

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF DOUG SELLERS OF THE SAN  
ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
DISTRICT

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Doug Sellers of the San Antonio Independent School District for his active work in our community.

Doug Sellers was born in the great State of Texas in 1952. He attended high school in San Antonio, where he currently serves as District 4 Trustee for the San Antonio Independent School District.

Doug Sellers is the type of educator who listens to our kids. Having started out as a Band Booster, he has been involved in the school district for over 15 years and he understands the unique needs of our children in the San Antonio community.

Doug Sellers believes that positive change in the educational community is the best way to help our city rise to the challenges of the next century. He has striven to make the San Antonio Independent School District a place where he is proud to send his own grandchildren.

Mr. Sellers is dedicated and passionate about improving our schools and he works hard for our community. Under Doug Sellers guidance, our educational and arts communities have a bright future.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to have been given this opportunity to recognize Doug Sellers of the San Antonio Independent School District for his dedication to the educational and arts communities.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL  
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES ACT

**HON. WAYNE T. GILCHREST**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague, Representative VERNON EHLERS, in introducing a pair of bills that comprehensively address the growing problem of aquatic invasive species in the United States and its territories. These foreign invaders, from Sea Lamprey in the Great Lakes to Asian Carp in the Mississippi to Moon Jellies in the Gulf to Rappa Whelk in the Chesapeake Bay to Zebra Mussels across the U.S. and hundreds of other plants, fish, and invertebrates, cause significant economic and ecological damage throughout North America. In recent estimates, invasive species are demonstrated to cost the U.S. at least \$138 billion per year. Forty-two percent of the species on the federal threatened and endangered species lists are negatively impacted by invasive species. Once established, invasive species displace native species, impede municipal and industrial water systems, degrade ecosystems, reduce recreational and commercial fishing opportunities, and can cause public health problems.

Aquatic invasive species are a particular problem because they readily spread through interconnected waterways and are difficult to

treat safely. Hundreds of exotic species arrive in U.S. waters every day through a variety of pathways such as ballast water, hull fouling, aquaculture and the seafood trade. Without effective federal policies to prevent and control these introductions, we willingly surrender our valuable resource assets to these invasive species.

The National Aquatic Invasive Species Act of 2005 (NAISA) will address these problems by: (1) Establishing a national mandatory ballast water management program, (2) Requiring ships to have an Invasive Species Management Plan that outlines ways to minimize transfers on a "whole ship" basis, (3) Creating a ballast water treatment technology certification program, and (4) Including incentives for ship owners to install experimental ballast treatment technology.

NAISA would also prevent invasive species introductions from other pathways by: (1) Identifying and managing pathways that pose the highest risk of introducing invasive species, (2) Creating a screening process for planned importations of live aquatic organisms, (3) Supporting development and implementation of State Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plans, including early detection, screening and rapid response activities at state and regional levels, (4) Conducting ecological surveys for early detection of invasive species and analysis of invasion rates and patterns, (5) Making available federal funding and resources for rapid response to introductions of invasive species, (6) Preventing inter-basin transfer of organisms by increasing funding and resources for dispersal barrier projects and research, (7) Establishing environmental soundness criteria to ensure all prevention and control measures enacted do not further harm the environment, (8) Creating education and outreach programs to inform the public on preventing transfers of invasive species by proper cleaning of recreational boats, and proper disposal of nonnative organisms for home aquaria, (9) Conducting research on high-risk invasion pathways and alternative prevention and control technologies, and (10) Making available \$170 million in federal funds for aquatic invasive species prevention, control, and research.

Congress has addressed this issue in two past legislative initiatives: the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (NANPCA) and its reauthorization as the National Invasive Species Act of 1996 (NISA). Spurred by the growing concern over the zebra mussel invasion in the Great Lakes, NANPCA created a multi-agency task force, the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, to address the issue of aquatic invaders and empowered the Coast Guard to develop guidelines for ballast water management for the Great Lakes. In 1996, Congress expanded the ballast water guidelines to a national voluntary program to be made mandatory if compliance is not sufficient.

While these laws made some progress, they have not yet solved the problem of aquatic invasive species introductions. For example, the national ballast water guidelines have seen low compliance. In addition, the only prevention option currently available to ships, ballast water exchange, has varying effectiveness that is difficult to measure, causes vessel safety concerns, and is not appropriate for coastal voyages. Development of new methods of combating transfers of organisms from

ballast water has been slow due to the lack of a ballast water standard and low funding for development of new technology.

We need improvements in current law. Our bills have been carefully researched and subjected to broad stakeholder review, and we believe the public and industry stakeholders will support both. We are drastically underinvesting in research and efforts to prevent, control, and eradicate aquatic invasive species. We don't get a second chance to prevent an invasive organism from taking hold in our waters. Our bills would make the U.S. proactive in saving its citizens billions of public dollars by allowing us to stop future invasions while effectively controlling and eradicating current invaders.

I urge my colleagues to support the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act and comprehensive prevention, control, and eradication of invasive species in the U.S.

RECOGNIZING SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT'S  
1996 S.W.A.T. TEAM

**HON. RICHARD W. POMBO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department's 1996 S.W.A.T. Team. That year was both successful in combating crime and yet terribly tragic as they faced the loss of a fellow S.W.A.T. Team member. The S.W.A.T. Team completed over 550 search warrants, experienced three shootings, and experienced the devastating loss of Deputy Dighton Little, who was killed in action while serving the people of San Joaquin County. His heroism will be remembered by my constituents, and I rise this day to honor his memory.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating each member of the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department's S.W.A.T. Team of 1996 for their exemplary devotion, service, and selflessness in their important role as protectors of the community. The S.W.A.T. Team of 1996 included: Sergeant Walt Shankel, Sergeant Robert Humphreys, Deputy Richard Cordova, Deputy Jody Leberman, Deputy Richard Dunsing, Deputy Adail Thrower, Deputy Mark Dreher, Deputy Steve Rivera, Deputy Gilbert Mendez, Deputy Don Tisher, Deputy Steve Fontes, Deputy Gary Sheridan, Deputy Armondo Mayoya, Deputy Jesse Dubois, Deputy Dave Claypool, Deputy Ken Bassett, Deputy Ken Rohde, Deputy Albert Garcia, and Deputy Dighton Little (killed in action). I am in deep admiration of these fine members of my congressional district, and am pleased to honor them today in the chamber of the House of Representatives.

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT FIRST  
CLASS DANA BOWMAN (RET.)

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of SFC Dana Bowman, a courageous and dedicated former soldier in the United States Army.