

and college vocational-technical institutions. This year's team was composed of 14 of America's best future workers and they competed against 28 other countries in the Biennial IVTC. They achieved the highest overall team score in the history of the United States' participation—a world-class standing.

At a time when some are questioning America's ability to compete, our placement at this competition illustrates that American workers can and will compete with any nation. Without a doubt, Marcin Gora is indeed exceptional, but he epitomizes the abilities and skill level that all Americans can and should achieve. With the support of organizations like VICA and the efforts of people like Marcin Gora, we will continue to lead the world in the development of new technologies and the production of world-class products and services.

I congratulate Marcin Gora and all the members of Team USA for their outstanding performance at the International Vocational Training Competitions. I urge my colleagues to support them as they work to ensure that America remains the industrial leader of the world.

PENN HILLS HIGH SCHOOL 1995
AAAA FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 1995

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate the Penn Hills High School Indians who won the 1995 Pennsylvania AAAA Varsity Football Championship. This past Saturday, December 9, at Altoona's Mansion Park Stadium, they defeated Lower Dauphin High School by a score of 35 to 14. The team was undefeated, 15 and 0, this season and this is the first time in history that this high school football team, which is located in the 18th Congressional District in western Pennsylvania, won the State championship.

Not to take sides between last year's champions, the McKeesport High School football team, also in my district, but what makes this championship especially important is that USA Today ranks the Penn Hills team as the No. 5 high school football team in the United States.

Congratulations to the players, the coaching staff, the supportive student body and families, and the Penn Hills community. I share your pride and claim the appropriate bragging rights on Capitol Hill. Keep up the team spirit and the motivation to succeed.

RADIO PIONEER BILL ZAK
RETIRES FROM KTRH

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 1995

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to salute Bill Zak, radio pioneer who will soon retire after 45 years as a newscaster and host of "Gardenline," a 6 day-a-week call-in gardening show on radio station KTRH Houston, TX.

Bill Zak joined the staff of KTRH in 1951—a year before I was born—after graduating

from Texas A&M University, which I now proudly represent. Early in his career, Bill was assigned to the KTRH news department, and for a time he anchored the "KTRH Morning News" show with another budding journalist: Dan Rather.

But it was gardening knowledge that Bill had, and it was gardening advice Houstonians needed. Few relationships have been so mutually beneficial.

As you may know, gardeners in the greater Houston area endure torrential rains that can last for days; flooding; hurricanes; harsh heat and high humidity; and, occasionally, freezing cold. This variety creates a great many potential gardeners, but prevents many more from ever turning a spade of soil.

For many, many years Bill Zak has rescued frustrated gardeners from botanical catastrophes, and has turned potential gardeners into actual gardeners. His expert advice and guidance have helped tens of thousands of Houstonians turn bare, sun-scorched lawns into oases of beauty.

But Bill has done far more during his four and a half decades of broadcasting. During Hurricane Alicia, which hit Houston hard in 1983, Bill served as one of KTRH's primary voices—providing hundreds of thousands of listeners with life-saving information that enabled our community, and its residents, to get through that disaster. It was just one more instance of journalistic excellence that has made KTRH the authoritative radio news station in the Texas Gulf coast region, and it was just one more example of Bill Zak's commitment to his station and his community.

I'm not sure how he managed to find the time, but Bill is also an author. His book, "Critters," is a popular pictorial encyclopedia of the native insects of Texas—and there are plenty of them. He also has authored a similar publication in Florida.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Zak's last day on the air at KTRH will be Friday, Dec. 22. I know that you join with me in wishing Bill and his wife of many years, Jean, well in the years ahead as they enjoy their retirement in the Houston area. I understand that following his retirement, Bill plans to spend his time reading, traveling, possibly writing another book and—not surprisingly—gardening. While he claims to be retiring, there are many Houstonians who know that old habits are hard to break and who suspect Bill's voice may yet be heard again on KTRH—providing news or gardening advice to his tens of thousands of loyal, long-time listeners.

SWEARING IN OF JESSE L.
JACKSON, JR.

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 1995

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, today is a great day for myself, the 2nd Congressional District of Chicago and all of America. Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. has the resounding qualities of humility, honesty, a willingness to work in behalf of those who cannot fight for themselves. He can walk proudly with kings and with the same ease walk humbly with the common man.

I am proud and appreciative of the Jackson family. Many years ago, his father Jesse L.

Jackson, Sr. stood beside me tirelessly during a time of my own personal tribulation. The son of a man who so gallantly stood by me can be nothing less than a warrior and a man of impeccable spirit.

Greatness is a by-product of working with the disenfranchised. One who has worked and fought so diligently for the less fortunate will naturally develop a sense of compassion, commitment, and integrity. Thus, I am certain that Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. will serve not only as a capable Representative but will also be a shining example of statesmanship.

Without equivocation or hesitation, I give my whole-hearted welcome and praise to Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., who I am certain will serve the people of the 2d Congressional District of Illinois with passion, zeal, and integrity.

Jesse, I look forward to working with you and beside you in representing the people of Illinois. May God continue to bless you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 1995

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, due to the death of a close personal friend, I was absent during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present I would have voted as follows: On 847 "yea", 846 "nay", 845 "yea", 857 "nay", 856 "nay", 855 "yea", 854 "nay", 853 "yea", 852 "nay", 851 "nay", 850 "nay", and 849 "nay".

I would ask unanimous consent that these votes be placed in the appropriate place in the permanent RECORD.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 1995

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, December 13 on rollcall vote No. 850, H.R. 1868, the conference report making appropriations for Foreign operations for fiscal year 1996, I was inadvertently recorded as a "yes" vote.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GEORGE
AND MABEL SHREVES ON THEIR
75TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 1995

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark a truly special occasion. George and Mabel Shreves, of Karnak, IL, will celebrate their 75th wedding anniversary on December 18. It is with great admiration that I offer them my best wishes.

A diamond anniversary is not a common event. Such an occasion is more than just a testament to the Shreves' commitment to each other. Their life together exemplifies the beauty that marriage is meant to symbolize, and gives real meaning to words such as dedication and devotion. Since their wedding day in