

adding: "To put it bluntly, few Americans have a realistic idea of how our government works. We have instead a series of naive assumptions. If the message of this book were common knowledge, much of the sound and fury that currently caricatures our politics and our national image could be averted."

Harry Cummings McPherson Jr. was born on Aug. 22, 1929, in Tyler, Tex., the son of Harry and Nan Hight McPherson. He attended Southern Methodist University and graduated from the University of the South in 1949. He intended to be a writer and poet and enrolled in a graduate program in literature at Columbia in 1949. But when the Korean War broke out in 1950, he enlisted in the Air Force and served as an intelligence officer in Germany, assessing Soviet troop deployments.

His first marriage, to Clayton Read in 1952, ended in divorce. He married Mary Patricia DeGroot in 1981. Besides his wife, he is survived by two children from his first marriage, Coco and Peter, and a son from his second marriage, Samuel.

He earned a law degree in 1956 at the University of Texas. At the urging of a cousin who worked for Johnson, who was then a senator, Mr. McPherson went to Washington and was hired by the Democratic Policy Committee, which fashioned the legislative agenda for Senate Democrats. Johnson, the majority leader, was its chairman. Over the next seven years, Mr. McPherson rose to general counsel of the committee, serving under Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana after Johnson became vice president in 1961.

He was appointed deputy under secretary of the Army for international affairs in 1963 and assistant secretary of state for educational and cultural affairs in 1964. Nearly two years after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, Mr. McPherson joined President Johnson's White House staff in 1965, and over the next four years, he became one of Johnson's most trusted advisers.

In 1966 he helped organize a White House conference on civil rights, a gathering that included the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; Thurgood Marshall, who was then the solicitor general but would become America's first black Supreme Court justice a year later; and representatives of almost every major civil rights group in the country.

Mr. McPherson also became Johnson's chief speechwriter, shaping all of the president's major addresses from 1966 to 1969.

In 2008, he was honored with a lifetime achievement award by American Lawyer magazine.

It is with great respect, I honor Harry C. McPherson, Jr. for his service to the country under President Lyndon B. Johnson and his many wonderful accomplishments upon his death.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL CHEER- LEADERS

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 8, 2012*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fort Walton Beach High School Cheerleaders on their achievements as Class 2A FHSAA Competitive Cheerleading State Champions and most recently as Universal Cheerleaders Association's National Cheerleading Champions.

No single component by itself renders a champion, but rather to be a champion requires a combination of discipline, desire, focus, and determination. The Fort Walton Beach High School Cheerleaders have found the perfect blend of each element and serve as an example for other teams in the area. At the beginning of the season, the Fort Walton Beach High School Viking Cheerleaders said, "It's our year." Their words have come to culmination as they proved that this year was theirs to shine taking home the gold from UCA Nationals.

The Fort Walton Beach High School Cheerleaders strive for perfection in everything they do. In cheerleading, not one person stands out or wins the overall competition. Rather, it requires uniformity and working together as a collective group. As they prepared to compete in UCA Nationals, they sought to perform their routine to the best of their abilities as a team. This commitment to excellence defines a true champion; however, their excellence extends far beyond the title. Whether it is car washes, 5k runs, or even performing for Florida's Governor, Rick Scott, this team goes above and beyond what is asked of them, and I commend their active role in the Fort Walton Beach community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the Fort Walton Beach High School Cheerleaders on their accomplishments and their continuing commitment to excellence at Fort Walton Beach High School. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating them and everyone who has played a supportive role in guiding their team to victory. We wish them all the best for continued success.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN DONALD PAYNE

SPEECH OF

#### HON. JON RUNYAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2012*

Mr. RUNYAN. Madam Speaker, on March 6th, the state of New Jersey, and more specifically Newark and its surrounding communities, lost a dedicated public servant, Congressman DONALD PAYNE.

Congressman PAYNE truly lived a life of service, first as an educator in the Newark and Passaic public school districts, an Essex County Freeholder, a member of the Newark Municipal Service, and finally as the first African-American Congressman from the state of New Jersey. Representative PAYNE's public service record was also dedicated to helping people through his volunteer work. His involvement with the Newark YMCA and Boy's and Girl's Club, showed his passion for helping children.

In Congress, Representative PAYNE played an instrumental role as an advocate in the treatment of AIDS and drug-resistant tuberculosis. His actions in Congress were always based on how he could best serve his constituents. Congressman PAYNE served as a role model for not only his district, but the entire State of New Jersey.

His love of service was only outdone by the love he had for his family, from his late wife, to his children, grandchildren, and great-

grandchildren. Congressman PAYNE will be missed.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 8, 2012*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, on March 7, 2012, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall #103-106. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall #103: Yes—Himes of Connecticut  
Amendment No. 3

Rollcall #104: Yes—Ellison of Minnesota  
Amendment No. 5

Rollcall #105: Yes—Waters of California  
Amendment No. 6

Rollcall #106: Yes—Connolly of Virginia  
Amendment No. 9

#### ABILENE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 8, 2012*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I bring good news from West Texas. The 2011-2012 Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) 2A State basketball champions are the Abilene Christian High School Panthers.

In a close game that was covered by the national media, the Panthers beat Beren Academy 46-42 on March 3 in Waco, Texas to win the championship. Both schools are strong religiously based institutions. An Orthodox Jewish school from Houston, Beren Academy was a tough opponent made up of wonderful, religiously committed young men that kept the game close to the end.

The Panthers were led by 22 year-old Michael Bacon, a first-time head coach and college senior at Abilene Christian University. He coached the team along with Nick Smith and Colby Carr, all full-time college students and best friends. While some college students hold part-time jobs on the side, I suspect that most don't involve coaching a state championship-winning high school basketball team. Michael, Nick, and Colby are outstanding men and leaders that have a promising future ahead of them.

The championship caps a whirlwind season for the Panthers that ended with a 25-4 record. They played with discipline, determination, and tenacity the entire season. Michael Bacon said about the team: "We played like we were the smallest dog in the fight all season, and ended up the biggest." In every practice and game, the team gave their all and, in the end, it paid off.

The members of the team are Michael Avila, Ben George, Avron Payne, Trey Hampton, Clint Bruton, Samai Massaquoi, Harrison Hancock, Daniel Austin, Trevor Tyson, Bryton Fernandez, and J.D. Dos Santos. These fine young men are model Christian athletes. Strong in both body and spirit, their success on the basketball court reflects the deep commitment to their faith.