then walking to school, these individuals and their supporters embarked on a journey that would change the texts of history books forever.

In 1949, 107 Clarendon County citizens signed a petition to the local school board that pushed beyond the transportation issue and asked for equal education for African American children. After both denials and refusals to act from the local school board, twenty of those courageous signers went on to become plaintiffs in *Briggs* v. *Elliott* in 1950. These petitioners risked their well being, many lost jobs and some were forced to move away from their families because they dared to take a stand against the ''separate but equal'' doctrine in the south.

The South Carolina District Court ruled against the petitioners by denying their plea for desegregation of the schools in 1951. After a second negative hearing in 1952, *Briggs* v. *Elliott* found its way from Clarendon County, South Carolina to the United States Supreme Court. Upon being placed on the Supreme Court's calendar, *Briggs* v. *Elliott* was not alone. There were four other desegregation cases from Kansas, Virginia, Delaware and the District of Columbia. The Court ended 1952 with a split decision on the five cases that became known as *Brown* v. *Board of Education of Topeka*.

Late in 1953, the Supreme Court convened to hear final rearguments in *Brown* v. *Board of Education of Topeka*. By early 1954, the Court had written a final opinion. On May 17 at 12:52 p.m., Chief Justice Warren announced that the court had reversed the ''separate but equal'' doctrine by ruling unanimously that segregated schools were unconstitutional. The opinion reads in part, ''We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place.'' Warren went on to say, ''Therefore, we hold that the plaintiffs . . . deprived of the equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment.''

Although the early political was surrounding *Briggs* v. *Elliott* were lost, these 20 plaintiffs were the foundation on which the case of *Brown* v. *Board of Education of Topeka* was based to eventually win the battle of public, desegregated education in our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join with me and pay tribute to the 20 plaintiffs in *Briggs* v. *Elliott* who are indeed American heroes.

Harry Briggs, Anne Gibson, Mose Oliver, Bennie Parson, Edward Ragin, William Ragin, Luchrisher Richardson, Lee Richardson, James H. Bennett, and Mary Oliver.

Willie M. Stukes, G. H. Henry, Robert Georgia, Rebecca Richburg, Gabrial Tyndal, Susan Lawson, Frederick Oliver, Onetha Bennett, Hazel Ragin, and Henry Scott.

SAFE FOOD ACTION PLAN ACT

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 1998

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Safe Food Action Plan Act, a bill that will set a national priority for food safety by focusing on prevention and rapid response. The Safe Food Action Plan has been built upon the four pillars of research, consumer education, technology transfer programs, and a federal Rapid Response Team.

I am proud of our Nation's reputation for providing its citizens with the safest food supply in the world. The high standard set by our country is the product of the combined efforts of our agricultural community, researchers and scientists, processors, consumer educators, the business community, state and local governments, and federal regulators. The Safe Food Action Plan recognizes that it is only through this kind of teamwork, from farm to table, that we can continue to guarantee families the food they feed their children is safe.

I am pleased to introduce a bill that represents not only the direction I think this country needs, to guarantee the safety of its food, but the plan the experts believe should be pursued. While drafting the Safe Food Action Plan, I enlisted the help of the food safety community and created the Food Safety Advisory Committee. Membership of the Advisory Committee included scientists and researchers, educators, producers, processors, public health officials, and technology companies. I am especially grateful to the National Food Safety and Toxicology Center at Michigan State University, and its director, Dr. Robert Hollingworth, for hosting the Advisory Committee meetings.

One change identified by the Advisory Committee as being critical for food safety, is the ability for the Secretary of Agriculture to promote multi-disciplinary and integrated research. The science of food safety is a complex pursuit and research institutions need to work together to solve life-threatening problems. The Safe Food Action Plan encourages this type of integrated research at USDA.

The Safe Food Action Plan redirects existing resources at the Department of Agriculture to focus on initiatives that focus on food safety. I was surprised to discover that food safety is not already listed as a priority for such programs as the Fund for Rural America, nor is it listed as a priority for research and consumer education programs funded through Research, Education, and Extension. The Safe Food Action Plan closes the gaps and makes food safety an important component of these programs.

Technology is an important weapon in the war against pathogens. The Safe Food Action Plan amends the Cooperative Research and Development program at USDA (CRADA) to include food safety technology as a priority. In the CRADA program, USDA conducts high risk research that might not be undertaken by private industry but which is needed for the public good. Once the technology is developed, the USDA enters into partnerships with business to bring the ground-breaking research to the market. A wonderful example of cutting-edge food safety technology is the rapid E. coli test developed by the Neogen company, located in my district in Lansing, Michigan. By highlighting food safety as a priority, the Safe Food Action Plan guarantees that the latest and best technology will be available for our nation in defense of public health.

While most of the Safe Food Action Plan focuses on prevention, we all understand that food emergencies may still happen and the government must be prepared. The Safe Food Action Plan creates a federal Rapid Response Team that will be ready to strike when public health is in danger. Rather than adding a layer of bureaucracy, the Safe Food Action Plan focuses existing resources within the federal government toward the combined efforts of the Rapid Response Team. Using the Federal Emergency Management Agency as a model, the Safe Food Action Plan instructs the Secretary of Agriculture to integrate his emergency response plan with the efforts of other agencies in developing the Food Safety Rapid Response Team.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to make a technical clarification. After submitting a very similar bill last week, I discovered that the name of my bill was almost identical to one introduced last year by my colleague, VIC FAZIO. Out of courtesy to my colleague and to avoid confusion regarding our bills I am reintroducing my bill with its official short title today. In future debates and deliberations, please refer to my bill by its new title, the Safe Food Action Plan.

TRIBUTE TO THE 1997 LIBERTY CENTER FOOTBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE OHIO DIVISION V FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 1998

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and pleasure to rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding group of student-athletes from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. This past fall, the Liberty Center High School football team completed a truly memorable season by winning the Ohio High School Athletic Association Division V State Championship.

The 1997 Liberty Center High School football team demonstrated that, with a great deal of hard work, with dedication to the task at hand, and with a strong sense of commitment, you can realize your dreams and make them come true.

The Liberty Center football team achieved more this past year than any other football team in the school's history by winning its first ever State Football Championship. The Tiger Football Team capped off a perfect 14–0 season by easily defeating Amanda Clearcreek in the Division V state championship game held in Massillon, Ohio. The 49-8 victory is the culmination of an effort that started four years ago, when, unfortunately, Liberty Center lost in the title game.

Under the guidance and leadership of Head Coach Rex Lingruen, the Tigers realized a lifelong dream, through a great deal of hard-fought success. As a result of the team's unwavering loyalty for each other, the dedication and commitment to Coach Lingruen, and the enthusiasm they have for the game of football, the 1997 season ended in victory. The unselfish attitude of the Liberty Center Tigers is certainly a good example of what can be accomplished when people work together for a common goal.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Coach Rex Lingruen and the 1997 Division V State Football Champions, the Liberty Center High School Tigers. I would urge all of my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to an outstanding team.