

## PRECIOUS PATRIOTISM

**HON. WALTER B. JONES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 16, 2004*

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to share an essay with you today, it was written by a young man from the 3rd District of North Carolina which I proudly represent. James Waters, a 10th grade student at West Carteret High School in Morehead City, NC, submitted his essay in a contest held by the Fleet Reserve Association and was chosen as an overall winner. I feel his words embody the spirit of what it means to be an American.

## PRECIOUS PATRIOTISM

(By James Waters)

On the morning of April 19, 1775, American colonists fought their first battle with the British redcoats, a prelude to the bloody American Revolution. What incited these average colonists with the heart to stand up to the entire British army? What possessed them to break away from the tyrannical country of Great Britain? The name of this ever-living phenomenon is patriotism.

As people develop a profound pride for their country, patriotism develops simultaneously as a side effect. Patriotism is the heart-willing urge to defend the pillars of justice, opportunity, and equality that our nation symbolizes. Although America is young, she has faced influential conflicts throughout the past centuries. America is continually facing global obstacles at this very moment. Patriotism can be defined as forever standing with America through turmoil and supporting all that is to be asked of America's citizens for the growth of our country. Citizens can illustrate patriotism by striving for individual success. Patriotism is a synonym for staying informed and participating in government as an active citizen. As a zealous patriot of our nation, I will voice my opinion of issues. I will go to the polls to vote, and I will preserve to be a productive citizen.

My patriotism comprises the values of respect. Our country has progressed as it has due to generations of others. Patriotism is vividly evident in our nation's veterans. I will support our veterans who have exemplified their own patriotism and those who have paid the ultimate price of freedom—life. Patriotism is leaving home to fight for just ideas, not knowing if you will return. It is enduring bullets in a battle. It is sleeping on the front lines with the uncertainty of waking up. All veterans deserve the maximum quantity of respect as we continue to live under their previous endeavors.

Patriotism is embedded within the citizens of America. Patriotism shapes the citizens and all-around morale of America. America is a block of ice. Patriotism is the chisel that shapes America into a beautiful sculpture that stands for liberty and justice for all.

## THE ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 2004*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, as ranking member of the Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals

Resources of the Committee on Resources, I rise, once again, in disappointed opposition to H.R. 4503/H.R. 6.

The bill before us today is nearly identical to the Conference Report on the Energy Policy Act of 2003—absent of any new ideas that would ensure a more secure energy future for America; but with all of the same fatal flaws that would force “mom-and-pop-taxpayer” to fatten the already sizeable bottom line of some of our Nation's largest oil companies and pay for the clean-up of MTBE contaminated groundwater. I won't spend more of Congress' precious time listing all of my objections to this bill, but will simply include the statements I made last year on H.R. 6 for the record.

But let me just say, Mr. Speaker, that there is no question our Nation needs a comprehensive and balanced energy plan—one that weens us off of our shaky strategic dependence of Middle Eastern oil toward more sustainable, cleaner, and renewable sources. Unfortunately, this bill—like last year's budget-busting behemoth—does not get us there.

There are, however, some worthy provisions in these bills that have wide, bipartisan support. So, instead of political grandstanding, I urge the House leadership to separate and pass these important measures.

One such example is the mandatory reliability standards, which would punish utilities who violate rules designed to limit how much electricity can be sold over the Nation's aging power grid. This measure could be perfected and passed by Congress today if it was allowed to be considered separately. The reliability of our Nation's interconnected power grid is critical to our economy and our security, but has been left at risk. In fact, Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham was recently reported as saying “the U.S. power grid is in better shape than before last August's massive blackout but remains vulnerable this summer.”

Another widely supported proposal is the renewable fuels standard provision. This measure would increase the requirement that gasoline sold in the United States contain a specified volume of clean-burning ethanol or biodiesel. Under this measure, the annual average volume of renewable fuel additives would incrementally increase, starting at 3.1 billion gallons in 2005 and reaching 5 billion gallons in 2012—two and a half times the current requirement.

The American Farm Bureau has estimated the renewable fuels standard will have a significant economic stimulus tool for rural America by adding \$4.5 billion to net farm income; create the need for \$5.3 billion in rural capital investments; and create 216,000 new jobs. Ethanol and biodiesel are just two broad-based, diversified, environmentally friendly energy products American agriculture can produce. I have long stated that empowering U.S. farmers to assume a greater role in producing renewable fuels is a win-win situation deserving congressional support. Unfortunately, even though this provision has the consensus approval of Republicans and Democrats alike, House leadership has steadfastly refused to move it separately.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to oppose this bill and immediately move to work bipartisanship to pass these widely supported, and much needed provisions.

## HONORING ALICIA WALTER

**HON. HENRY J. HYDE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 16, 2004*

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, on June 1, 14-year-old Alicia Walter delivered the Valedictorian address for the graduating class at St. Damian's Elementary School in Oak Forest, Illinois. This young lady demonstrates wisdom well beyond her years and I am pleased to share it with my colleagues.

VALEDICTORIAN ADDRESS PRESENTED BY ALICIA WALTER TO THE ST. DAMIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASS OF 2004

Father Meany, Father Scanlan, Father Stuglik, Miss Wesolowski, Mrs. Kane, Father McCarthy, Mrs. Nagle, Faculty, Parents, and Fellow Classmates: Welcome. Tonight, we find ourselves sitting in the midst of one of the most bittersweet moments we have yet to endure. Thoughts of worry, sorrow, stress and regret ricochet off the back of our eyelids, yet we are compelled to celebrate. Chaos is persisting its way through our veins, obliged only by our own perplexed hearts. We all have our own emotional struggles tonight, and I hope some of mine that I share relate to some of yours.

I believe that one of the most empowering factors behind our sadness lies in each and every one of our memories from St. Damian. Too many spectacular moments have passed without our realization, and now it is time to finally recognize some of them. Times of substantial happiness and real warmth have come out from within these doors. Picnics, school assemblies, field trips, club meetings, and the comfortable safety of general class time have generated stories we tell over and over, and jokes that never cease to be funny.

As we smile subconsciously about times that made us appreciate the vibrant life that was given to us, we remember the times that were not nearly as convenient as these. Times where day after day we had to pick each other up and carry us over to tomorrow. Times where the only way we could make it right again was to give out genuine hugs and a vacant shoulder. Each of us carries several chapters full of these moments, in our personal book of life. Those chapters have been written in stone, whether or not we would like it to be so, but it is the very same chapters that exemplify the person we are now. How we reacted to our troubles, how we grabbed the hand of a friend temporarily fallen behind, and how we left behind the charred remains of supposed impossibilities extended the extremes of just how much we can bear.

Our friends have provided a huge portion of backing throughout our lives, but we would never be able to live without the unseen but consistent encouragement from God. St. Damian School has instilled a solid belief on basic moralities, real love of humanity, and simply right and wrong in all of its students. Basic religion fundamentals, such as these, as well as faith in the Lord, have raised us up, especially when our friends did not have the strength to. The entire faculty here has demonstrated these Catholic qualities, as they have walked through their own lives practicing what they teach.

St. Damian School has noticeably impacted the mold of what we symbolize, so it is very apparent how much thanks we owe to the school. Behind the school, though, we walk into our homes, to find the other crucial components of our support system. Yes, there we see the family members that are constantly free to relieve us of whatever