Foundation, National Autism Research, the National Physical Education Council, the Salvation Army, and the Babe Ruth Museum.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you please join with me today in recognition of the achievements of an outstanding athlete and coach. Mr. Gary Williams has made significant strides in collegiate athletics. His leadership has allowed his team to dominate basketball courts for 17 seasons. His legacy will be remembered for years to come.

FORMATION OF THE RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS OF AMERICA

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the formation of Rural Planning Organizations of America, RPO America, a new national organization dedicated to improving the planning and development of America's rural transportation network. Under the sponsorship of the National Association of Development Organizations, NADO, RPO America is serving as the first and only national forum and professional peer network for the emerging field of rural transportation planning.

This new group is important not only for the coordination, management and planning of our Nation's rural transportation infrastructure and systems, but also for linking our rural communities' economic development initiatives with State and local transportation programs. As I have stated for the record countless times, the development and maintenance of our Nation's public transportation infrastructure—including highways and bridges, transit services, ports, airports and intermodal facilities—is fundamental and at the core of our Nation's long-term economic competitiveness strategy.

Since the passage of the 1998 Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, TEA–21, nearly 30 States now voluntarily support, fund and partner with a growing network of multicounty rural planning organizations. These locally governed regional transportation planning agencies are working to enhance State and local coordination, project prioritization, roadway safety and comprehensive transportation planning in our Nation's non-metropolitan regions.

While our Nation's metropolitan areas have enjoyed special Federal status and funding for transportation planning during the past half century, our rural regions are just getting started. Through training, research, peer information exchanges and other professional development services, the members of RPO America are striving to enhance the safety, mobility and economic competitiveness of small town and rural America. I commend NADO for providing the leadership and vision in forming RPO America.

SUCCESSFUL 27TH U.S. SENIOR OPEN HOSTED IN HUTCHINSON, KS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude for an incredibly well hosted event in my district this past week. Through a collaboration of more than 2,500 volunteers, the renowned Prairie Dunes Country Club and the United States Golf Association, the 2006 U.S. Senior Open was contested in Hutchinson, KS.

I was proud to be in the crowd of this well attended tournament. The state of Kansas and this community did a wonderful job of showcasing our welcoming spirit and beautiful landscape.

The names of Watson, Player, Irwin, Crenshaw and Kite are easily recognizable to golf enthusiasts. After his repeat victory, Allen Doyle should also now join this list of distinguished champions as a household name.

But there were more than just famous golfers who made this a successful event. I'm certain that Kansans will join with me in specifically thanking Mr. Allen Fee, Tournament General Chairman, and Mr. Greg Conrad, Championship Director, for their collective contributions in making this an outstanding week of golf. I also want to thank the legion of volunteers who gave of their time and talents. As testament to the event's success, volunteers from 27 states joined nearly 115,000 spectators in establishing the mark for the largest sporting event in Kansas history.

The real star of this championship, however, was the golf course itself. Many golfers and spectators commented that Prairie Dunes was stunning, from tee to green, from fairway to ''gunsch'', and provided the level of difficulty required in a tournament of this high caliber. To the unfamiliar, what players and spectators alike found was a course ranked by many in the top 15 in the United States, and the top 25 in the world. From its origins dating back to 1937, Prairie Dunes continues to emphasize native prairie grasses and its famous ''Maxwell Rolls'' greens to provide a stern test for the discriminating player.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing the Hutchinson community for hosting the 27th U.S. Senior Open, and for their many contributions to the State of Kansas and game of golf.

IN RECOGNITION OF 36 YEARS OF SERVICE BY PASTOR GLYN LOWERY TO THE PACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to extend my congratulations to Pastor Glyn Lowery, Jr. for serving as the pastor to Pace Assembly of God in my district for 36 years.

At the young age of 20, Glyn Lowery became the pastor at Pace Assembly of God. Pastor Lowery, better known as Brother Glyn, greatly contributed to the growth of Pace Assembly of God by overseeing the construction of a 1000–seat sanctuary just two years after taking over the congregation. Under Brother Glyn's guidance, Pace Assembly of God has expanded their outreach programs to over 250 ministries. With his leadership, they have built churches throughout Europe, Russia, the Philippines, and South America. Their goal is to establish missionary projects in every country.

In Pace, the church has undergone great expansion. What was once a block building has become a flourishing community with a Family Life Center that houses a basketball court, gymnasium, 25 classrooms, a fellowship hall, kitchen, and resource room. Brother Glyn has also taken on leadership roles in the church community at large, serving as the Assistant Superintendent of the West Florida District of the Assemblies of God and briefly taking over as the District Superintendent after the unexpected death of his predecessor.

Through his journey, Brother Glyn has been supported and aided by Jan Lowery, his wife of 35 years. Together they have worked diligently to create outreach programs to help families live more Godly lives. When they saw that children in the Pace community needed rides to Sunday school, they took the initiative to drive them to church. Together they envisioned bringing children and adults to church in busloads and through their Bus Ministry, this vision has become a reality.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to a man who could serve as a role model to us all. A deep sense of personal devotion to a congregation for 36 years is something to truly be admired, and I am thankful for his dedication to the Pace of Assembly of God.

HONORING A VETERAN AND PATRIOTIC AMERICAN—JOHN SEYMOUR STARR

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, a patriotic veteran and role-model citizen recently passed away in Greensboro, North Carolina. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, I rise to honor John Seymour Starr, a World War II veteran, who dutifully fought for his country from an early age. Only nine days after his 18th birthday, Starr enlisted in the army and joined General George Patton's 3rd Army as a machine gunner on the back of a jeep in the 2nd Cavalry, 42nd Recon. As one of Patton's ''Ghosts,'' Corporal Starr put his life on the line day after day scouting ahead of the division to locate and engage the enemy in order to determine their strength and position for an armored assault.

Just months after entering the fight, on August 8, 1943, Corporal Starr's jeep drove over a land mine on France's Breast peninsula killing the driver and passenger. Starr was put in the hospital with shrapnel embedded in his back that he would carry for the rest of his life. Undeterred by his injuries, Starr ignored his reassignment to a non-combat unit and left the hospital. He hitched rides through France until he was reunited with the 2nd Cavalry. During