

HONORING ANTIETAM BOYS
SOCCER

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Antietam High School Boys Soccer team for winning the Pennsylvania State PIAA Class A Boys Soccer Championship.

The Antietam Mounts played a vigorous game against the Trinity Christian Falcons. The game was extremely competitive with both teams fighting to win. But in the end, the Mounts pulled out a 4–2 win. This win marked their first state title.

During the championship game, the Mounts were without one of their key players, Christopher Dock. Dock, a junior midfielder and a starter for the entire season, injured his left knee during Tuesday's semifinal win. The Mounts were able to overcome the loss of a key player and still turn in a win.

Today, the Mounts are looking ahead to next season and possibly another state championship. However, the team will lose seven seniors, including one of the team's highest scorers, Eric Kleiman, who scored 87 points and several game winning points.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the players, coaches, and support staff of the Antietam High School Boys Soccer team for their drive, determination, and commitment to excellence that led them to their first Pennsylvania state title. The team is comprised of: Matt Nuding, Ryan Hummel, Tony Furillo, Jared Melot, Vince Baro, Corey Hertzog, Austin Lee, Austin Keller, Seth Cerra, Kyle Cerra, Shawn Troxel, Mitch Weglos, Adam Cubbler, Maarten Koostra, Eric Kleiman, Steve Le, Madison Reece, Dan Pardo, Chris Lavery, Tom Talarico, Matt Stauffer, Pete Smith, Adam Kozlowski, Drew Gilbert, Eric Shank, Tyler Galczynski, Ian Burke, Joseph Stoltz, Scott Kiedeisch, Chris Reed, Coach Milt Scholl, Coach Charlie Weaver, Coach Ralph Hertzog, and Managers Abbey Weaver, Jordan Cunningham, and Dayna Goheen.

THE NEED FOR POSTAL REFORM

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to an urgent issue that we must address in the opening months of the next Congress.

Early next spring, the Postal Service will file for a rate increase, to be implemented in 2006. Unless Congress acts, that rate increase will be one of the largest in history—at least 15 percent, or 6 cents on a First Class stamp. That will cripple an industry already in trouble, and reverberate through our entire economy.

It would be irresponsible and reckless for us to sit back and do nothing.

The Postal Service is the center of a \$900 billion industry, employing 9 million Americans in such diverse fields as manufacturing, advertising, publishing, and finance. This industry

comprises 8.5 percent of the Gross Domestic Product.

The cost of doing nothing will be steep, for the Postal Service, for the 9 million Americans whose jobs rely on the mail, and for every American who sends a birthday card, pays a bill, or orders something from a catalog or online.

Reforming the Postal Service is a crucial responsibility. The Postal Service operates under a rigid, 30-year-old legal structure that does not take into account the technological advances of the past decades. It is saddled with nearly \$70 billion in retiree health costs, worker's comp claims and pension payments. Each year, the labor and infrastructure costs facing the Postal Service rise, while the volume of mail continues to fall. This is a "death spiral" that can only be reversed by Congressional action.

Let me make clear what will happen if we fail to act.

A failure to act is the equivalent of a backdoor tax on every sector of the American economy.

A small business that now spends \$5,000 a year on postage would be hit with a nearly \$1,000 rate increase. And an industry like financial services would get slammed with an increase of over \$600 million in postage costs annually.

Even though we're trying to postpone Internet taxation, a failure to act would raise the cost of online purchases, because consumers will pay more for shipping and handling.

Overall, the American public and American businesses will waste over \$20 billion in unnecessary payments to the Postal Service over the next decade.

This does not have to happen. We have the framework for responsible, comprehensive Postal Reform in the form of legislation that has been approved unanimously by my committee, the Government Reform Committee, and by the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee.

This legislation will force the Postal Service to act more like a business, while also resolving two issues related to the Postal Civil Service Retirement System Funding Reform Act of 2003. This act placed an unusual burden on the Postal Service, making it the only major agency in the government responsible for funding the military portion of its employee retiree benefits. The Act also required the Postal Service to place into escrow any money saved through the legislation—and I believe we should free this money, to allow the Service to make some cost-reducing and productivity-enhancing capital improvements.

I have worked with the Government Reform Committee's ranking minority member, HENRY WAXMAN, as well as Representatives JOHN MCHUGH and DANNY DAVIS to craft legislation that will allow the Postal Service and the industry that relies on it to survive well into this century.

I urge my colleagues to come back next year ready to pass meaningful Postal Reform. There are critics who will say the bill costs too much. I say the cost of not acting is what we really cannot afford.

CONGRATULATING BONNIE JONES
ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bonnie Jones on her retirement as the Escambia County Supervisor of Elections.

A fixture in Escambia County politics, Bonnie Jones was appointed Escambia County Supervisor of Elections by Governor Lawton Chiles on August 1, 1994 to fill the vacancy of Mr. Joe Oldmixon. Mrs. Jones was officially elected on November 8, 1994 and was re-elected without opposition in 1996 and 2000.

Born and raised in Pensacola, Florida, Bonnie gained employment with the Elections office at the young age of eighteen. Her love of democracy and Northwest Florida lead the way to her involvement with other community organizations, such as the Rotary Club of Pensacola, the Board of Directors and Secretary for the Ronald McDonald House, the Woodham High School Advisory Board, and the Pensacola Pen Wheels. Currently she is a member of the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections, the Elections Center Professional Education Program, the Pensacola North Rotary, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Woman's Board of the Baptist Health Care Foundation.

With a partisan atmosphere surrounding the 2000 elections, Bonnie was a fair and steadfast public servant in Escambia County. She was diligent in ensuring every vote was counted, including the large number of military absentee ballots arriving from overseas. Her foresight and wise choice to use the optical scan prior to the 2000 Elections prevented problems in the county with dimpled and hanging chads, which other Floridians experienced.

Today, I salute a woman who has dedicated her life to ensuring liberty and defending the principles of this country. Her exemplary service has guaranteed that the United States will continue to prosper as the world's greatest democracy.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to congratulate Bonnie Jones on her retirement and wish her many more years of success and happiness.

A TRIBUTE TO JOELLE BAILEY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Joelle Bailey for her accomplishments in the field of business and efforts to improve the manners of all people in our community.

Joelle has over 20 years experience in catering, event planning and the restaurant business. Little did she know that a position at Essence Magazine would serve as the impetus for her to enter the food and hospitality industry. At a very young age, Joelle's mom Marie felt very strongly about manners and etiquette and instilled those values in Joelle and her sister Yves. Joelle has taken these values and