35 percent.

Republicans believe educational opportunities should be the same for all children regardless of race, religion, or economic background. That is why I support H.R. 7, the Education Savings and Excellence Act. This legislation helps parents put aside money tax free for their children's education. This money may be spent on tuition, a computer, or even a tutor. Best of all, 76 percent of all the children who will benefit from the ESAs currently attend public schools.

Success in America begins in the classroom. Let us give all children an opportunity to achieve the American Dream. Let us pass H.R. 7.

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EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

(Mr. PETRI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago we approved legislation which allows parents to put aside \$500 each year in education savings accounts, where the money can be invested in order to grow tax free and where it can be added to each year so that it can grow enough to help pay for college tuition.

Ever since we managed to get education savings accounts enacted into law, we have been trying to raise the amounts parents are allowed to put into their children's accounts each year. We have been trying to extend education savings accounts so that parents, grandparents, or other interested parties will be able to use them to prepare for private or parochial, elementary or high school expenses.

If a family were able to put \$2,000 in an education savings accounts every year, from the time a child was born, and if the account averaged 7½ percent interest annually, it would hold \$14,500 by the time the child got to 1st grade. If nothing were withdrawn and annual savings continued, that amount would rise to \$46,500 when it was time for high school.

President Clinton vetoed an extension of education savings accounts last September, but I am confident that most of us in the House think parents should be encouraged to save for their kids' futures and that is why we are going to try again.