

I am proud to call Tony Stewart a fellow Hoosier, and I once again congratulate him on this remarkable accomplishment.

HONORING RETIRING HAMBURG  
TOWN SUPERVISOR PATRICK H.  
HOAK

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 15, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and great pleasure to rise today to honor one of Western New York's premiere elected leaders, and someone who has given nearly twenty years of dedicated service to the residents and taxpayers of the town of Hamburg. I rise today to honor retiring Hamburg Town Supervisor Patrick H. Hoak.

Pat Hoak's love for government service was sparked by the example of his father, the late State Senator Bertrand H. Hoak. Through the years, Pat has served Hamburg as a community leader, a sports and youth league coach, a teacher and a longtime businessman. In 1987, however, he assumed more official duties in the town as a member of the Town Board.

First elected to the Town Board in 1987, Pat served as Councilman until his initial election as Town Supervisor in 1993. As Councilman, Pat put a great deal of focus on the expansion of recreational programs and facilities for town residents, including the expansion of the town's golf course.

Starting in 1992 and for thirteen years afterward, Pat Hoak presided over one of the most efficiently-run town governments in New York State.

As Supervisor, Pat's leadership resulted in the creation of nationally acclaimed programs for Senior Citizens. His administration resulted in an unprecedented level of cooperation between government and the private sector in quality of life issues, including combating drug addiction and family violence. Working with other dedicated town leaders, Pat helped turn the town of Hamburg into a model for town governments statewide, winning awards for fiscal responsibility and making Hamburg into a premiere suburban town for residents to live, work and raise a family.

The Hoak family has been very blessed over the years, and the family has given much back to the community it loves so dearly. For his nearly twenty years of public service and his many decades of community service, the town of Hamburg is better for the contributions made to it by Pat Hoak. We thank him for his service to our community, and wish Pat and his family all the best of good luck and God-speed in all of his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LOXLEY  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON BEING  
NAMED "STATE CHAMPION" BY  
THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON  
PHYSICAL FITNESS AND SPORTS

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 15, 2005*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to congratulate

Loxley Elementary School on receiving the State Champion Award by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

The President's Challenge Physical Activity and Fitness Awards program, available to the Nation's schools since 1966, offers presidential recognition and awards for fitness to all participating young people.

The State Champion award is presented annually to three schools in each state having the highest number of students scoring at or above the 85th percentile on the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Test.

As a State Champion, Loxley Elementary School is a role model for other schools because of its dedication to helping students encourage physical activity and gain fitness skills along with an understanding of the health benefits of being regularly active. Encouraging adequate amounts of daily physical activity is an excellent way to instill healthy lifestyle habits at an early age.

The five assessments of the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Test measure four components of physical fitness: a one-mile run/walk for heart and lung endurance; curl-ups for abdominal strength and endurance; a "sit and reach" stretch for muscular flexibility; pull-ups for upper body strength and endurance; and a shuttle run for agility.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Loxley Elementary School in Loxley, Alabama, for this honor. This school deserves public recognition and our appreciation for their concerted efforts to instill healthy lifestyle habits in the youth of south Alabama.

HONORING SSGT DANIEL CLAY,  
USMC

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 15, 2005*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this week I attended the funeral of SSgt Daniel Clay. Sergeant Clay was from my district and one of ten Marines killed by an IED in Fallujah, Iraq on December 1, 2005.

Dan's father, Bud Clay, shared with me a letter his son wrote to his loved ones before he was killed. Accompanying his son's letter was a letter Bud had written to President Bush. Mr. Clay asked me to take this to Congress and share with you so that we could all see Dan's final thoughts and wishes.

May God Bless SSgt Daniel Clay, his family, our veterans, our troops, and the United States of America.

MOM, DAD, KRISTIE, JODIE, KIMBERLY, ROBERT, KATY, RICHARD, AND MY LISA: Boy do I love each and every one of you. This letter being read means that I have been deemed worthy of being with Christ. With MaMa Jo, MaMa Clay, Jennifer . . . all those we have been without for our time during the race. This is not a bad thing. It is what we hope for. The secret it out. He lives and His promises are *real!* It is not faith that supports this . . . But fact and I now am a part of the promise. Here is notice! Wake up! All that we hope for is *Real*. Not a hope. But *Real*.

But here is something tangible. What we have done in Iraq is worth any sacrifice. Why? Because it was our duty. That sounds simple. But all of us have a duty. Duty is defined as a God given task. Without duty life is worthless. It holds no type of fulfillment.

The simple fact that our bodies are built for work has to lead us to the conclusion that God (who made us) put us together to do His work. His work is different for each of us. Mom, yours was to be the glue of our family, to be a pillar for those women (all women around you), Dad, yours was to train and build us (like a Platoon Sgt) to better serve Him. Kristie, Kim, Katy you are the five team leaders who support your Squad ldrs, Jodie, Robert and Richard. Lisa you too. You are my XO and you did a hell of a job. You all have your duties. Be thankful that God in His wisdom gives us work. Mine was to ensure that you did not have to experience what it takes to protect what we have as a family. This I am so thankful for. I know what honor is. It is not a word to be thrown around. It has been an Honor to protect and serve all of you. I faced death with the secure knowledge that you would not have to. This is as close to Christ-like I can be. That emulation is where all honor lies. I thank you for making it worthwhile.

As a Marine this is not the last Chapter. I have the privilege of being one who has finished the race. I have been in the company of heroes. I now am counted among them. Never falter! Don't hesitate to honor and support those of us who have the honor of protecting that which is *worth* protecting.

Now here are my final wishes. Do not cry! To do so is to not realize what we have placed all our hope and faith in. We should not fear. We should not be sad. Be thankful. Be so thankful. All we hoped for is true. Celebrate! My race is over, my time in war zone is over. My trials are done. A short time separates all of us from His reality. So laugh. Enjoy the moments and your duty. God is wonderful.

I love each and every one of you.

Spread the word . . . Christ lives and He is *Real*.

SEMPER FIDELIS,

PENSACOLA, FL,  
*December 7, 2005.*

President GEORGE BUSH,  
*The White House,  
Washington, DC.*

DEAR PRESIDENT BUSH: My name is Bud Clay. My son, SSgt Daniel Clay—USMC was killed last week, 12/01/05, in Iraq. He was one of the ten Marines killed by the IED in Fallujah.

Dan was a Christian—he knew Jesus as Lord and Savior—so we know where he is. In his final letter (one left with me for the family—to be read in case of his death) he says "if you are reading this, it means my race is over." He's home now—his and our real home.

I am writing to you—to tell you how proud and thankful we (his parents and family) are of you and what you are trying to do to protect us all. This was Dan's second tour in Iraq—he knew and said that his being there was to protect us.

I want to encourage you. I hear in your speeches about "staying the course". I also know that many are against you in this "war on Terror" and that you must get weary in the fight to do what is right. We and many others are praying for you to see this through—as Lincoln said, "that these might not have died in vain".

You have a heavy load—we are praying for you.

God bless you,

BUD CLAY.