

of her. Mills is a graduate of Greenville Weston High School and Alcorn State University, where she received a bachelor's degree in elementary education with a special education and reading endorsement.

She was an educator in the public school district and realized there was a need for extra help for students in the after-school extended program.

With more than 20 students enrolled, Mills said she hopes to continue the growth of the academy and wants to be able to make a bigger impact. "I really believe I can make an impact in children's lives and I want to see growth in them. One of my main goals is to see how I helped that child. I am very passionate about education because it's the key to success," Mills said.

While Mills' focus right now is on the third-grade reading test, she also helps students prepare for the ACT. "I had one student to go from a 16 to an 18, and he was preparing to get into nursing school and that was his main focus," she said.

Parents in the community have been very supportive of her mission and have participated in many of the Mills Academy events, which include: fundraisers, paint classes, movie nights for the kids and even an event for Dr. Seuss' birthday that the parents and community supports," she said.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mills Academy for its dedication to serving and giving back to the community.

CONGRATULATING THE KIWANIS CLUB OF ELKHART ON CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. JACKIE WALORSKI**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2017*

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Kiwanis Club of Elkhart on celebrating 100 years of service.

In 1917, the 36th Kiwanis Club was formed in Elkhart, Indiana. Since then, this incredible unit of volunteers and local leaders has been dedicated to improving the lives of children around the world and right here at home.

Kiwanis Clubs around the country and across the globe aim to encourage, support, and inspire local youth to make a difference in their communities. From rebuilding schools to hosting food drives, Kiwanians are serving others while learning to work together and find positive solutions to society's most challenging problems.

The commitment of Elkhart Kiwanis to serving our community is demonstrated by its signature program, Knowledge is Dynamite—or KID—Day. Twice a year, they honor a group of local fourth grade students who have demonstrated perseverance and personal growth. Over the last 30 years, they have recognized the achievements of more than 1,300 students and inspired countless more to set and strive toward meaningful goals.

The longstanding tradition of volunteerism and leadership runs strong in the Kiwanis members in Elkhart. I am incredibly grateful for the positive role this organization has played in making our community a better place. When children are empowered to break through obstacles and help those in need,

anything is possible. Children are safer, healthier, and happier because of the hard work and determination of Kiwanians. Thanks to the Kiwanis Club, our future is in good hands.

The impressive growth and charitable reach of the Kiwanis Club of Elkhart is a true reflection of the hardworking Hoosier spirit its members embody.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Indiana's 2nd District, I want to thank the Kiwanis Club of Elkhart for continuing to provide such a remarkable opportunity for children and young adults to challenge themselves and fight for worthy causes in their own neighborhoods and on the global stage.

IN RECOGNITION OF PORTUGUESE IMMIGRANT WEEK

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2017*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of Portuguese Immigrant Week. As members of the Portuguese community in the Sacramento region celebrate and gather today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring them and their long history and contributions to our region and country.

California was discovered by Portuguese explorer Joao Rodrigues Cabrillo in 1542. Centuries later, in the mid-1800s, Portuguese immigrants made new roots for their families setting in our state—many owned, operated, or worked on a dairy farm or in the dairy-related industry. Throughout the many decades, the Portuguese communities in California have made a great effort to preserve their culture and identity. The Portuguese communities and their members contribute many services to the local community and they are always striving to uphold the values that the Portuguese community holds dear. Fifty years ago, recognizing their contributions, then Governor Ronald Reagan declared the second week of March as "Portuguese Immigrant Week". We celebrate the long history of the Portuguese community in our region. The community in Sacramento continues to share their rich and beautiful heritage and we will continue to celebrate their influence in our region.

Mr. Speaker, as members of our community gather to celebrate the outstanding contributions of our Portuguese families, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring them for their dedication.

BEN DAVIS HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2017*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise before you to offer a word of congratulations to the Ben Davis High School Varsity Boys Basketball Team. The Giants captured the Division 4A Indiana State Boys Basketball Championship on March 25, 2017 at Bankers Life Field House in Indianapolis after a 55–52 win over Fort Wayne North Side.

This team's achievements would not have been possible without, Head Coach Mark James, who is in his 35th year coaching the Giants and boasted that "it's been a team effort all year." The entire team, including the players, coaches, managers and fans should be proud of their record, including a 14 game winning streak, and for bringing their school a third championship.

Winning a state championship is reaching the pinnacle of basketball and the entire Indianapolis community is proud to celebrate their accomplishments this season.

RECOGNIZING THE PENSACOLA BLUE WAHOOS BASEBALL TEAM

**HON. MATT GAETZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2017*

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Pensacola Blue Wahoos Baseball Team, in Northwest Florida. In 2016, the Southern League of Professional Baseball Clubs announced the Wahoos as the winners of the "Community Service Award".

In addition, the Director of Sports Turf Management for the Blue Wahoos, Ray Sayre, was named the "Groundskeeper of the Year" for the fourth consecutive season.

The team members have demonstrated a profound dedication to their community by participating in activities that directly benefit and uplift the Pensacola area.

The Wahoos' outreach has helped such organizations as the Epilepsy Foundation of Northwest Florida, Autism Pensacola, the United Way, the National Alliance of Mental Illness, and many more.

Working with the Studer Community Institute, through such programs as "Kazoo's Grand Slam Reading Program", the team has highlighted the priority of Early Childhood Education; this program reached over 9,000 students and parents in 2016.

The Blue Wahoos have a long history of taking an active role in their community. In 2012, their unwavering support and involvement resulted in them being named the "Southern League Organization of the Year", "Ballpark Digest's Organization of the Year", and "Ballpark of the Year" by Baseballparks.com.

The tradition of excellence has continued since 2013, when the team was named "Stadium Journey's Best Minor League Ballpark Experience"; and again, awarded the "Southern League Community Service Award". Since then, the Blue Wahoos have won many awards from a multitude of organizations because of their selfless contributions to the Pensacola area.

I would like to personally thank all of the past and present members of the Blue Wahoos, as well as all of the employees who participate and provide support for the team and community events. I would also like to thank Quint Studer and his team for providing the leadership that supports this remarkable cooperative contribution.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize the Pensacola Blue Wahoos Baseball Team for their continuous devotion to enhancing their community and for their contribution to an immeasurable positive