

join me in recognition of this well deserved honor.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO ABIGAIL C. CHUDZINSKI ON HER APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young lady from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Abigail C. Chudzinski. Abby has recently accepted her appointment to attend the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Abby, who is from Fremont, Ohio, will be graduating from St. Joseph Central Catholic High School, and will be preparing for one of the most challenging, rewarding, and educational opportunities of her life: her four-year commitment to the United States Naval Academy.

During her high school career at St. Joseph Central Catholic, Abby has distinguished herself as an exceptional student and a gifted student-athlete. She is currently carrying a 4.35 grade point average, which places her second in a class of eight-six students. She is a member of the National Honor Society, and it listed in the Who's Who Among American High School Students. Abby and her family can certainly be proud of her outstanding scholastic efforts.

Abby has also proven herself as a truly talented and gifted student-athlete. She was the Captain of the Varsity Track and Field Team, and has won numerous league, district, and regional awards in the sport. In addition, Abby has been active in the Key Club, Student Council, and is the President of the St. Joseph High School Band. And, last summer, she participated in the United States Air Force Academy Summer Scientific Seminar.

Mr. Speaker, each year, I have the opportunity to nominate young men and women for appointment to the nation's military academies. I am pleased that Abby has accepted her appointment, and will be joining the incoming Naval Academy Class of 2002. I am sure she will do very well. Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Abigail Chudzinski, and in wishing her well in her future endeavors.

VMI MAKES THE RIGHT MOVES

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member highly commends this May 19, 1998, Omaha World-Herald editorial on the Virginia Military Institute to his colleagues. The Virginia Military Institute is to be complimented for the successful integration of female cadets into an institution that had been a traditional male bastion until the rending of a 1996 U.S. Supreme Court ruling. The Virginia Military Institute has been successful because of its sincere effort

to promote co-educational programs that would foster the positive acceptance and inclusion of women into the institution, and for these reasons are again to be commended.

VMI MAKES THE RIGHT MOVES

Virginia Military Institute, like The Citadel, had a long and proud tradition of educating men and providing military training and discipline. Both Virginia state colleges fought against federal rules requiring them to admit women if they wanted to continue getting public funding.

Both schools fought the order in court. The U.S. Supreme Court decided against VMI in 1996, as it had against The Citadel in 1995. The ruling was not popular. VMI alumni considered buying the college and making it into a private institution rather than go co-ed.

But when the ruling was issued and officials studied the situation, they decided to take the honorable path. They not only admitted women to the institute; they accommodated them.

The women who went to the college last fall were held to the same physical and mental standards as male students. They were yelled at, given push-ups and forced marches, shorn of their hair and sent through obstacle courses, all the while carrying a full college course load.

No quarter given. That is as it should be. Standards are standards.

But VMI was not grudging in its acceptance of co-education. It actively recruited qualified women, winding up with 30 in a class with 430 men. It held seminars on avoiding sexual harassment—required seminars for cadets, faculty and staff.

It hired a female assistant commandant and a female admissions officer. It asked the nation's military academies, which went co-ed 22 years ago, for advice. It brought in female upperclassmen from military programs in Vermont and Texas to act as big sisters for female freshmen.

Seven of the women who enrolled in September quit before finishing. But none cited sexual harassment or unfairness as a reason for leaving. Considering that 74 male freshmen left, too, the difference was not striking.

VMI deserves credit, not only for doing the right thing, but also for doing it the right way.

TRIBUTE TO ST. MARK'S WOMEN'S VARSITY ICE HOCKEY TEAM

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to report to the House on a remarkable achievement—namely, the 1997–98 championship season of the St. Mark's Women's Varsity Ice Hockey Team. The St. Mark's Lions are based in Southborough, Massachusetts.

Each of these players are talented young student-athletes who trained hard, practiced hard and played hard throughout their amazing year. I know their families and friends are as proud of the Lions as I am. On behalf of the citizens of Central Massachusetts, I congratulate the St. Mark's Lions for a job very well done.

The team members are:

ST. MARK'S GIRLS HOCKEY TEAM 1997–98

No.	Position	Year	Name	Hometown
3	D	1998	Hilary Zwerdling	Shrewsbury, MA
4	F	2000	Gretchen Anderson	Wellesley, MA
5	F	1998	Emily Harris	Greenwich, CT
6	D	2000	Kristen Larsen	Dover, MA
10	F	2001	Amy McNaught	Gorham, ME
11	D	1998	Marcia Ingraham	Georgetown, MA
12	F	1999	Catherine Larsen	Dover, MA
13	D	2000	Emily Amorello	Worcester, MA
15	F	1999	Sarah Fairchild	Pawtucket, RI
16	F	1998	Hailey Sullivan	Carlisle, MA
18	D	2000	Kristina Tois	Grafton, MA
20	F	1998	Melissa Yokell	Atkinson, NH
21	F	1998	Maura Crowell	Mansfield, MA
29	G	1999	Melissa Glaser	rockford, IL

Coaches: Wendy Cofran, Dana Pullman.
Captains: Maura Crowell '98, Hilary Zwerdling '09.
Manager: Heather Bates '00.

A recent article in the St. Mark's School newspaper brings to life their championship season and the wonderful team of young women who enjoyed this terrific experience:

[From the St. Marker, May 13, 1998]

GIRLS' ICE HOCKEY WINS THE NEW ENGLANDS!
(By Assistant Editor Allison Lorentzen '99)

On Sunday March 8, another amazing group of St. Mark's women hockey players captured the title New England Champions. Just four months after the Varsity Field Hockey team beat Cushing for the Class B NEPSAC title, the Varsity Ice Hockey team has the pleasure of crushing Middlesex in a 3-0 victory to earn the Division 2 Championship.

At the beginning of the season, the team, with a new coaching staff, was focused on regaining respect from the other ISL teams and hadn't thought ahead too much to the possibility of such a successful post-season. In past years, the St. Mark's team, with players such as Wendy Hall, Laurie Belliveau, and Erin Magee, was feared by their league opponents, as they were league champions in '92, '93 (co-champs), and '94 (co-champs). Maura Crowell made the team in the '94-'95 season as a third former and played with some of the women who developed this tradition of excellence. Experiencing the thrill of playing for such an awesome team, Cromwell looked forward to her next three years as a varsity player; but with the arrival of two new coaches in her fourth form year, she, along with new-comers Hilary Zwerdling, Marcia Ingraham, Melissa Yokell and Emily Harris, suffered through two disappointing seasons. After two seasons well under .500, another change was called for in the coaching staff.

Under the direction of head coach Wendy Cofran and her assistant, Dana Pullman, this year's team trained harder than in the past two years and collected many more wins for their efforts. Capturing their Holiday Tournament gave them confidence and hope for more victories later in the season. These victories did come, including a nail-biting, overtime 3-2 win over St. Paul's down in New York City. As the regular season was drawing to a close St. Mark's rolled by Portsmouth Abbey, Brooks, and BB&N. After handling Groton 6-2, the team clinched a place in the New England Tournament.

With an undefeated record in their division, the team, seeded first, was matched up against fourth seed Greenwich Country Day and had a week of practice to prepare for the semifinal game on March 7 at Cushing Academy. As St. Markers put away their squash racquets, basketballs, and ice skates and dusted off their lacrosse sticks, baseball gloves, and tennis racquets, the Women's Varsity Ice Hockey Team, led by two year co-captains Maura Crowell and Hilary Zwerdling, laced up their skates for a final week, perfecting power plays and strengthening slap shots. After leading the school in a