

one will ever claim that these young men and Coach Williams failed to earn the title "champion."

The Terrapin team, led by senior guard Juan Dixon, who overcame incredible adversity in his life, losing his two parents when he was just a teen, Juan Dixon took their loyal fans through the peaks and valleys of competition, and we shared their deep disappointments, but yes, we shared their final joy, as well.

Juan's superb shooting and defense were as crucial to this team's success as was Steve Blake's ballhandling and passing ability, Lonnie Baxter's powerful inside game and rebounding, Chris Wilcox's fierce blocks, and Byron Mouton's energy, hustle, spark, and extraordinary defense.

It is a tribute to this team's depth that practically every member, every nonstarter, entered the game and we picked up points, be it Tahj Holden; Calvin McCall; Andre Collins; Drew Nicholas, an extraordinary young guard who would have started on any other team in the country; Ryan Randle; Earl Badu; and Mike Grinnon, 12 extraordinary young people. The Terrapins would actually increase their lead when those young people filled in for our starters.

This championship, of course, is the ultimate tribute to the architect of the men's basketball program, Gary Williams. There can be no doubt, Gary is one of the finest coaches in college athletics today, but that was true regardless of the outcome of last week's final championship game. Gary has been a winner wherever he has coached, amassing an extraordinary record of 481 career wins in 24 years. He was a winner at American University, Boston College, and Ohio State University before returning to his alma mater and becoming the champion.

Gary was not alone, of course. He was ably assisted by Dave Dickerson, Jimmy Pastos, Matt Kovarik, and director of basketball operations Troy Wainwright.

I must point out, Mr. Speaker, the contributions of Dr. Deborah Yow, the university's athletic director, one of two women in America who head up a major program. In her 8 years in that position, she has laid the groundwork not only for this national championship and an Orange Bowl appearance by the football team this year, but also for a national all-sports ranking in the top 15 percent of the NCAA Division One institutions.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I know that all the Members of the House join me in congratulating the University of Maryland Terrapins for a championship hard won and well earned.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me observe that the University of Maryland now becomes one of five teams in history to have a team that won both the National Football Championship and the National Basketball Championship.

Gary Williams, Maryland Terrapins, thank you, thank you for a great year and for great examples.

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

(Mr. FOLEY 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 the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AMERICA SHOULD PRACTICE ENGAGEMENT TO PROMOTE WORLD PEACE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I just want to add my congratulations to those of the distinguished gentleman from Maryland. I, too, was proud of those young men as very fine examples for the young people of America. Congratulations again for both of their success stories.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this is an important time as we return back from the work recess that Members were just participating in. I believe it is an important time because we have many challenges before us besides the domestic economy. We have the issue of peace. I do believe that Americans want peace. I believe the world wants peace, and that peace we want to be found in the Mideast.

I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues an editorial in the Houston Chronicle today, Tuesday, April 9. It reads: "Weapons Check. Measure of trust and hope in IRA announcement."

The first two paragraphs read, "While so much attention is focused on the near-war in the Mideast, one of the world's other long-running sectarian struggles got a bit of good news with the announcement on Monday of further weapon decommissioning by the Irish Republican Army.

"This week marks the fourth anniversary of the signing of the historic 'Good Friday Agreement,' through which the British government offered to trade a number of significant governance concessions in exchange for similar moves from the Irish Republican resistance, including the 'decommissioning,' or putting out of commission, of illegal explosives and other weapons."

While the op ed goes on to raise concerns on whether or not they are making sure that all the Ts are crossed and the Is are dotted, it did end with the emphasis that we must have trust and we must have hope.

I cite this opinion because I want to discuss this evening the value of diplo-

macy and the value of negotiations. I believe the tragedy which faces us in the Mideast has come about for a number of reasons, and I am sure that policymakers proficient in foreign policy issues as it relates to the Mideast over a long period of years will have many, many analyses on the Mideast crisis. But I certainly would point to one that I believe and hope we can turn around, and that is the lack of engagement.

On the floor of the House on February, 2001, I spoke to this issue. It was shortly after the unfortunate lack of agreement on the agreement that had been negotiated by the past administration, a very effective agreement that Prime Minister Barak and we would have hoped that President Arafat would have considered as one of the best opportunities for trust and hope.

It was not consummated, but in the lack of consummating that peace treaty, I believe this administration made an egregious error. Upon coming into office, their quick response was, let them handle it; let them solve it.

We see now some 12, 13 months later that, tragically, that did not work. We have seen the loss of lives of women and men and children, of Israelis and Palestinians. Any of us who care for human life and love people are tragically, tragically upset that we have lost so many lives over the period of time.

Advocates for the survival and existence of Israel, our friend and ally, recognize that no loss of life, no matter who it is, should be accepted, the loss of life of those who lived in the Palestinian areas or in Israel.

We recognize that we who are Americans have both benefit and burden. When I speak to my constituents, I explain to them the importance of foreign policy and the appropriation of the small percentage that we utilize to engage in diplomacy and friendship around the world. And most of them, people of good will, people who are willing to think outside of the box, understand that we who have the benefit of living in this country also have the burden of engagement; no, I did not say sending troops everywhere around the world, but diplomacy. Diplomacy works.

Tragically, as I attended a Passover seder this past Passover holiday with my friends, a very blessed time, we were facing tragedies of suicide bombers in Israel. We cannot tolerate that, as we cannot tolerate the continued warring that is going on, and the loss of life.

Today it is reported that 13 Israeli soldiers were killed, again by a suicide bomber. None of this brings about peace. I am reminded by the words of President Lyndon Baines Johnson 40 years ago who said that the guns and bombs, the rockets and warships, all are symbols of human failure. That means it is most important that this administration turns around and begins to look long-term at engagement.