

THREE CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR
VANDALIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2013

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, there is a school in the Sixth District of North Carolina that just won its third state championship this school year. Vandalia Christian School of Greensboro won state titles in basketball, soccer and cheerleading. I would like to take this time to congratulate all their squads.

The story of the boys' basketball team from Vandalia Christian School is all but ordinary. On February 23, the Vikings capped off the 2013 season with a 13-point win over Raleigh Christian Academy resulting in their first NCCSA Class 2-A championship in 28 years. The road was not easily traveled; they lost in the championship game the year before and one of their players, Will Zimmerman, was diagnosed with leukemia and had to undergo chemotherapy treatments through the rest of 2012. Considering the circumstances of making it deep into the playoffs just to meet defeat, and the tragic diagnosis of a teammate, you would have expected to see a demoralized team the following year. The Vikings, however, did the opposite. They turned defeat into a learning experience—and the strength of Zimmerman into spirit—and they carried his jersey to every game to lay over an empty seat on the bench giving them the desire to make a run at the title.

Lead by Head Coach Tommy Adams and Assistant Luke Adams, their hands were full with an incredibly tense game. Raleigh Christian nearly overcame a 20-point deficit despite having one of its senior players go down with an injury and transported off the court by medical personnel. Vandalia would hold on for the win thanks to the supporting cast of players including Tyler Metcalf, Houston Miller, Michael Fields, Andrew Owen, Chase McNeil, Aaron Whittman, Christian Gravely, Tyler Christian Daniels, Zachary Dark, Brandon McDowell, James Wagner, Ethan Willis, Will Zimmerman, and Nathaniel Hobbs. And behind the scenes, managers Kloe Atkinson, Kani Totten, Storm Somers, and Gabriel Fields aided the cause. Coach Adams said the circumstances surrounding Zimmerman gave the team added motivation to get back to the championship game. With his cancer in remission, we are proud to announce that Will sat courtside to motivate and cheer his team to victory.

Vandalia's varsity boys' soccer team also experienced success when it won the NCCSA 2-A state championship. It was the Viking soccer team's first title since 1994. They were coached by true Viking blood, VCS alumnus, Coach Jason McCall. With goalie Jeffrey Welker accounting for six saves, the Vikings took on Wilmington Christian on October 27, 2012, with a stifling defensive approach, shutting out Wilmington 2-0.

VCS scored both goals in the first half with a header by Houston Miller and then a put back by Joshua McClelland. Both goals were only separated by 10 minutes, giving Wilmington Christian an early uphill battle from which they could not overcome.

Assistant Coach Junior Hannig accompanied Coach McCall in their quest for the elusive state title with the assistance of first team

all-state Joshua McClelland, second team all-state Michael Matthews and Houston Miller, along with Tyler Metcalf, Jasper White, Zachary Dark, Jake Stone, Cates Banner, Jeffrey Welker, Matthew Hobbs, Arthur Ascencio, Will Zimmerman, Andrew Strickland, Colton Toft, and Bradley Casey.

Every team will tell you that they need people cheering for them in their quest for glory. In the case of Vandalia Christian School, the teams with Vikings on their chests were supported by a cheerleading squad that also was crowned state champion this school year.

Lead by head Coach Kim Hazelwood, the VCS cheerleaders included Ally Crook, Morgan Kennedy, Alyce Lentz, Morgan McDowell, Victoria Johnson, Ali Willard, Leanne Powell, Grace Wilson, Lauren Michaels, and Ashley Pollard.

All in all, it has been quite a year for the students, faculty, staff, and families of Vandalia Christian School. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate Principal Jeremy Cordova, Athletic Director Luke Oates, and the basketball, soccer, and cheerleading squads of VCS for their state championships.

COMMENDING CATE FULKERSON
FOR RECOGNITION AS THE RESTON
CITIZEN ASSOCIATION CITIZEN
OF THE YEAR FOR 2013

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Cate Fulkerson of Reston for her recognition as the Reston Citizen Association Citizen of the Year for 2012.

The Reston Citizens Association was founded in 1967 to promote and protect Reston's founding principles by serving as a non-partisan forum for all residents and as an advocate for the community with County and State governments.

The RCA Citizen of the Year award dates back to 1976 and is awarded to someone whose actions are consistent with the goals of Reston and the RCA. Recipients are recognized for contributing to the quality of life in Reston and for helping people in need.

Cate Fulkerson, a Reston native, is best known throughout the community for her various roles on the staff of the Reston Association, where she has worked since 1991 and now serves as second in command of an 80-person staff. Countless Restonians have benefited from her outstanding customer service, efficiency, and professionalism. Cate insists that no one who contacts her organization with a problem or question is ever told to "call someone else."

Cate's service also extends deep into the community and she is well known as a "powerhouse of enthusiasm" in many endeavors. She has led the effort to bring the Character Counts program and Ethics Day to Reston schools, helped plan Reston's annual Martin Luther King Day celebration, organized walks to help the homeless, collected Christmas presents for needy kids, and served as Board President of Leadership Fairfax. Her dedication to Reston has been recognized by multiple community organizations, including the

Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, which presented Cate with its Volunteer of the Year for 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise to join me in congratulating Cate Fulkerson for this award and thanking her for her committed and selfless service to our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF COMMUNITY IN-
VOLVED IN SUSTAINING AGRI-
CULTURE (CISA) SOUTH DEER-
FIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2013

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work of Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture throughout western Massachusetts for the past twenty years. The organization has grown from a small group of farmers to a community of restaurants, farmers, neighbors, and local businesses. CISA has increased the visibility of locally produced food through its highly successful "buy local" campaign—the longest running in the country—and supported the growth of farmers' markets in Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire counties to include over 50 local produce markets including seven winter markets.

The Pioneer Valley, and the nation as a whole, Mr. Speaker, has benefitted greatly from the contributions of CISA. Over five years, CISA helped to increase the total acreage of farmland in Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden counties by four percent and doubled the annual total dollar amount of agricultural products sold by local farmers to the community to nearly eight and a half million dollars.

Mr. Speaker, western Massachusetts is blessed by some of the most picturesque landscapes in this country. Because of CISA's commitment to supporting farmers and preserving these farmlands, we can pass this incredible resource on to the next generation.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture on twenty years of vital service to the community of western Massachusetts.

TO ACKNOWLEDGE VOLUNTEER
FAIRFAX AND THE RECIPIENTS
OF THE 2013 SERVICE AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize and give thanks acknowledge and give thanks to Volunteer Fairfax and the extraordinary honorees of the 21st Annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards.

Volunteer Fairfax matches the skills and interests of volunteers to the needs of local non-profit organizations. Volunteer time and services valued at nearly \$1 million are contributed annually to more than 900 public and