

been recognized for his efforts to this end. Some of the numerous awards bestowed upon him include the University of Florida Faculty Superior Accomplishment Award and the CALS Teacher of the Year. He has also been recognized by Who's Who in America, Who's Who in American Education, Who's Who Among American Teachers, and has received an honorary membership in Alpha Gamma Rho, of which I am a proud member.

Madam Speaker, there is no doubt in my mind that Dr. Cheek's legacy will be remembered for generations to come, not just by students at the University of Florida but also throughout the Nation where his work has been recognized. He dedicated his career to educating students not just about agriculture, but also character, and he will be fondly remembered by all who know him. Jimmy Cheek will be missed in the classrooms in Gainesville and around the State, but he leaves behind an institution that will continue to flourish because of his hard work. He and his family are in my thoughts as they move into the next chapter of his life.

HONORING NORTHERN STATE  
UNIVERSITY COACH DON MEYER

**HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2009*

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, recently, Don Meyer, head men's basketball coach at Northern State University in Aberdeen, from my State of South Dakota, coached his 903rd career victory. This accomplishment sets the national record for wins by a men's collegiate basketball coach.

Mr. Meyer started his coaching career in 1972 at Hamline University in Minnesota, turning an unsuccessful program into a championship contender. Moving to Lipscomb University in Tennessee, Mr. Meyer created a national powerhouse during his 24 years there—winning an NAIA national title in 1986 and averaging more than 32 wins per season over his final 10 years at the school.

Coming to Northern State in 1999, Mr. Meyer built another highly-successful program. His teams have won over 20 games each of the past 7 seasons, and reached the postseason 4 of the past 5 years.

Over this long career, Mr. Meyer has become nationally known as a teacher of both young men and other coaches. Thousands of coaches from all over the Nation have honed their craft at the Don Meyer Coaches Academy. His instructional books and DVDs have been used by college programs such as Duke and NBA teams such as the Utah Jazz. Of Mr. Meyer, Pat Summitt, the legendary University of Tennessee women's basketball coach, recently told Sports Illustrated, "(Meyer) is one of the most respected clinicians in the country. You can't sit there and not learn and be inspired."

Another inspiration that Mr. Meyer provides stems from the journey he finds himself on today. On September 5, 2008, while leading his team to a preseason retreat, Mr. Meyer was involved in a life-threatening auto accident. At the accident site, his players' quick thinking and poise saved Mr. Meyer's life. Team captain Kyle Schwan told Sports Illus-

trated about the accident, "It's a testament to Coach. In essence, he saved his own life because of the way he taught us."

His recovery has included eight surgeries, the amputation of part of his left leg, and intense pain. Adding to the medical challenge was the discovery of liver and intestine cancer during his emergency surgeries. But through it all, Mr. Meyer has maintained his drive and character, coaching games from the sidelines in a wheelchair. This season, he again has Northern State in championship contention, and remains a sought-after motivational speaker on basketball, coaching, and life itself.

Madam Speaker, it is with enduring pride and respect that I rise today in recognition of Don Meyer and his record-breaking achievement. This achievement is not only measured in the many victories achieved, but in the lives touched. Don Meyer has proven himself worthy to be counted among the best coaches our Nation has produced.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF  
LANCE CORPORAL JESSIE  
CASSADA OF HENDERSONVILLE,  
NORTH CAROLINA

**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2009*

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the memory of LCpl Jessie Adam Cassada of Hendersonville, NC. Cassada, only 19 years of age, was killed in combat during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan on the sixth of January, 2009. Lance Corporal Cassada gave the ultimate sacrifice to protect our country. He demonstrated patriotism and true courage beyond his years.

Since childhood, Jessie Cassada wanted to follow the example set by his stepfather and stepbrother to become a Marine. He joined the United States Marine Corps after graduating from East Henderson High School in 2007. He was deployed to Afghanistan from Camp Lejune for a 6- to 7-month tour of duty in November 2008 with the 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division. Official accounts said he was supporting combat operations in the Helmand province prior to his death.

Cassada's awards include the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

He leaves behind his mother, Patricia Cassada, and stepfather, Carroll London, as well as two sisters. I offer my sincere condolences to them and the rest of his family and friends. They are in my thoughts and prayers.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing remorse at to the passing of LCpl Jessie Cassada, as well as never-ending gratitude for the servicemen and women who sacrifice so much to protect our Nation and ensure our freedom. The short life of LCpl Jessie Cassada serves as an inspiration for us all of true patriotism, dedication and courage.

HONORING MARY ANN RIOJAS

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2009*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague from California Mr. NUNES to commend and congratulate Mary Ann Riojas upon being honored by ABC's reality show "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition." Ms. Riojas and family were surprised by Ty Pennington and crew on January 8, 2009 at their home in central Fresno located on East Robinson, Fresno, CA, at the heart of the Central Valley.

Ms. Riojas was born without legs and only one fully developed arm. As a child, Mary Ann was placed in foster care and grew up in an unstable household and poverty. Even though Mary Ann was no stranger to adversity her challenges continued after expanding her family with four children. In financial distress she turned to public assistance to keep her family afloat.

Regardless of Mary Ann's disabilities and financial struggles she continued to live life to the fullest. Her vibrant determination led her to become the first in her family to earn a college degree when she graduated in 2002 from San Joaquin Valley College with an associate degree in Business Administration. She also obtained a drivers license in 2002 which gave her the ability to drive a special hand-controlled vehicle.

Determined to excel, Mary Ann not only became an employee of Easter Seals but also served as a State and national Ambassador. She has traveled all over the country with the Easter Seals program, spreading her joy and enthusiasm for life. Mary Ann eventually switched jobs and decided to help others in her community and that is when she began working for the Fresno Housing Authority as a counselor to other families who are struggling with life's adversities.

Mary Ann does not see herself as a person with disabilities. Mary Ann is a strong woman who has raise four children Nichole 18, Victoria 17, Angel 15, and Jessie 14, and she continues to inspire others on a daily basis. The Extreme Makeover: Home Edition will forever change her life and make her home a better and more user friendly place for her to enjoy with her children.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mary Ann Riojas. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Ms. Riojas and her family many years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2009*

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am writing to notify that I was absent for votes on January 9, 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Rollcall Vote No. 7: On Motion to Recommit with Instructions the Paycheck Fairness Act—"yea."

Rollcall Vote No. 8: On Passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act—"nay."