

fully realize your potential, you can have it all. They did, Mr. Speaker. They fought very, very hard.

The championship of our women's soccer team won on the field in competition this weekend was more than a feel-good athletic victory but a victory for American women everywhere. From Liberty City in my district to Houston, to Los Angeles, the lives and hopes of young women everywhere have been expanded and transformed by a new set of American heroes, real-life role models who are confident, strong and female.

Their victory, however, was not just a victory for one team but a victory for all girls and all women and a victory for all America. And the culmination of a very long process, of title IX. Not too long ago, people said women athletics was perhaps a waste of time and money, that women could not perform. This victory shows, Mr. Speaker, that all that was needed for women was the opportunity to compete on an equal level.

I am a former athlete, Mr. Speaker. I ran track and played basketball in college more than a few years ago. I know the importance of role models in life and sports. I had outstanding role models like Lua Bartley and Babe Minor. Now, Mr. Speaker, little girls and women all across America have a new set of real-life American role models who are driven, determined, aggressive, tough and committed. That is our United States 1999 women's national soccer team.

This weekend's victory was a coming of age for women. In a real sense, it is something you cannot touch or you cannot quantify. Because little girls all over the world, Mr. Speaker, saw strong, independent and capable women playing soccer these past 3 weeks, they will realize that they are not crazy for wanting to do something out of the ordinary, to excel themselves in athletics. They are saying to themselves, "If they can play soccer and win, I can be a CEO of a Fortune 500 company."

Thank God for all of the dedicated soccer moms, Mr. Speaker, in this country that have driven their girls back and forth to rehearsal over and over again. May they continue to provide the continued support that fosters World Cup winners.

I am proud of our women's soccer team and what they have done for our national psyche and for the psyche of Americans from coast to coast. Girl power and the power of women, Mr. Speaker, live on.

IN MEMORY OF ASTRONAUT
CHARLES "PETE" CONRAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, 20 years ago today, the NASA space laboratory Skylab fell to the earth in a

rain of blue, red and orange fire over the Indian Ocean in Australia. I rise today to honor the memory of an astronaut who largely contributed to the success of that program.

Charles "Pete" Conrad, who died last Thursday in a motorcycle accident at the age of 69, began service to his country as a U.S. Navy aviator after graduating from Princeton with an engineering degree. It continued when he was selected as a member of NASA's second class of nine astronauts. He flew on two Gemini missions, setting a space flight endurance record on Gemini 5, and commanded Gemini 11 which docked with another spacecraft, leading the way to the Apollo missions.

He is best known, though, for the distinction of being the third man to walk on the Moon. Apollo 11 captured the world's imagination, but the mission missed its landing site by several miles. Commander Conrad's mission proved that not only could we go to the moon but we can land on our target. This mission goal was essential if any scientific exploration of the moon was going to take place. Unlocking the mysteries that the moon presents requires the ability to excavate specific sites. Apollo 12 and Pete Conrad proved this to be possible.

Five years later, when Skylab was launched into orbit atop a Saturn V rocket, major damage was sustained which would have to be repaired in space if the microgravity laboratory program was to be useful. Pete Conrad answered the call to duty on the first manned mission to the space station. He and his crew mates repaired the damage in three exhaustive EVAs in addition to conducting a number of other experiments over the 3 weeks they spent aboard the station.

When he left NASA, Pete Conrad was never far away. His enterprising spirit took him into the fertile environment of the commercial space industry, first with McDonnell Douglas and then on his own with Universal Space Lines and several sister companies. The visionary Pete Conrad recognized that it will be up to private industry to truly open the commercial markets of space, so he created companies to design reusable launch vehicles and build ground tracking systems, with the goal of making it easier, cheaper and safer to put people and equipment into space.

Through my work on the Committee on Science, I had the pleasure of meeting Pete Conrad, as a matter of fact, most recently several months ago. I have always been impressed by the force of his personality. He seemed to exemplify the maxim of "attitude is altitude." At 5 feet 6 inches, Pete Conrad personified this quip with his eye toward enterprise and adventure.

□ 1915

Though highly regarded as a truly terrific pilot, he had a reputation as a jokester. Upon setting foot on the Moon, he cheered, "Whoopee, that may have been a small one for Neil, but that's a long one for me."

Just last year he joked that he looked forward to his 77th birthday saying, "I fully expect that NASA will send me back to the Moon as they treated Senator Glenn, and if they don't do so, why then I will have to do it myself."

The life of Charles P. Conrad, Jr., serves as an example of the patriotism and sense of adventure that sets the United States apart and makes us all, as Americans, unique. I am proud to have known him in life, I honor him in death, and I marvel, as we all do, at his legacy.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2448

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 2448, a bill to restore fairness to our immigration system. Family reunification is a fundamental principle of U.S. immigration law. Another key principle gives American citizens priority over non-citizens when they seek to bring their relatives here.

Most of the time, Americans get their petitions handled first.

But an aberration arises when Americans seek to bring their unmarried sons and daughters here from the Philippines. In this case, U.S. citizens wait several years longer than legal residents.

The Department of State reports that such U.S. citizen petitions are backlogged to October 1, 1987, while legal resident petitions are backlogged only to August 1, 1992, a difference of five years. The law was never designed to make citizens wait longer than legal residents, and we must correct this problem.

Mr. Speaker, I would like my colleagues to imagine how devastating it is to achieve American citizenship, only to find that this move significantly postpones your own child's visa. It is a heartbreaking task to have to inform constituents of this sad fact.

My bill fixes this irregularity. Simply put, it ensures that a legal resident who files for a son or daughter to immigrate will not have to wait longer for his children to arrive after he gains U.S. citizenship.

U.S. citizenship is a great honor. By passing H.R. 2448, we can ensure that it remains a great privilege as well. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

H.R. 2448

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PREVENTING IMMIGRANTS FROM WAITING LONGER FOR IMMIGRANT VISAS AS A RESULT OF RECLASSIFICATION FROM FAMILY SECOND PREFERENCE TO FAMILY FIRST PREFERENCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 203 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(h) ASSURING IMMIGRANTS DO NOT HAVE TO WAIT LONGER FOR AN IMMIGRANT VISA AS A RESULT OF RECLASSIFICATION FROM FAMILY SECOND PREFERENCE TO FAMILY FIRST PREFERENCE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the case of a petition that has been approved to accord preference status under subsection (a)(2)(A) may be deemed to