

first wave of troops and remained on the island for as a platoon medic for seven months.

Mr. Lybarger returned to the U.S. and was discharged as a Private First Class. During his service he was designated as an expert marksman with the M-1, M-14 and M-16 rifles. He was awarded Army parachutists wings and made twenty-two jumps including three night jumps. For his service, he was awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

After life in the military, Mr. Lybarger attended Fresno City College, De Anze College, San Joaquin Valley College and the University of Maryland (Extension) on the G.I. Bill and was employed in manufacturing management. He is a member of the First Church of Religious Science of the Mind and volunteers as an Ombudsman for the State of California Department of Aging. He is a Life Member of Chowchilla Veterans of Foreign War Post 9896, Past Junior Vice Commander of the 11th Veterans of Foreign War District and Past Commander of Post 9896. He is a member of the 82nd Airborne Association and the 173rd Airborne Society. Mr. Lybarger and his wife Virginia continue to live in Chowchilla; they have three children and nine grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Phil Lybarger upon being named as a "Distinguished Life Member" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Lybarger many years of continued success.

EXTENDING DED

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 2009

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I want to applaud President Obama for extending DED until March 31, 2010, enabling many Liberian families to remain together in the United States for 12 months beyond the original March 31, 2009 expiration of DED. However, I urge the Administration to create a permanent path to citizenship for Liberians who have called the United States home for over a decade.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) was established in 1991 to allow Liberians fleeing political turmoil to stay in the United States without fear of deportation. Since arriving in the United States in the early 1990s, Liberians under TPS have built lives in this country; they have established careers, paid taxes, and bought property. TPS ended in 2007 and President Bush deferred the enforced departure of Liberians who were originally granted TPS. TPS is meant to provide a temporary safe haven in times of political turmoil or natural disaster. It was not contemplated that the political turmoil in Liberia would persist for so many years, but it did.

Since coming to this country, many Liberians have married and had American-born children. Many have attained United States citizenship themselves. However, according to The New York Times, many of the approximately 3,600 Liberians residing lawfully under DED have applied for legal citizenship, including one of my constituents, Janvier Richards, but the process has been delayed for well

over ten years for her and many others. If DED expires before Ms. Richards and other Liberians under DED are granted citizenship, their only legal option is to return to Liberia, which many no longer consider home.

Tremendous strides have been made by Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and I commend her leadership. Unfortunately, Liberia still has many political and economic challenges to overcome. Liberia has an unemployment rate of about 85 percent and, if Liberians under DED are forced to return to Liberia before economic and political stability are fully established, they may be unable to support themselves and their families.

Again, I applaud President Obama for extending DED for Liberians until 2010, averting the separation of families and the splintering of communities that surely would have occurred had departure been enforced on March 31, 2009. I am hopeful that we will be able to reverse the policies of earlier Administrations and forge a permanent path to citizenship for Liberians under DED.

HILANDER WRESTLERS SET STATE TITLE WINNING STREAK

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 2009

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw my colleagues' attention to a remarkable and historic athletic feat achieved by the Burns High School Hilanders wrestling teams of Harney County, Oregon.

On February 28, the Hilanders captured their eighth consecutive 3A state wrestling championship. The streak is unprecedented in the state and mark the first time in any sport, at any level, such an accomplishment has been achieved. These eight teams, their coaches, and their families are testament to the commitment to hard work that is pervasive throughout eastern Oregon.

The streak began way back in 2002. Since then, the Hilanders have captured 22 individual state titles, and some have won multiple championships, including Talon Hofman (2001 to 2004), Ben Cate (2003 to 2005), Abe Jacobs (2003 and 2004), and Joe Drinkwater (2008 and 2009).

In 2007, the Hilanders set a new team scoring record for all classifications when they scored 269.5 points at the state championship.

All athletic programs that enjoy longevity of success do so only with the guidance of good leaders. Bill Winn, Mark Hofman, Jeff Kloetzer, and Ray Cate have been tremendous coaches throughout the eight-year run.

Green Bay Packers coaching legend Vince Lombardi once said, "Individual commitment to a group effort—that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."

No doubt, the young men of the Hilanders wrestling program sacrificed more than others in exchange for their committed pursuit of such lofty goals. These wrestlers have spent untold hours running laps around the gymnasium, doing "up-downs" until they thought their lungs couldn't take anymore, challenging each other in thousands of take-down drills, and critiquing each other's "first move off the bottom."

They spent thousands of miles sitting on busses headed for the next contest. They watched their weight but made sure they were physically strong when the time came. They practiced, and practiced, and practiced again until the moves became automatic. Their many titles are proof of their devotion and sacrifice.

But titles aside, the lessons they learned about what it takes to be the very best are the keepsakes that will serve them well for the rest of their lives. The hardware they've earned for their success is, as they say, the icing on the cake.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Hilanders wrestling program and the Harney County community for their remarkable achievement. Their unprecedented streak is a reminder to us all of the value of dedication, perseverance, and good old fashioned hard work.

HONORING A RETIRED SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor a longstanding civil servant in the Social Security Administration (SSA). Mr. Gregory Alan Elkins was a Title XVI SSI Office Supervisor with the SSA. He worked for the SSA for over 35 years.

Mr. Elkins was hired as a Claims Representative in Lima, Ohio, in October of 1973 and continued to work there until February of 1979. Keeping the same title, he then moved to the Tampa District office. He stayed in the Tampa office until it moved its location to Plant City, where he stayed until September of 1991.

He moved within the agency to become a Field Representative at the Lakeland office and stayed there until June of 1999. He then earned a promotion to the position of Public Affairs Specialist, the first to take that title in the state of Florida. He stayed in that position until November of 2007 when he took his current position as a Title XVI SSI Office Supervisor. Mr. Elkins is due to retire from this position in March of this year.

On a personal note, Mr. Elkins has a long history of working with the staff in my district office. His knowledge of SSA rules and regulations has been an incomparable boon in helping constituents in my district with their claims. He has spoken at many Medicare Seminars that our office has held to advise our seniors with regards to Social Security, retirement, disability, survivors' benefits, and more. I wish to congratulate Mr. Elkins for a long, successful career and I wish him well in retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF RESIDENTIAL CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING PREVENTION ACT

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 2009

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the "Residential Carbon Monoxide