

relay. She is Swimming World's 2006 Disabled Swimmer of the Year and was named a finalist for the Women's Sports Foundation's Sportswoman of the Year.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Ms. Jessica Long. She is an outstanding and dedicated member of the United States Paralympic Team. In spite of her disability, she has shown a unique and committed work ethic in sports training and competition. Jessica has shown the world that no limitation can prevent an individual from achieving great success. It is with great pride that I congratulate her on her selection as the 2006 United States Paralympian of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO JACK VALENTI

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, the loss of Jack Valenti is a blow not only to his family and friends; it is also a tragedy for the motion picture industry and for the entire country. Jack embodied the American values we hold most dear: he was thoughtful, he was loyal, he was forthright, and he was exceptionally committed to his family.

Jack was also a brave and decorated soldier, and his service during the Second World War instilled in him an unshakeable devotion to our country and to the principles for which it stands. Returning from the European theater, he continued to defend and promote these values as a public servant, and helped to guide our Nation through one of its darkest hours. While serving as a special assistant to President Lyndon Johnson directly after the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Jack's steady influence played a central role in helping the country grieve, understand, and heal.

However, perhaps his greatest contributions came later in life, once he became the motion picture industry's consummate Washington, DC representative. Jack's name will forever be associated with the movies, not only because his personality reflected the way that films can inspire and cheer us, but because so much of what we enjoy in today's movie theaters we can attribute to his years of tireless and effective advocacy.

As a Californian, I am particularly aware of the debt of gratitude that we owe to Jack. The enduring importance of Hollywood in our culture, the rating system which protects our children from inappropriate content, the very majesty of film itself, all of these are parts of Jack's legacy. His life is a prime example of the good that can come from combining the idealism and fantasy of film with the determination and focus of the American work ethic.

I extend my deepest condolences to Mary Margaret and to the rest of the Valenti family. Though there is little solace that can be offered during a time of mourning such as this, I hope it comforts them to know that Jack's contributions will forever be a part of the fabric of American culture. While his presence will be sorely missed, Jack's legacy will always be relevant and vibrant so long as movies continue to entertain, motivate, and inspire.

HONORING THE CANYON HIGH SCHOOL COWBOY FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. McKEON. Madam Speaker, before the school term ends this year in the Santa Clarita Valley, I wish to recognize the coaches and athletes of Canyon High School's football program for their outstanding performance during the 2006 high school football season. Canyon High School's varsity football team completed their season by defeating the De la Salle Spartans of Concord, the No. 1-ranked high school team in the Nation, with a score of 27–13 to clinch the first California State Division I championship in 79 years.

MaxPreps, a California-based national high school sports information web site, lauded Canyon High School's football program and ranked Canyon High School's football program as the 10th best in the Nation. This ranking was achieved amongst a field of over 15,000 schools nation-wide. The ethos of this tightly knit team should serve as an example to all those aspiring to greatness.

The level of devotion and resolve displayed by coaches and players of Canyon High School's football program is exemplary. I

would like to commend the coaching staff, including Harry Welch, Dave Ends, Chris Rzewuski, Monterio Witherspoon, Bryan Wilson, Tim Hollinger, Ken Wheeler, Mike Civita, Rod Baltau, Robert Hendricks, Billy Omahen, and John DiLuigi, for their energy, enthusiasm and expertise. Congratulations are also due to Coach Harry Welch for winning the California Coaches Association's 2007 State of California Football Coach of the Year award.

I would like to recognize the individual members of Canyon High School's champion football team. Chad Adams, Britt Briscoe, Joshua Carvalho, Brandon Chandler, Sean Crane, Chris Duncan, Eric Ernenputsch, Jordan Ferguson, Sean Gavin, Jonathan Hammock, Garrett Hernandez, Joshua Hickman, Michael Hollinger, Eric James, Jesse Kelley, Mario Mestizo, Ryan Nichols, Brandon Reeves, Brice Reiner, Danny Robinson, Kenny Shanahan, Mike Spagnola, Danny Valdez, Justin Wallace, Adam Woodard, and Trevor Yslas.

In addition, congratulations are due to returning players for their second year of championship play. They are: Fares Albichara, Ben Armbruster, Anthony Arriaga, Michael Blanco, Christopher Chapman, Michael Cooper, John DiLuigi, Mike Harker, Nic Jurado, Anthony King, Christopher Kingsbury, Randy Lemus, Ben Longshore, Michael Loucks, Nick Madia, Cipriano Maldonado, Andrew Martinez, Blake McMartin, Julian Murillo, Nick Peterson, Michael Pyne, Dillon Schelske, Kenny Suber, Mark Urbina, Marc Valdez, AJ Wallerstein, Sean Ward, and Stephen Wirthlin. Their hard work and perseverance has taught them to balance academics and athletics and I applaud their efforts.

Coach Joe Paterno, current Head Coach of Pennsylvania State University, once said, "When a team outgrows individual performance and learns team confidence, excellence becomes a reality." Exemplifying all that is right with team spirit, the Canyon High School Football team is a stellar example of fortitude, courage, and tenacity. They have proven that by doing what is necessary, then going on to what is possible, they were able to accomplish what many thought would be impossible. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Canyon High School football team for their triumphant season and to wish them best of luck in all their future endeavors.