

Greeks began a series of competitions that would develop into an international tradition of incredible scale. The Olympic Games serve as an opportunity to demonstrate athletic and mental ability, strength, and spirit for both individuals and nations. The Olympics bring millions of diverse people together, all with one hope: to see their country win. For our Nation, the Olympic Games help us to find our common ground and allow us to come together to support the young men and women who represent our great country.

I am honored to recognize the outstanding individuals from Orange County that will represent our Nation this summer in London, England. For their patriotism and excellence in athletics, I'd like to recognize JW Kumpholz (Water Polo), Courtney Mathewson (Water Polo), Lauren Wenger (Water Polo), Samuel Mikulak (Gymnastics), Tyler Clary (Swimming), Kate Ziegler (Swimming), Russell Holmes (Volleyball), David Lee (Volleyball), Paul Lotman (Volleyball), David Smith (Volleyball), Donald Suxho (Volleyball), Brian Thorton (Volleyball), David McKenzie (Volleyball), Clay Stanley (Volleyball), Sean Rooney (Volleyball), Danielle Scott (Volleyball), Jordan Larson (Volleyball), Matt Anderson (Volleyball), and Reid Priddy (Volleyball). We are all proud of you.

Thank you again, and good luck to each of you. Bring home the gold for Team U.S.A.

CELEBRATING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF JIMMIE RUTH COOLEY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the birthday of a dear friend and a true East Texas treasure, Jimmie Ruth Cooley. She is a shining example of hard work and the success that follows.

A three term mayor of her beloved Woodville, Jimmie has been a tireless, enthusiastic advocate for her community, for Tyler County, for East Texas and in fact the Lone Star State where she has left her mark as well.

When it comes to accomplishing tasks and overcoming hurdles—Jimmie has got it covered. One of her dear friends, Mary Jane Neal, summed it up best, saying “She likes to get things done”.

And she has. Over the years Mayor Cooley has served as a board member and a leader in the Deep East Texas Council of Government; Three Rivers Council of Boy Scouts of America; Woodville Independent School District Compass Arts; Tyler County Art League; and Tyler County Hospital Foundation. She's worked tirelessly as president of the Tyler County Chamber of Commerce, a past member of the Texas Office of Community Affairs Task Force and Deep Texas Regional Review Committee.

Longtime Texas Governor Rick Perry appointed Jimmie to serve on the board of the Lower Neches Valley Authority, where she has talked water with me countless times because she knows how important our lakes and rivers are to our communities in East Texas. And yes, she has a professional career as well—she is a graduate of the American Institute of Real Estate and now a retired real estate agent.

“Yes, Mayor, I'll get on it” are how most of my conversations with Jimmie end. She is a close advisor, confidant, and most of all a true friend. Blessed with a wonderful sense of humor, Jimmie is a keen observer of the people she serves and of the community in which she lives. I want America to know about this tireless champion of East Texas who gives back more than could ever be asked of her.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to wish Jimmie Ruth Cooley a very Happy 80th Birthday and many more years of happiness to come.

HONORING SARALAND SCHOOLS FOR SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of the House the exemplary achievement of the Saraland School System, which recently garnered the highest rating of performance from its accreditation agency. What's even more remarkable about this accomplishment is that the Saraland School System was founded just four short years ago.

All too often, local news across America is filled with stories about failing schools and declining scholastic standards. Indeed, our educational system is being challenged like never before from a historic recession and dwindling revenues. But America is still the land of opportunity for those imbued with vision and a dedication to make a difference.

Four years ago, the City of Saraland defied the odds by seeking control of its local schools with the goal of raising the quality of education for its children. The Saraland School System set a goal to provide every student a “world-class education.” This goal was successfully met in June when Saraland received the top rating of “highly functional” for the school system's vision and purpose. The high praise came from AdvanceED, formerly known as the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Saraland also received the accreditation agency's second highest rating in six other areas: governance and leadership; teaching and learning; documenting and using results; resources and support systems; stakeholder communications and relationships; and commitment to continuous improvement.

Much credit is due to the school leadership, including School Board President Bill Silver, Superintendent Wayne Vickers, and all the Saraland School System administrators, principals, teachers and students. Additionally, a tip of the hat is due to the people of Saraland who, according to the accreditation agency, have demonstrated an equally strong commitment to supporting their new school system and making sure it succeeds.

Board president Bill Silver recently told the Mobile Press-Register, “This community has bought into our own school system and that is one of the reasons we have had such success, in academics, sports and the whole arena.”

Physical evidence of the community's investment in their school system is manifest in the \$30 million high school, a planned \$14 million elementary school and another \$4 million dedicated to renovate the middle school.

Saraland's amazing achievement is not only a model for Alabama, but for the nation. It is proof positive that when a community unites behind a goal, it can succeed. We should all look to Saraland's example.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I would like to extend my congratulations to the Saraland School System, its leaders, students and the community at large. Job well done!

COMMENDING VETERANS OF THE KOREAN CONSTABULARY

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor veterans of the Korean Constabulary for their outstanding sacrifice and service during the hard years leading up to the establishment of the Republic of Korea.

The Korean Constabulary was originally established in 1946 in order to provide support to Korean National Police during the unification and independence of South Korea. They would eventually serve as the Republic of Korea Army in 1948.

During the years of 1946 and 1948, the Korean Constabulary undertook internal security tasks on behalf of the United States Military Government in Korea and the people of South Korea, defending their fledgling country against internal unrest.

The Korean Constabulary believe they have been treated unfairly due to their exclusion from benefits offered under the Republic of Korea's Military Pension Act. They have not been granted pension, financial aid for healthcare or military awards for their years of distinguished service because their years of service before 1950 are unaccounted for because the Constabulary was under the jurisdiction of the Department of National Defense during the years of 1946 and 1948.

The Korean Constabulary would like to be honored by the Republic of Korea for their heroic service during such an unstable time in the country's history.

Today, I honor all of the Veterans of the Korean Constabulary and commend them for their bravery and support to the United States Military Government in Korea.

RECOGNIZING ARKANSAS OLYMPIAN MICHAEL TINSLEY

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Michael Tinsley who will be representing the United States in the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London.

Michael hails from Little Rock, Arkansas. Little Rock is located in the Second Congressional District, which I represent. He attended Pulaski Robinson High School in Little Rock where he had a standout track career.

His dedication to and performance in track and field in high school earned him a scholarship at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi, where he ran track and studied Criminal Justice.