

Barstow, California. Although his parents did not finish high school, they instilled in TJ the importance of hard work, perseverance and education. Growing up, TJ excelled in academics, student government, marching band and five varsity sports. He received a football scholarship to the University of Idaho but transferred to Fresno State after spending two cold years in Idaho. While at Fresno State, TJ was an outstanding football player, an undefeated boxer, and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. TJ received his bachelor's degree in 1960, making him the first African-American from Barstow to graduate from college. He subsequently earned a Masters degree in Counseling from Santa Clara University and a Doctorate in College Administration from the University of San Francisco.

In 1960, TJ married his college sweetheart, Carol Curtis. The couple had three beloved daughters, Annette, Alisa, and Audrey. They settled in Barstow, where TJ began teaching and coaching at his former high school.

He also launched his social and community activism as President of the Barstow NAACP.

The family moved to San Jose in 1968, where TJ worked as a Counselor at San Jose City College. He was a mentor and friend to his colleagues and students, creating a lasting legacy for the student body. TJ served as an advisor to the Black Student Union at San Jose City College, and organized the Black Studies Program. He was one of the founding members of EOPS (Extended Opportunity Programs and Services), a program that provides college support services for low-income and educationally disadvantaged students. In 1969, TJ also co-founded the San Jose Chapter of the NAACP and served as president of the organization.

TJ married Brenda Jordan in 1984 and became a father to her two children, Milah and Navarro. As a loving parent, TJ instilled his children with the same dedicated work ethic and perseverance that brought him success: All five of his children earned college degrees. He loved his children very much and was so very proud of them, treasuring his time with them.

In 1991, TJ became Vice President of Student Services at Gavilan College. He was elected President of the Gilroy School Board in 2000 and served on the Santa Clara County Grand Jury. He was involved in more than ten organizations, serving as a leader and community role model in all. I first met TJ when I served as a Member of the Board of Trustees of the San Jose/Evergreen Community College District. I know first hand about his leadership and his passion for those in need. Countless young people achieved educational success because of his efforts. TJ was an active member of 100 Black Men of Silicon Valley where he received a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001.

TJ died on October 17, 2005, surrounded by his family and friends. He is survived by his wife, Brenda Jordan-Owens, his children, Annette, Alisa, Audrey, Navarro, and Milah, and his two grandchildren, Samuel and Tyler.

TJ's death leaves a huge hole in our community. As a pioneer of civil rights, social awareness and community activism, TJ was a friend, mentor and local hero. We are grateful for all that he gave to help so many in our community, inspiring us all with his dedication and showing us how one person can truly make a difference.

CONGRATULATING THE MICHIGAN CITY MARQUETTE HIGH SCHOOL BLAZERS ON THEIR BACK-TO-BLACK CLASS 1A STATE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

**HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, when we think of sports dynasties, we often think of the Chicago Bulls, the New York Yankees, or the New England Patriots. But in my District, in Michigan City, Indiana, we think of Marquette High School and the girls volleyball team.

Over the past 7 years, they have won five Indiana High School Athletic Association Class A State Girls Volleyball Championships. From 1999 to 2001, they won back-to-back-to-back titles. This year makes another series of back-to-back titles, having also won the State crown in 2004. And the 2 years they were not State champs, they were State runner-up.

Needless to say, the past 7 years at Marquette High School have been amazing for the girls volleyball team.

Amazing, too, for third-year coach Troy Campbell. His 34-win season was capped off with his team not only winning the title match, but it also earned him his 100th career coaching victory at Marquette.

This year's championship squad includes seniors Sarah Denny, Kalan Sebert, Danielle Barnett, Colleen Trainor, and Michelle Fletcher, juniors Rachel Konrady, Kara Kmiecik, and Tiffany Cerrillos, sophomores Emily Komasiński, Katie Krueger, Alison Griffin, Ashley Pinkney, Mary Catherine Mengel, and Kim Ziarko, and freshmen Danielle Easton, Jenna Furno, Janie Welsh, and Marissa Disbrow.

Assistant coaches Larry Sheagley and Kylee Osborne also deserve a note of congratulations.

Congratulations to all of you, and to the seniors, best of luck on your future endeavors. You have proven you have what it takes to be a champion.

TORTURE VICTIMS RELIEF REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. JIM RAMSTAD**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2005*

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in strong support of H.R. 2017, the Torture Victims Relief Authorization Act.

I am especially proud that the first Center for Victims of Torture in the United States is located in Minnesota. Minnesota's Center for Victims of Torture is certainly one of the premier centers for torture survivors in the entire world.

Minnesota is home to about 30,000 victims of torture, and there are some 500,000 victims of torture in our country. Even though people are becoming increasingly aware of the issue of torture, support and treatment for the victims have often been lacking.

That's where the center, with its excellent leadership, comes in. We in Minnesota have learned much, and now we want to bring that

leadership, and the path-breaking work of the center, to the rest of the country.

Mr. Speaker, this important legislation provides support for Minnesota's Center for Victims of Torture and will enable our world-renowned Center to continue providing rehabilitation and other critical services to victims of torture.

All Minnesotans can be proud of our Center for Victims of Torture, which helps victims of torture recover from their horrific pain, suffering and scars.

Mr. Speaker, the issues of torture and human rights have finally penetrated the global consciousness, and I urge my colleagues to support passage of this important legislation.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAMES J. FINKLE, U.S. AIR FORCE (RETIRED)

**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize a great American patriot, retired Lt. Col. James J. Finkle, for his distinguished accomplishments in both the U.S. Air Force and in civilian public service.

James joined the U.S. Air Force in 1968, 4 years before attending the University of Maine, from which he graduated in 1976. Shortly thereafter, he was assigned to the Maine Air National Guard and appointed the first town manager of Veazie, Maine.

James stayed in Maine until 1980, when he was hired by the Suffolk County Legislature's Office of Budget Review. Returning to Long Island, where James was born, did not interrupt his commitment to military service. He transferred to the 106th air rescue wing of New York's Air National Guard located at Gabreski Air Force Base on eastern Long Island.

Within the civilian community, James served as the federal aid coordinator for the Nassau-Suffolk Regional Planning Board. He was promoted by the board to serve as the first administrator of the Suffolk County Pine Barrens Commission, and participated in the evacuation study of the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant.

Subsequently, James was selected as the director of planning for the Town of Huntington, managing a staff of 15 and guiding the economic development of this suburban community. After working for the Research Foundation of SUNY Stony Brook in 1990, James joined Shoreland Distributors as vice president for administration where he helped direct the company's rapid growth as it became the largest distributor of boat trailers in the nation.

His National Guard service provided a natural transition to his civilian duties, which included recovery in the aftermath of TWA Flight 800. He helped write a definitive account of that experience in *Deadly Departure: The True Story of Flight 800* and contributed to the New York Times bestseller, "The Perfect Storm: A True Story of Men Against the Sea" about the 106th air rescue wing.

James returned to active duty to serve in Operation Allied Force, which responded to the crisis in Kosovo in 1999. He also served in media affairs through the aftermath of the September 11th attacks and participated in the