operated enterprise that provides a rapid response, cost effective approach to meeting weapon systems program manager's material requirements.

Mr. Chronister continues to serve our country diligently and with great honor. Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the work Mr. Chronister has done for the U.S. Army and our country.

TRIBUTE TO THE ARCHBISHOP MOELLER HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Archbishop Moeller High School baseball team on winning the Division I Ohio High School Athletic Association State Championship. This is Moeller's fifth state championship in baseball. Moeller also won state titles in 1972, 1989, 1993, and 2004.

This year's team was led by Manager Tim Held, who recently took the reins from legendary Coach Mike Cameron. Following the example that Cameron set, Coach Held guided the Crusaders to a state championship in just his second season, finishing with a final record of 25 wins and 5 losses. Moeller beat Pickerington North 5–2 in the title game in Columbus, avenging a previous loss to them in the regular season. Pitcher Robby Sunderman tossed a resilient five innings giving up only two runs, one earned, to get the victory for the Crusaders. Five different Moeller players scored runs in the title game making, this victory truly a team effort.

I look forward to following the players on this year's team in the future. They will certainly be headed toward a bright future. Past prep stars from Moeller have included Major League Baseball players Ken Griffey, Jr., Barry Larkin, the Bell Family—Buddy, David, Mike, and Rick—and many others. I must not fail to mention that our own House Minority Leader JOHN BOEHNER is a 1968 graduate of this esteemed Cincinnati high school.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Moeller on yet another State Championship. Go Moe.

SENTENCING OF TWO AMERICANS IN NORTH KOREA

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call for the immediate release of two U.S. journalists, Laura Ling and Euna Lee, sentenced to twelve years hard labor in North Korea.

On March 17, 2009, Laura Ling and Euna Lee were arrested by North Korean officials while investigating the plight of North Korean refugees fleeing to China. The North Korean government accused the two women of committing hostile crimes against the Korean nation and illegally crossing the North Korean border. On June 8, after a four-day trial conducted largely in secret, Ms. Ling and Ms. Lee were sentenced to twelve years of hard labor in a North Korean prison camp.

North Korea's blatant disregard for due process and human rights in the treatment of these two women is unacceptable. International human rights organizations have unanimously declared their conviction the result of inflated accusations and a "sham trial". Despite being party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, North Korea's judicial system fails international fair trial standards for transparency, independence, and conviction based on recognized criminal offenses. Unfortunately, the arrest and conviction of these two American journalists is but one example of the oppression under which North Koreans have suffered for too long.

Ms. Ling and Ms. Lee's sentencing to prison labor camp is also a disturbing violation of human rights and humanitarian standards. The State Department reports that conditions in North Korean prison camps are harsh and life threatening, with beatings and torture a regular occurrence. Three months of detention have already exacerbated Ms. Ling's medical condition and caused significant trauma for Ms. Lee's young daughter and family. Sentencing these two women to twelve years hard labor is a severe breach of international humanitarian standards. Ms. Ling and Ms. Lee should be released immediately.

The draconian sentence handed down to the two American journalists raises serious concerns about United States-Korean relations. It is deeply disturbing that North Korea would consider using these women as a negotiating tactic to avoid punishment for its latest nuclear tests. If North Korea truly wishes to ensure its national security, it should begin by releasing Laura Ling and Euna Lee and participating in the global community as a fair player.

Madam Speaker, I call on my colleagues and the Obama Administration to work for the swift release of these two women back to their families.

HONORING MARY LASH

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Ms. Mary Elizabeth Lash, who is currently teaching in Paramount, California, in my Congressional District, and has been teaching for a remarkable 59 years. She is California's longest-serving credentialed teacher.

Nearly all of Mary's 59 years of teaching have been in the Paramount Unified School District. In 1950, the Compton Unified School District hired Mary as a Home Economics teacher at Paramount Junior High School. In 1953, when Paramount formed its own unified school district, she took a Home Economics position at Paramount Senior High School, where she continues to teach today.

In 1955, Mary began working with the high school youth organization known as the "Corsairs" as the assistant to its founder. This service organization remains under Mary's leadership 54 years later. She has influenced many young men and women into a life of service to others through this organization.

Mary was also a charter organizer of Future Homemakers of America/HERO, which is a national service organization whose goal is to develop citizenship, leadership, life skills, and career goals through competition, recognition events, and club-sponsored activities. Paramount High School's chapter of Future Homemakers of America/HERO has earned several Silver and Gold Medals in prepared speech, community involvement, and chapter exhibit events on both the National and State Levels.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today in tribute to Ms. Mary Elizabeth Lash as she is being honored in California for being its longest serving teacher. Mary has shown an enduring commitment to educating the youth of Paramount and providing them with the tools and skills needed to contribute to their communities and prosper in their adult lives. She truly touched the future, reaching many generations of students. Students, both current and past, who had the privilege of being in her class or in an organization she advised, will continue to be influenced by her example of hard work, dedication, and public service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Monday, June 15, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on a number of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 336, 337, 338, and 339.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to inform you of the circumstances regarding my absence on June 15, 2009. Yesterday, I, along with members of the Maine and New Hampshire congressional delegations, met with the Honorable Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy, to discuss matters concerning the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Unfortunately, because of this meeting, I was unable to make it back to Washington in time to register my votes. If I were present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 430, H.R. 2325, H.R 729, and H.R. 540.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2847, the Commerce,