

some of the experts would probably have encouraged him to give up.

But the story of Kurt Warner goes on. Not only did he go on to lead the Rams this year to the NFL championship in the Super Bowl and to the MVP award, but I think the story is much more powerful. After the game was over, he gave tribute and paid honor to where the real honor belonged, and he gave all of the glory to his savior, Jesus Christ. I just want to say, it took a special kind of courage for him to do that.

The story, as I say, goes on. Not only has Warner battled obstructions on the field to get where he is, but he has also had his share of off-the-field struggles, as well. His in-laws were killed in a tornado in Mountain View, Arkansas. Kurt and his wife Brenda's oldest son Zachary has been blind since suffering a head injury in an accident when he was a baby. Zachary is only able to see objects that are held very close to his face. He has been that way since he was an infant, when his father, Brenda's first husband, accidentally dropped the child during a bath.

Zachary has head injuries, but Kurt went on to adopt the child. He says later in this interview, "To go home and see how he struggles with everything he does helps keep things in perspective," Warner said. "I have realized how special a child he must be to go through life with the excitement and the joy he has, even though he has to struggle doing everything he does."

The story of Kurt Warner is a powerful story, and we in America I think owe him a big thank you, because for one brief, shining moment, we were all privileged to watch a real hero perform his art and perfect our lives.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I would like to say a special thank you to Kurt Warner. Good luck to he and his wife Brenda. We wish them only the best. As Paul Harvey would say, lead on.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the article of January 29, 2000, from the Post-Bulletin.

The article referred to is as follows:

[From the Post-Bulletin, January 29, 2000]

WARNER HAS STORY TO TELL: QUARTERBACK'S TALE IS MEMORABLE

The story of this Super Bowl is Kurt Warner.

What the St. Louis Rams' quarterback has gone through to become the National Football League's Most Valuable Player this season and to lead his team to the Super Bowl is amazing, utterly amazing.

Here are some things about Warner you might want to keep in mind as you watch him play in Super Bowl XXXIV Sunday against the Tennessee Titans.

He went to high school and college just down Highway 63 from us. Born in Burlington, Iowa, he attended Cedar Rapids Regis High School, lettering in football, basketball and baseball. He played college football at Northern Iowa University in Cedar Falls.

He was redshirted his first year at Northern Iowa, sat the bench for the next three years and started only as a fifth-year senior. Warner wasn't even on full scholarship until

his last year in college. He did pass for 2,747 yards and led Northern Iowa to a Gateway Conference championship in 1993.

Warner wasn't drafted by any NFL teams. He went to the green Bay Packers' training camp in 1994. He was cut before camp was over, but he was there long enough for Packer quarterback Brett Favre to tag him with the nick-name "Pop" Warner.

After he was cut by the Packers he returned to Cedar Falls and worked for six months stocking shelves at the Hy-Vee grocery store there.

Warner went on to play with the Des Moines-based Iowa Barnstormers in the Arena Football League for the next three seasons. He holds virtually all the Barnstormers' passing records, including 79 touchdown passes in one season (1997). He passed for 10,164 yards and 183 touchdowns in three seasons in Iowa.

Warner signed as a free agent with the Rams on Dec. 26, 1997 and then spent the summer of 1998 playing in NFL Europe for the Amsterdam Admirals and led the league in passing and touchdowns.

Warner, a devout Christian, spent time in Amsterdam, a city known for its red light district, leading a bible study class.

Warner rejoined the Rams for the 1998 NFL season, and spent the first 14 games on the inactive list. He saw his first NFL action of his career in the fourth quarter of Rams' final game against San Francisco and completed four of 11 passes for 39 yards.

Warner was back with the Rams this season, only because the Cleveland Browns passed him over in the expansion draft. The line on Warner as he entered this season was: Has potential to develop into a solid quarterback in the league . . . raw talent with outstanding arm strength and accuracy.

The Rams had signed Trent Green who played at Washington last season, to be their quarterback, but he suffered a knee injury in the preseason and was out for the year. In stepped Warner and the rest is history. He led the NFL in passing and with his 41 touchdown passes became only the second player in NFL history to throw for more than 40 touchdowns in a season.

Not only has Warner battled obstacles on the field to get to where he is, but he has had his share of off-the-field hurdles, too. His in-laws were killed in a tornado in Mountain View, Ark., in 1996. Kurt and wife Brenda's oldest Zachary, has been blind since suffering a head injury in an accident when he was a baby.

Zachary, is only able to see objects that are held close to his face. He's been that way since he was an infant, when his father, Brenda's first husband, accidentally dropped the child during a bath. Zachary's head hit the side of the tub, which damaged his brain and ruptured his retinas.

The accident almost killed the child, and doctors warned Brenda that if Zachary lived he'd never be able to see or walk or talk. He survived, despite seizures in the hospital, and when the Warners got married, Kurt adopted the boy, and his sister, Jesse, 8.

"To go home and see how he struggles with everything he does helps me keep things in perspective," Warner said. "I have realized how special a child he must be to go through life with the excitement and joy he has even though he has to struggle doing everything he does."

So that is the Kurt Warner story. It's difficult not to pull for a guy like him.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I begin by congratulating my very good friend, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) for his very thoughtful special order. Representing Los Angeles, the

former home of the Rams, I would like to extend hearty congratulations to Kurt Warner and Dick Vermeil and all associated with the Rams organization for their very impressive and exciting victory towards the end yesterday.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1838, TAIWAN SECURITY ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-490) on the resolution (H. Res. 408) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1838) to assist in the enhancement of the security of Taiwan, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SOUDER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO PROMOTE PIPELINE SAFETY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, on June 10, 1999, a liquid gasoline pipeline owned by the Olympic Pipeline Company ruptured and spilled over 200,000 gallons of gasoline at Whatcom Falls Park, a 241-acre park in my district in the city of Bellingham. Gasoline was carried into Whatcom Creek, where it reportedly filled the creek at depths of up to 10 feet.

The spilled fuel was inadvertently ignited by two 10-year-old boys, Wade King and Stephen Tsiervas, who were playing with bottle rockets at the creek. The resulting fireball raced down the length of the creek for a mile and a half, killing King, Tsiervas, and an 18-year-old fly fisherman named Liam Wood. Swaths as wide as 200 feet along the creek were burned within minutes.

The explosion of June 10 caused millions of dollars in property damage and did immeasurable harm to the families and friends of Wade King, Stephen Tsiervas, and Liam Wood.

I have long held reservations about our system of pipeline safety regulations. In 1996, I voted against the pipeline deregulation bill because I felt it