

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
GREENBACK HIGH SCHOOL
CHEERLEADERS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2001

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year the National Cheerleading Championship was held here in the Nation's Capital. I am pleased that the National Championship Award in the small school varsity division went to the Greenback High School Cheerleaders, from Greenback, Tennessee.

Team members, Traci Russell, Amanda McKeehan, Rebekah Raines, Kristi Evans, Sylvia Martin, Staci Kizer, Lynette Krohnfeldt, Melissa Spring, Chelsey Edmondson and Kallee Brooks are to be congratulated on winning the award for their outstanding performance.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I join all Americans in wishing these young ladies best wishes on a job well done.

I have included a copy of a story written in the Maryville Daily Times describing their winning the National Title that I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

CHEERLEADERS ON CLOUD NINE AFTER
WINNING NATIONAL TITLE

(By Stefan Cooper)

They sat cross legged on the floor, cool, calm and collected as they waited for the word.

Finally, the public address announcer in the ballroom of the Washington Hilton stepped to the microphone.

"And the national champion in the small school varsity division is . . . Greenback High School, Greenback, Tennessee."

"They just went straight up in the air," Pam Tipton, one of two sponsors for the Greenback High School cheerleaders, said.

Since claiming the All-American Cheer and Dance national championship Saturday in the nation's capitol. Traci Russell, Amanda McKeehan, Rebekah Raines, Kristi Evans, Sylvia Martin, Staci Kizer, Lynette Krohnfeldt, Melissa Spring, Chelsey Edmondson and Kallee Brooks have yet to come down.

A large turnout—complete with WKXT Channel 8 in tow—met the team's plane at McGhee Tyson Airport late Saturday.

WATE Channel 6 showed up at the school Monday morning. Two area newspapers scheduled back-to-back interviews with the new champs Tuesday after school.

"The girls haven't had time to shave their legs, and I haven't had time to get my laundry done," Tipton said. "The reaction from the community, the TV stations coming, it's been mind-blowing."

Not to worry.

The team has come up with a catch phrase to deal with their newfound celebrity, Raines said: "Act casual."

The national title comes on the heels of a win in dance at a Universal Cheerleaders Association camp at the University of Tennessee last summer.

Prior to both, Tipton said, the team looked out of sync.

"The week before we went to camp, I said, 'This not going to come together,'" she said. "Put them in front of a crowd and it was, 'Whoa!'"

"Where did these girls come from?"

Regardless of the endeavor, it takes a lot of work to make a champion.

"A lot of people don't think cheerleaders are athletes," said Penny McKee, who co-sponsors the team along with Tipton. "Well, they are athletes. They trained for this."

The team practiced its students for competition 2½ hours a day when not cheering at Greenback sporting events.

Maryville College junior Nicole Johnson, an employee at Maryville's Gymnastics Counts, choreographed the squad's dance routine.

Johnson's friend Adriel McCord supplied the dance mix.

"The shake-your-booty part was their favorite," Johnson said. They stuck every stunt (in Washington). Their tumbling was good.

"They surpassed every expectation."

FEARLESS ONCE ON STAGE

It wasn't as easy as it seemed, Martin said. Prior to taking the stage each day of the two-day competition, everyone was a nervous wreck.

"Once the music starts," she said, "you just think about the routine." There, McKee said, the squad was flawless.

"They hit everything," she said. "It was perfect. That's the best I've ever seen them."

Much of the reason for the impact the championship has generated is due to the size of Greenback.

The school has an enrollment of 600 students, kindergarten through 12th grade. Only 220 of those students are freshmen or above.

At the championships, where the largest squad had 28 members, the size of the Greenback contingent was quick to catch the eye.

"Everywhere the other squads went, they took three or four elevators," McKee said. "We could all cram into one."

CHEMISTRY SPELLS SUCCESS

Key to the squad's success is its chemistry. Tipton said.

"Most of them have cheered from grade school up," she said. "They're really good friends, and they just click."

And when Russell, McKeehan, Raines & Co. took the stage in front of a panel of six judges for the finals Saturday, it carried them through.

"They weren't nervous," Tipton said. "I was scared to death."

"We thought they had a chance to do it, but to actually have it happen is amazing.

"It's like something you see on TV, but you never think you'll be a part of it."

Topping it all off, once the trophy was claimed, Brooks, Raines and Edmondson were named to the championships' All-Star team and will represent AACD at the 2002 NFL Pro Bowl in Honolulu.

TOUR OF THE U.S. CAPITOL

It wasn't all work and no play during their five-day stay in Washington, Russell said.

U.S. Rep. John J. Duncan Jr. gave the team a tour of the Capitol building. U.S. Sen. Bill Frist arranged a visit to the White House.

"We did basket tosses over the gate," Martin joked.

The most memorable part of their visit, though?

"The subway," Russell said. "Definitely."

Kidding aside, they have a lot of people to thank, all 10 members said.

Without Johnson's choreography, it never would have happened, they said.

"We love you, Rudy," Russell said.

McKee, Tipton, classmates, and the town of Greenback, all said, have been tremendous.

"We're honored," Raines said. "We just wanted to make Greenback proud."

PROCLAMATION FOR RAY AND
CATHY JANSEN

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2001

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation for the RECORD.

Whereas, on March 31, 2001, Family Service League is celebrating 75 years of providing comprehensive human services to the Long Island Community with a Gala Celebration entitled: "Restoring Hope . . . Rebuilding Lives," and

Whereas, on that evening, Family Service League will be honoring Catherine and Raymond Jansen for their many years in service to the Long Island Community, and

Whereas, Catherine and Raymond Jansen, both as individuals and as a team, have epitomized and set the standard for dedicated service to the Long Island community with their strong commitment to philanthropy and dedication to family, and

Whereas, Catherine Jansen, in addition to serving as a member of Family Service League's Board of Directors, is also Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Hecksher Museum and serves on the Boards of Caumsett Park Foundation, Project R.E.A.L., United Way's Success by Six and the Three Harbors Garden Club, and

Whereas, Raymond Jansen, in addition to his recent appointment as Senior Vice President of the Tribune Publishing Company, and as president, publisher and CEO of Newsday, is known for his community service on many boards and philanthropies and for his leadership in bringing recognition to Long Island's everyday volunteers through Newsday's Winners Column, Every Day Heroes, and the Long Islander of the Century and FutureCorps. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That Catherine and Raymond Jansen, are here recognized in the United States Capitol for their many years of unselfish service to the Long Island community and will be presented with this Proclamation in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION
FOR COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW
OF THE FAA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2001

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing a bill calling for a tough, comprehensive review of the Federal Aviation Administration. The legislation would establish a commission to focus on the critical need to improve aviation safety and to reduce airline delays. It would examine both air traffic services and safety oversight by the FAA, and make recommendations on both the organizational structure and processes of the agency.

This is the perfect time, with a new administration entering the White House, for an unbiased, impartial and independent commission to begin working toward a solution to make our skies safer and our airports more efficient. We owe it to the American traveling public to make our skies as safe as possible and to put an end to the horrendous delays we so often hear about and experience.