

gainful employment. Similarly, there is no effective mechanism in place for enforcing veterans' preference, and we have an Administration that appeals a case against a disabled veteran who had finally won his case before the Merit System Protection Board pursuant to The Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998.

It is imperative that re-education and work skills upgrades, including self-employment, be made a priority by those agencies of government that provide these services, especially considering the battalions of seriously and permanently disabled veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq.

This indictment of our current federal efforts on behalf of veterans seeking employment is a wake up call. I hope that when the 110th Congress convenes in January 2007, my colleagues will join me in helping create a national strategy to help returning veterans get the job training and employment opportunities they've earned for their service to America.

TRIBUTE TO THE INTERNATIONAL  
SYMPOSIUM ON DEMOCRACY  
CONGRESS TAIPEI, TAIWAN

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the legislators from Pacific Rim countries who will assemble this weekend in Taiwan to explore the role of Congresses in democratic governments. Representatives from 20 Pacific Rim Countries are meeting under the auspices of the Democratic Pacific Union (DPU).

The DPU is a regional organization of Pacific nations that is promoting democracy and peace within that region, in addition to enhancing the multilateral relationships of the participating nations. I applaud the Taiwanese who took the initiative to establish the DPU and its sister organization, the Pacific Congress, I wish the DPU much success in continuing to strengthen the democracies and the vital regional alliances of its Member countries.

TRIBUTE TO THE 2006 CRYSTAL  
FALLS FOREST PARK HIGH  
SCHOOL TROJANS

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2006 Crystal Falls Forest Park High School Trojans. This high school football team has made the entire Upper Peninsula (U.P.) community proud by once again beating the odds and advancing to the Division 8 State Finals game at Ford Field in Detroit.

This was the third straight year that the Crystal Falls Forest Park Trojans advanced to the Division 8 state high school football championship game. These players, their coaches and the entire Crystal Falls Forest Park community should be commended for representing the U.P. at Michigan's state football championship.

In many ways, the Trojans' advancement to the state finals again this year was a classic Cinderella story. Some "inside" football experts had predicted that 2006 would be a rebuilding year for the Trojans, as this year's roster included only 2 seniors. However, what the Trojans lacked in size and experience, they made up for with dedication, heart and teamwork. These 34 young men brought an unselfish attitude to the game that many college and professional players could learn from.

The team's moment of truth for this year's season came on October 13, when they played Bessemer High School. The short-handed Trojans suffered a 14-6 loss, dropping their record to 6-2 for the season and jeopardizing their chances at the playoffs. While many teams might allow a dispiriting loss such as this to derail their playoff ambitions, the Trojans came together as a team to overcome this challenge and rally in the face of adversity. The Trojans followed their setback in Bessemer with 5 straight wins, including 4 in the postseason.

Assistant Coach Dave Graff summed up the winning attitude of this year's Trojans when he said, "We might not be the best team, but we're good enough to get where we're going. They believe in themselves and anything is possible."

The community of Crystal Falls Forest Park and the U.P. truly united behind the Trojans, giving 110 percent of their support. Some of the supporters of the team traveled a long distance—in a short period—to cheer on their team. Crystal Falls Forest Park fans loaded up three buses at the high school at 10:00 p.m. Thanksgiving night and trekked more than 500 miles, arriving at Ford Field at 7:30 a.m. the Friday morning of the game. That gave the fans just a few hours to stretch before the 10 a.m. kickoff!

Mr. Speaker, each member of this team deserves to be recognized and I want to take a moment to share their names: Fred Hubbard; Jim Freeman; Dustin Basirico; Bob Reid; Zach Sawyer; Kyle Roberts; Justin James; Calix Sholander; John Grandahl; Levi Oleksy; Kyle LaVacque; Tony Grandahl; Andrew Bortolini; Matt Sundquist; Bryan LaChapelle; Erik Peterson; Josh Siler; Tim Wheeler; Ethan Uren; Justin Process; Jim Wheeler; Tony Renner; Marcus Smithson; Kevin Takala; Chris McCarthy; William Bortolini; Bill Fennick; Travis Hoenig; Bill Paige; Ed Zarn; Paige Armstrong; Pat Bredy; Ben Shuck; Jake Jacobson; Jeff Sartori; and Andrew Gussert.

I would be remiss if I did not also salute the Trojans' talented coaching staff. Head Coach Bill Santilli and Assistant Coaches Dave Graff, Gerard Valesano, Gene Giuliani, Jeff Chernach and Dan LaPoint should all be commended for helping lead the Crystal Falls Forest Park Trojans to a third state championship game. Managers L.J. Burns, Dan Ballo-Shuck and Lee Graff should also be recognized for their contributions, as should their trainer, Mark Nylund. Together, this talented coaching staff shepherded this year's young team to the state finals.

Mr. Speaker, the Crystal Falls Forest Park football team knew what the late, great Green Bay Packers coach, Vince Lombardi always said, "Winning isn't everything, but wanting to win is." The Trojan team wanted to win more than the so-called "inside" football experts predicted!

Mr. Speaker, I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Crystal Falls Forest Park Trojans football team, their classmates, parents and the community on their exceptional season and in wishing the Trojans well when they retake the field for the 2007 season.

HONORING CHICAGO ASTRONAUT  
JOAN HIGGINBOTHAM

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Astronaut Joan Higginbotham. Higginbotham is a member of the crew on the Space Shuttle *Discovery* that is scheduled to launch tonight from NASA's Kennedy Space Center. Additionally, she is a fellow Chicagoan, and I wish her the best of luck as she prepares for her first mission, STS 116.

Higginbotham graduated from Chicago's Whitney Young High School in 1982, and Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1987. She will be the third African-American woman aboard a NASA mission, and she and her fellow astronaut Robert Curbeam will make history this week on STS 116, the first Space Shuttle mission with two African-American astronauts.

Higginbotham previously worked as a payload engineer at the John F. Kennedy Space Center while also earning two master's degrees from the Florida Institute of Technology.

As a mission specialist on board *Discovery*, Higginbotham's responsibilities will include a complete rewiring of the International Space Station's power supply. She will also have the responsibility of operating the robotic arm to deploy several satellites and to direct payload transfers.

Higginbotham will be joined by Mission Commander Mark Polansky, as well as Robert Curbeam, Sunita Williams, Nicholas Patrick, William Oefelein, and Christer Fuglesang from the European Space Agency, who is the first Swedish astronaut.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing my fellow Chicagoan as well as her fellow astronauts, and to wish them all the best on their launch tonight and their 12-day mission.

HONORING MARILYN W. GROUNDS

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marilyn W. Grounds for over 10 years of extraordinary service on the board of the Planned Parenthood Association of the Mercer Area.

Ms. Grounds is best described as a "professional volunteer." Active in her children's schools and the community, she was at first focused in serving the arts community. It was the great fortune of the Planned Parenthood Association of the Mercer Area to have her join their board in 1995.

The Planned Parenthood Association of the Mercer Area provides comprehensive reproductive health care which contributes to both

individual well being and community stability. These services are provided in settings which preserve and protect the essential privacy and rights of each individual. The organization advocates public policies which guarantee these rights and ensure the understanding of the individual and societal implications of human sexuality. The Planned Parenthood Association encourages research and the advancement of technology in reproductive health care and the understanding of inherent bioethical, behavioral, and societal implications. In addition, the agency employs trained educators who conduct extensive community outreach and educational programs, offering comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education and health programs to thousands of New Jersey residents every year. Everyone is welcome, regardless of race, age, income, sexual orientation, or disability. Fees are based on the ability to pay and no one is turned away.

First as board vice president in 1997, then as board chair, Ms. Grounds successfully led the PPAMA through several managerial transitions. She has had leadership roles on Development, Finance, Facilities, Personnel, and Public Affairs Committees. She was an incentive for the board to re-evaluate its own role in the organization. A modest, exceptionally organized woman, Ms. Grounds excels at "the big picture," keeping the board cohesive and efficient, while recruiting extraordinary leaders.

Ms. Grounds is a phenomenal fundraiser. Through both Annual and Capital Campaigns, she has made possible the improvement of services offered to clients, and during her tenure the number of patients treated has significantly increased. This is no small task. The annual budget of the PPAMA is about \$2.8 million, making possible the service of about 15,000 clients per year.

Ms. Grounds has been an editor, writer, fundraiser extraordinaire, and tireless worker for the Planned Parenthood Association of the Mercer Area. She leaves a legacy of fund raising skill, governance expertise, and strong board leadership that benefits not only the organization, but also the individual, community, and State.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire 12th district of New Jersey, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in thanking Marilyn W. Grounds for her service on the board of the Planned Parenthood Association of the Mercer Area.

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#### POLISH AMERICAN MONTH

### HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, this month I proudly join the thousands of Polish-Americans living in Chicago in a national celebration of Polish history, culture, and pride during Polish American Heritage Month.

Celebrated in October, Polish American Heritage Month includes General Pulaski Memorial Day, which honors the American Revolutionary War patriot Casimir Pulaski. In 1777, General Pulaski attended his first meeting with Benjamin Franklin, to champion the freedom of the American people. This early partnership has been mirrored by the present-day alliance between Poland and the United States.

Polish-Americans have made strong contributions to American culture in virtually every field, including literature, technology, and music. My hometown of Chicago has more people of Polish descent than any other city outside of Poland. I am dedicated to continuing the strong record of cultural and economic ties between our two nations.

The United States is grateful to Poland for its friendship and commitment to the democratic ideals of liberty and human rights. Poland has also proven to be a strong ally of the United States, assisting in global efforts to combat terrorism, and providing troops and resources for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join the citizens of my district, as well as those of Polish descent around the country in recognizing, remembering, and celebrating Polish American Month.

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#### REMEMBERING SYDNEY TALLY

### HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Sydney Tally for her tireless commitment to better the lives of active duty servicemembers, retirees, veterans, and above all their families through a distinguished career with the National Military Family Association.

Widely known and beloved in military circles, this Air Force daughter and Navy spouse trained as a nurse and pursued her specialty in public health nursing before becoming a full time mother and volunteer after the birth of her first child. Among many service endeavors, she freely devoted her time serving as teaching assistant, Brownie and Girl Scout leader, Red Cross pediatric nurse, and president of four naval officers' wives clubs.

In 1983, she joined the NMFA government relations staff and served as vice president of the department from 1987 to 1990 before rising to the position of first paid professional staff member and director. She also sat on the NMFA's board of governors until her recent passing. Mrs. Tally used her leverage through this organization to benefit military families everywhere. Her focus on the military family drove her in creating the Military Coalition. Women, infants, and children found nourishment after her advocacy secured legislation for an overseas nutrition program targeted specifically for military families.

Mrs. Tally received numerous awards and recognitions for her altruistic work, including the Military Coalition's Award of Merit, a Certificate of Appreciation from the Defense Commissary Agency, 1993 Defense Transition Services Award from the University of Central Florida, and recognition of her outstanding citizenship by the Military Chaplains Association.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank Mrs. Tally for her life's work and continuing legacy that brought forth significant awareness of the needs of military families. I call upon my colleagues to join me in recognizing her accomplishments, and in sharing our condolences with her family and friends.

#### A CALL TO ACTION THE POLITICS OF DISEASE ADVOCACY

### HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to my colleagues' attention an October 10, 2006 article in the Wall Street Journal by Amy Dockser Marcus, entitled "Advocacy Overload?" The article reviews the current state of disease-funding advocacy, and specifically cites the efforts of the Princeton-based Melanoma Research Foundation to coordinate the advocacy activities of a wide variety of melanoma organizations. In the past year, MRF has worked to organize a coalition of these groups in order to develop a coordinated message to Congress and the National Institutes of Health. The goal of this "One Voice" for melanoma research is to develop a common agenda, focused on securing the additional resources to fund the research into better treatments and cures for melanoma.

The Melanoma Research Foundation (MRF) was founded 10 years ago and has become the leading research foundation for melanoma. The Foundation has worked closely with the research and medical communities encourage dialogue and education about melanoma through their research congresses; participated in National Cancer Institute initiatives; organized the first steps of a melanoma coalition for advocacy; and hosts an interactive website for patients and caregivers. Their three part mission—supporting basic and translational research, education of patients and caregivers, and advocating for the melanoma community—is funded primarily through community fundraisers across the United States organized and managed by MRF volunteers. Other primary sources include memorial donations, individual gifts, and unrestricted grants from pharmaceuticals.

The need for a coordinated attack on melanoma is more critical now than ever before. Here are some of the facts about melanoma: It's the fastest growing cancer currently in the U.S.; It's the most common cancer in young adults aged 20 to 30; For women, age 25 to 30, melanoma is the primary cause of cancer death; For women, age 30 to 35, it's the second leading cause of cancer death, after breast cancer.

One of the primary causes of melanoma is UV exposure, most of which comes from too much time in the sun. Melanoma is survivable, if diagnosed early. When a superficial melanoma is found and diagnosed early, the 5 year survival rate is 100 percent. But at the opposite end, when the melanoma advanced to what's called Stage IV, when it's disseminated to major organs, the 5 year survival rate drops as low as 7 percent. Yet, despite these figures and the growing incidence of melanoma, no significant advances in medical therapies (or survival) for patients with advanced melanoma has occurred in the past 30 years.

Clearly, there's a great need for public awareness of the dangers of overexposure to the sun. There's also a need for increased research in identifying the causes and potential cures for melanoma. Once again, I commend the good work of the Melanoma Research Foundation in bringing greater public awareness to this disease, and advocating for more