

A TRIBUTE HONORING SALESIAN HIGH SCHOOL'S CHAMPIONSHIP VOLLEYBALL TEAM FROM BOYLE HEIGHTS IN LOS ANGELES

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend an extraordinary group of highly motivated and talented high school volleyball players and their coach from the Boyle Heights area of Los Angeles in the 34th District who were crowned champions of California Interscholastic Federation (CIF)-Southern Section Division V in May.

When people talk about Salesian High School's run at the championship, they talk about an unlikely coach and an equally unlikely group of young men for whom volleyball has become more than a game.

The team's coach, Elliott Walker, is a math teacher who learned the basics about volleyball by reading library books. With his compact body and beard, he doesn't exactly fit the stereotype of a volleyball coach. As for the players, the Salesian roster mirrors a student body that is 96 percent Latino, and few of the kids played volleyball before arriving as freshmen.

However, with a defensive style that emphasizes keeping the ball in play, Salesian's team, called the Mustangs, more than compensates for its lack of height and experience. The Mustangs try to throw other teams off-balance with quick transitions, giving opponents less time to settle defensively. This approach suits their coach who, ever the mathematician, asks players to line up with shoulders perfectly angled and teaches his players precise steps for each situation. Hitters aim at nine distinct areas across the net like keys on a cellphone, beginning with high-percentage shots to No. 1, then No. 3, and so on.

After consecutive runner-up finishes in 2007 and 2008, the second-seeded Mustangs ventured to suburban Orange County this year for a shot at the title. While the Mustangs built a respectable program on sweat and guile, the team from the Boyle Heights school faced a formidable match-up. After all, Salesian faced volleyball royalty in the form of St. Margaret's of San Juan Capistrano. In addition to being made up of big kids from a beach town, St. Margaret's team is led by Coach Karch Kiraly, a legend in the sport, whose two sons are on the team's roster.

After four hard-fought games, the final match ended when senior outside hitter Bernard Luna smashed his eighth kill of game four, giving the all-boys school from East Los Angeles its first-ever section title in the sport. Luna finished with 22 kills, two blocks and a service ace in an overall spectacular performance. This was not a one-man effort. Cameron Walker, Jacob Porter, Aaron Turcios, brothers Steven and Ivan Godinez and Erwin Ramirez were the other starters who contributed. Anthony San Jose and John Mora also had their moments off the bench.

Bernard Luna, a senior outside hitter who averaged 18 kills per game for the Division V champion Mustangs, was named CIF Player of the Year. Salesian's Elliott Walker was

named Coach of the Year. And, juniors Erwin Ramirez and Cameron Walker were named to the First Team All-CIF.

But the players success extends well beyond the volleyball court. All nine seniors on last school year's championship volleyball team are currently enrolled at four year colleges, including Luna, who earned an athletic scholarship to Hope International University.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the 34th Congressional District and the state of California, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Salesian High School's volleyball team on their remarkable achievements and extending to this school year's team our best wishes for the upcoming season. They are truly an inspiration, on and off the volleyball court. After all, as they have shown, with determination, teamwork and a lot of hard work, anything is possible.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, due to a homeland security matter I was detained this evening and missed rolcall #696. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PATRICK SWAYZE—ACTOR— ADVOCATE—TEXAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Patrick Swayze, actor and advocate. Swayze died at the age of 57—yesterday—September 14, 2009 after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. He was born in Houston, Texas, on August 18, 1952 to parents, dancer and choreographer Patsy Swayze, and the late engineer draftsman, Jesse Swayze.

A great actor, singer and dancer and an outstanding native Texan, Swayze had a long and distinguished career that made him an American icon. Known for his work in many films including "The Outsiders", "Dirty Dancing", and "Roadhouse," Swayze has been gracing the big screen for over four decades. He received four Golden Globe nominations for his performances in "Ghost" and "To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar".

Patrick Swayze had been suffering from pancreatic cancer since January 2008. Despite his own illness, Swayze's unwavering dedication to bring awareness and fight cancer remained clear until his final days. He recently wrote a letter to Congress asking for support and funding towards the National Institutes of Health for treating cancer as well as other life threatening illnesses. Swayze brought necessary attention to pancreatic cancer by making fellow Americans aware that "more than 1.4 million will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetimes," and reminding them "that they are not alone."

Patrick's rise to fame began at Waltrip High School in Houston. After graduation, he en-

rolled in San Jacinto College, located in the second district of Texas, to focus on gymnastics. His training allowed him to take his first step toward stardom as Snow White's Prince Charming with the Disney's Parade Ice Show. Shortly after, he traveled to New York City in order to pursue his first love, dancing. However, an old football injury ended his ballet career, directing Swayze towards acting. Swayze starred in over 33 movies, 7 theatre productions, and had numerous television roles and appearances throughout his accomplished career.

Swayze leaves behind his wife of over thirty years, Lisa Niemi. Together they weathered a journey of both success and disappointment. Swayze and Niemi's love and commitment for one another was unwavering until the very end.

On behalf of the second congressional district of Texas, I rise to remember a true native Texan, Patrick Swayze for his outstanding achievements in the entertainment business and in the fight against cancer. His life is truly an example to all. He will be remembered as a role model and a shining example of hard work, determination, and the spirit of Texas.

HONORING MR. WILEY HILBURN

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to commend Mr. Wiley Hilburn, an esteemed editor, respected mentor and prolific columnist.

On September 1, the Louisiana Tech University news bureau chief, journalism teacher and department head, will retire after 41 years of dedication and service. Hilburn's legacy is not only embedded in his written work, but translated into the countless careers of past students.

The Tech Talk, Louisiana Tech's weekly newspaper, was not always the student voice of the university, but merely a mouthpiece for the administration. In 1968, Tech President F.J. Taylor, hired Hilburn to liberate the school's newspaper, a period consumed with controversy and fueled by opinion. Successfully safeguarding the student body's First Amendment right during the Vietnam War and Civil Rights movement renders recognition.

Hilburn will retire from one of Louisiana's most acclaimed journalism schools. During his 41-year-tenure, Hilburn served under Taylor and current Tech President Dan Reneau. Throughout the past 40 years, students have learned how to report responsibly and objectively.

Although he will no longer steer the student voice of Tech, his opinionated outlook of reason will continue in his columns, printed weekly in The Shreveport Times and The News-Star, of Monroe.

The Ouachita River touches most parishes in North Louisiana; Hilburn touches the hearts of all of his readers in North Louisiana every Sunday. During his four decades of teaching and mentoring students, Hilburn gave 'fragments' of his life to every journalism student who walked through Keeney Hall.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Wiley Hilburn, a teacher, writer and personal friend.