

CELEBRATING THE FIGHTING
IRISH NOTRE DAME WOMEN'S
BASKETBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2018

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Fighting Irish Notre Dame women's basketball team on winning its second National Championship after completing the largest comeback in NCAA championship history.

Each year, 64 teams compete for a shot at the NCAA National Championship. The Notre Dame women played relentless defense and showed unstoppable skill, taking it one game at a time until they reached the top.

All season long, the Fighting Irish showed sheer determination and refused to give up. The players, coaches, and staff have shown incredible commitment of their time and talent toward this impressive basketball program. I am so proud of the Fighting Irish Notre Dame women's basketball team for winning this much-deserved championship title. Thank you to head coach Muffet McGraw for her distinguished leadership and amazing ability to connect with her players and inspire them to strive for greatness.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Fighting Irish Notre Dame women's basketball program on winning the NCAA National Championship. Their positive impact reaches Hoosiers in our community both on and off the court. I look forward to the great things to come in their future.

HONORING JENNIFER GONZALEZ

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Jennifer Gonzalez and remember her life, which was tragically cut short on March 9, 2018.

Ms. Gonzalez grew up in Mountain View, California where she was raised with her three brothers. She attended St. Martin of Tours School and graduated from Saint Francis High School. She continued her education at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles and earned her Doctor of Psychology from Palo Alto University. When she returned to the South Bay she helped establish the Veterans Resource Center at San Jose State University, which provided direct Veterans Affairs services for our transitioning men and women.

Social work was Ms. Gonzalez's calling. She was committed to treating veterans with post-traumatic stress through her work at The Pathway Home and PsychArmor. Her father, Mike Gonzalez, said she had empathy and compassion for the veterans she worked with and "wanted to be in the weeds with them." Local veterans described her as dedicated to her cause and warm and friendly to all she met. She was a giving person who was always trying to help other people.

On March 18, 2017, Ms. Gonzalez married T.J. Shushereba in Sacramento. Mr. Shushereba said that five hours into their first date he was smitten. Ms. Gonzalez was six months pregnant and she and her husband were excited to meet their first child, whose gender was to be a surprise.

Her father lovingly described her as "the Halley's Comet of great daughters." She was a devoted granddaughter. She visited her grandmother every other week and would sing to her and care for her.

Mr. Speaker, Jennifer Gonzalez was a compassionate and altruistic person who was dedicated to social justice and helping veterans build positive lives. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

THE FIRST IN FREEDOM—AO2
NAVY SEAL MARC ALAN LEE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2018

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Fallen American hero, Marc Alan Lee, who was KIA August 2, 2006. He inspired his Brother In Arms Chris Kyle to write his book *American Sniper*. March 20th would have been Marc's 40th birthday. The graveyards are filled with magnificent selfless heroes like Marc. The ones who have given That Last Full Measure for all of us over the years. He was the first Navy SEAL to die in Operation Iraqi Freedom. His Brothers In Arms knew him as a strong patriot, a fierce competitor, a loving husband, and a faithful Christian. I include in the RECORD this poem penned in his honor by Albert Carey Caswell.

THE FIRST IN FREEDOM
(By Albert Carey Caswell)

The First
The First In Freedom
The First in light
In every war,
in every battle,
in every fight,
there are always those who must be the first
to die
Which brings such heartache and tears of
sorrow to loved ones' eyes
Whose brave hearts must burn bright
Who we all need this night
So all at speed, so all in sight
Those brave hearts who fight the fight
Who bring their light
Who evil must fight
Who leave all they love to over evil rise
above
And lie down their most precious lives.
As up in Heaven the Angels cry
And don't ask why?
All in their most patriotic hearts comprised
And for all their Brothers In Arms ready to
die
As did you Marc all in your most magnifi-
cent heart comprised
As realized
Was such a heart of gold
To all our children must be told
To carry with us as we grow old
And for you Marc,
Heaven a place so holds
When, in that moment of truth be told
As it was you Marc who gave us the proof
with your lessons of gold

All in what is in a hero's heart to know
And so, made up of so
As into the line of fire you'd go
All in that Selfless Book of America's Who's
Who to know
Who but for the greater good gave all they
could
That last full measure,
for surely there can be no greater treasure
As you became the first Navy SEAL in this
war to lose your life,
And oh how Marc your loved ones and Brothers
will miss you so,
But, they will hear you on the wind
And when they awake they will feel your
presence next to them,
as overnight watching over you they have
been.

And when there comes a gentle rain,
you will feel our Lord's tear wash down upon
you to ease your pain
Until, one day up in Heaven together you
will all again
And you won't have to cry no more
The first to fight
The first to die
With tears in eyes we now ask why?
As like you Marc its upon our faith we must
rely

Sadly, because Freedom is not Free
But, only bought and paid for by you and all
of these
Who are the first to die
Could we?
Would we?
In the moment of truth would we up to new
heights so rise?
SEALed with a kiss
And now we lay your sacred body down to
rest
We pray for you and your family our Lord to
bless.
At Ease my son,
for you are one of America's Best
Who are The First In Freedom,
who all of us bless.
Amen.

DENVER WEST PARTNERS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Denver West Partners for being recognized as the 2017 Chairman's Choice Award winner by the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation (Jeffco EDC).

The Chairman's Choice Award is a special recognition from the Jeffco EDC chairman of a company that has had a substantial impact to Jefferson County. As Managing Principal of Denver West Partners, Greg Stevinson has devoted the past 40 years to the development of the 500+ acre Denver West community. He was instrumental in the creation of the Denver West Business Park which includes a vibrant retail district that spans Colorado Mills/Denver West Village, the Promenade Shops and the Denver West Automotive District. Greg's leadership and business acumen have been instrumental in helping to develop Lakewood and Jefferson County.

Congratulations to Greg Stevinson and Denver West Partners for this well-deserved award, and I thank them for their contribution to our community.