

women's soccer team for winning the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I National Championship. The Pilots completed an undefeated season, capturing the National Championship by scoring four goals in their final game against the University of California, Los Angeles.

Not only is this the University of Portland's second championship in four years, but the 2005 season was the most successful for the team to date. The Pilots set the University's women's soccer record with an undefeated season.

The story of the 2005 season is illustrated with broken records. The loyal fans of the University of Portland set the NCAA season attendance record for both men's and women's soccer teams and led the Nation in average home attendance.

There is no way one could speak to the accomplishments of the University of Portland soccer program without heralding the amazing talent of the coaching staff, both past and present. The program was brought to excellence by the late Clive Charles who was respected by soccer enthusiasts worldwide. In 2002, Charles led the Pilots to their first ever championship in any sport. Sadly, Charles died in 2003 from complications of prostate cancer.

With Head Coach Garrett Smith now at the helm, the Pilots have continued their superiority on the soccer field. Coach Smith has devoted 18 honorable years to the University of Portland soccer program, both as a player and a coach, and his ability to lead his team with creativity and vision has earned him great respect.

I wish warm congratulations to every player, coach, student, alumnus, faculty member, and supporter of the University of Portland. There is much to celebrate up on the "Bluff" and the women's soccer team is a great example of the excellence the University produces and I hope you will join me in supporting this resolution.

STATEMENT ON METHYL BROMIDE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I gave the attached statement, in support of the banning of methyl bromide on February 15, 2006.

STATEMENT OF REP. DENNIS J. KUCINICH, SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND RESOURCES, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM: HEARING ON "METHYL BROMIDE: ARE U.S. INTERESTS BEING SERVED BY THE CRITICAL USE EXEMPTION PROCESS?"

I was dismayed when I learned that today we would be discussing efforts to perpetuate—and possibly increase—the use of methyl bromide. Continuing to allow it to be manufactured and used is bad for the environment, bad for human health, bad for international relations, bad economics, and is simply unnecessary.

Methyl bromide has been responsible for a significant amount of the degradation of our protective ozone layer. In 2005, the size of the resulting hole in that layer over the Antarctic reached 9.4 million square miles, an area almost as big as the combined areas of the U.S. and Canada, according to NASA. Current estimates say that it will take another 50 years for the hole to repair itself.

Too much UV-B, which is filtered by the ozone layer, causes cataracts and suppresses our immune systems, making us more vulnerable to viruses and bacteria. It also contributes to skin cancer. It was this threat to human health that was a major reason that the international community agreed to ban it. It was a display of unprecedented cooperation in the face of an environmental threat.

Methyl bromide puts our own workers and consumers at risk too. When it is injected into the soil, it kills almost every living thing in the soil. It is no wonder that it also causes chronic health problems for the workers who apply it and the nearby communities who are also exposed to it. Exposure has effects on the neurological system including functional impairment, lethargy, twitching, tremors, and paralysis in extreme cases. It has also been linked to prostate cancer and birth defects in some studies.

Continuing the manufacture of methyl bromide is bad economics. Since the international community agreed to phase out methyl bromide, companies who play by the rules have been planning for its phaseout. They have incurred real financial costs by investing in alternatives, anticipating the phase-out required by the Montreal Protocol. Failing to adhere to the U.S. promise to phase out methyl bromide puts these companies who were playing by the rules at an unfair competitive disadvantage. Those who do the right thing and obey the law should be rewarded for their good faith efforts, not punished.

Consider the international relations implications as well. An attempt to let the U.S. allow methyl bromide to be used without going through the specified channels—like other countries are required to do—would further harm our standing in the international community. It sends a signal to other countries that we will only honor our agreements until we change our mind. It harms negotiations on future agreements. It furthers the stereotype of the U.S. as the bull in the proverbial global china shop.

The EPA is currently trying to address the methyl bromide issue by substituting chemicals, like methyl iodide, that aren't as harmful to the ozone layer but are still highly toxic. Instead, we need to look to alternatives for pest control that not only preserve the ozone layer but also protect worker health, community health, consumer health, and ecological health. In fact, that's exactly what Americans want.

One of the biggest growth industries right now is organic food. According to the Congressional Research Service, "The annual rate of market growth since 1990 has remained steady at about 20%." When given a choice between food grown with toxic chemicals or food grown organically, people choose the latter, especially when the price is comparable, which is increasingly the case as economies of scale become more prevalent.

One of methyl bromide's biggest uses is for strawberry crops. Jake Lewin, director of marketing for California Certified Organic Farmers says "... strawberries can be grown without pesticide. We've got 60 growers who don't use (methyl bromide) ... The bottom line is small and large growers have successfully produced strawberries without pesticides."

So we are talking about yielding to the management of chemical producers and agribusiness—who by the way rarely have to apply the toxic pesticide themselves or live in the adjacent communities—at a drastic cost to our health and that of the earth. It speaks to a systematic deference to corporations at the expense of the biological systems on which we intimately depend for life. It is unwise and unnecessary. I call for the immediate and permanent phase-out of methyl bromide.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNSON COUNTY,
KANSAS, AFRICAN-AMERICAN
TRAILBLAZERS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to lend my support and appreciation to the Johnson County, Kansas, chapter of the NAACP, whose Youth Council, along with the Johnson County Library, will be holding a program at the Mount Olive Baptist Church in Merriam, Kansas, on Saturday, February 18th, to honor and reflect upon Johnson County's African-American "trailblazers." Specifically, this program will honor the following six individuals, families and organizations:

JULIUS MCFARLIN

Julius McFarlin, born in Conway, Arkansas, was instrumental in organizing the chartering of the Branch of the NAACP in Johnson County. While waiting for the Branch to be officially chartered, McFarlin served as its President from 1972–1977. In September 1977 the Branch, named the Merriam, Kansas, NAACP, was chartered and Mr. McFarlin continue serving as its President until 1998. McFarlin is still active with the Branch and is a Life-Time Member.

Not only is Mr. McFarlin a "Trailblazer" with his work with the NAACP, in 1973, McFarlin realized a need to become involved in the community and was elected to the Merriam City Council, Precinct One, Ward One—thus becoming the first African-American elected to a political office in Johnson County, Kansas. McFarlin served until 2000.

Believing in giving back to the community in which he so faithfully served, McFarlin's community involvement includes managing baseball teams for youths; prior service on the Board of South Park Neighborhood Council; a current member of the Mt. Olive Baptist Church, in which he serves as the Chairman of the Trustee Board; and prior service on the Johnson County Mental Health Board; Public Works Board and City Finance Committee.

Married to his bride of 60 years, the lovely Marzella (Wilson) McFarlin, Julius McFarlin is truly a Johnson County "Trailblazer".

DR. NORGE W. JEROME

Dr. Norge W. Jerome, a Nutritional Anthropologist, International Health and Nutrition Scientist, and Women in Development Specialist, is currently Professor Emeritus of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. Dr. Jerome has served as Senior Research Fellow at the Center for University Cooperation in Development, Bureau of Science and Technology, U.S. Agency for International Development (A.I.D.), Department of State, in Washington, D.C., and as Director of the Office of Nutrition at A.I.D. Dr. Jerome also served as Interim Associate Dean for Minority Affairs, at the University of Kansas School of Medicine, as well as having published widely, with 2 books and over 100 articles to her credit.

Dr. Jerome was born and raised on the southern Caribbean island of Grenada and came to the United States to