

set a new world record in the men's 1,500-meter event at the International Skating Union all-around speed skating world championships in Calgary, Canada. Davis finished in 1:42.68 lowering the previous world record by 0.1 second (1:42.78).

These remarkable accomplishments are a testament to Shani Davis' courage and reflect his many years of hard work, dedication, and sacrifice. I am particularly proud to know that Shani Davis' journey to sports greatness has deep roots in the 9th Congressional District of Illinois. Shani Davis lived in the Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago and began his speed skating experience at the tender age of six under the tutelage of Sanders Hicks at the Robert Crown Ice Rink in Evanston. Shani Davis trained and enhanced his skills as a member of the Speed Skating Club at Robert Crown.

Even though he has already established an outstanding speed skating career, I believe that the future will be even richer and brighter for Shani Davis. I have witnessed his interactions with young people and I know his experiences have helped spark their imaginations and inspired them to achieve greatness in their own lives. The lessons of setting high goals, being persistent and believing in yourself are lessons that all children need to learn, lessons that are abundantly evident in the power of Shani Davis' example.

Shani Davis' world record and outstanding contributions to the legacy of the Olympics will forever serve as a source of pride and inspiration for the people of Evanston, Chicago, and all Americans. In honor of his remarkable achievements, I offer Shani Davis this United States flag as a symbol of appreciation, esteem and good wishes. This flag was flown over the United States Capital building in Washington, DC and is a fitting gift for a patriot and champion.

On behalf of the people of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, I offer Shani Davis my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for his continued excellence.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
WELLINGTON TIMOTHY MARA

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and achievements of Wellington T. Mara, co-owner of the New York Football Giants. Mr. Mara will always be remembered for his accomplishments with the NFL. However, his legacy extends far beyond the gridiron. He was much more than the successful owner of a professional football team—he was a community leader, a dedicated family patriarch, a devout man of faith, and an outstanding American.

Wellington Mara was a devoted husband to his wonderful wife Anne, a loving father to his eleven children, an adoring grandfather to his 42 grandchildren, and a role model to all who knew him. When called to serve his nation, Wellington did so proudly as a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy during World War II. Later in life, Mara served his community as a member of the board of the

Giants Foundation, an organization that provides important social and financial support to underprivileged youth and their families in the New York/New Jersey Metropolitan Area.

Mr. Mara's foresight helped to turn the NFL into the successful American enterprise that it is today. In the early 1960's, Wellington and his brother, Jack Mara, as co-owners of the most profitable team in the NFL, put the league ahead of their team by agreeing to share lucrative television revenue equally among all NFL teams. The current success of the NFL is a tribute to the esteemed character and selfless sacrifice of the Mara brothers. They proved to the NFL and to the nation that honorable business practices and teamwork can indeed generate great success.

Mr. Mara was well respected within the Giants organization and throughout the NFL. He was extremely loyal to players, coaches, employees, and especially the fans. He treated everyone with whom he came into contact with great respect. Under Wellington Mara's leadership, the Giants appeared in 26 postseasons, won 16 NFL divisional championships and 6 NFL championships, including the remarkable title runs in 1986 and 1990 (Super Bowls XXI and XXV) that captivated the entire New York/New Jersey area. The leadership of Wellington Mara made the Giants a wonderful organization that I am proud to have in my district.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that my colleagues will join with me in honoring the life of this exceptional man. We should all be so fortunate to leave such a tremendous legacy.

CHALLENGES FACING CARIBBEAN
REGION AS IT FACES INTEGRA-
TION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise again to strongly support the words spoken by the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Honorable P.J. Patterson, in an effort to bring to light challenges facing the region and his proposals for what actions need to take place to secure a brighter future for the Caribbean nations. I would also like to enter into the RECORD the second portion of his speech delivered March 9 to the Protocolary Session of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States on the theme of "Caribbean Integration In Emerging Hemispheric Relations".

DEMOCRACY, SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT

I am convinced that unless we focus in a meaningful way on the intrinsic link between democracy, good governance and international security on the one hand, and development on the other, our goals for peace, stability and political and economic security will always remain elusive. We must therefore address the development agenda with the same energy and commitment as we have sought to strengthen the democratic agenda, giving each equal dedication, in order that the benefits of democracy can be widely felt to improve the quality of life for our peoples.

When Heads of Government of the Hemisphere met during the 4th Summit of the Americas in Mar del Plata, Argentina last November, we jointly committed ourselves to the task of Creating Jobs to Fight Pov-

erty and Strengthen Democratic Governance in the Hemisphere. Our Declaration, issued at the end of the meeting, was a clarion call for sustained, long term and equitable economic growth that creates jobs, reduces poverty, eliminates hunger and raises the standard of living for the most vulnerable sectors and social groups in our diverse societies. We also stressed the need to expand trade, as a means of boosting growth and our capacity to generate more, higher quality, and better-paying jobs.

As small open economies, CARICOM countries are highly dependent on trade as the primary driver of economic and social growth, and by extension the stability and democracy of the region.

In 1994, when we launched the Summit of the Americas process, Jamaica and the rest of CARICOM readily put our efforts and scarce human, financial and technical resources into ensuring that our collective vision of prosperity in the Americas would become a reality. Four years later, we formally launched the FTAA negotiations, fully cognizant of the contribution that economic integration and trade liberalization in the Americas could make to create jobs, fight poverty and strengthen democratic governance in our Hemisphere.

It is with disappointment that on the eve of my departure from office as Prime Minister of Jamaica and Chairman of the Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee on External Negotiations of CARICOM, the FTAA is faltering on the rock of political will.

CARICOM is fully committed to the goal and objectives of the Summit of the Americas generally. If the FTAA has no future, we must be realistic and begin to explore new alternatives. Given the slow progress to date in the Doha Development Round of multilateral negotiations, we need to find a hemispheric impetus for advancing discussions on key issues in the WTO.

For example, the Work Programme for Small Economies in the DDA as well as the recent Aid For Trade initiative could build on the initiatives and acceptance by Hemispheric Heads at our Fourth Summit, that smaller economies should be recognised as a special category of countries. Special and differential treatment in favour of smaller economies have to be an accepted fundamental principle of whatever negotiations we pursue.

Our collective vision of growth, economic prosperity and stability for the Hemisphere must not be confined to the narrow territorial boundaries of the hemisphere. Let us broaden the boundaries of our collaboration beyond the OAS and the United Nations. It is high time for the Caribbean and Latin American countries to pool our collective bargaining resources in the WTO, where we also have common goals and concerns.

Every effort must be made to bring Haiti into full participating in the various trade negotiations in the hemisphere and the WTO. In this case, there can be no question about the need for special and differential treatment and technical assistance.

Let me place on record the appreciation of CARICOM for the contribution of OAS and CIDA to technical assistance and capacity building. As we contemplate the multiple trade agendas facing our region, there will be need for sustained assistance to ensure our adjustment and implementation of these new obligations.

How can we then ensure that actions taken at the hemispheric level dovetail automatically into the regional development agenda, the two processes working simultaneously towards a united objective? I will return to my own thoughts on this later in my presentation.

INTEGRATION—A RESPONSE TO GLOBALISATION

The emergence of various economic blocs across the globe is not mere coincidence, but a natural progression towards strengthening the ability of individual countries to use their collectivity to face the new era of international economic relations.

Smaller units operating on their own can no longer be viable counterweights in this rapidly changing world. Based on this recognition, we in this hemisphere have not shied away from the inevitable and we see the integration movement as our best response to the challenges we face. The establishment of CARICOM, MERCOSUR, THE Andean Group et al, are therefore regional "lifelines" cast upon the turbulent waters of globalisation.

Let me share briefly with you, some of the challenges we face in the Caribbean. We have been seriously affected by the EU's stipulation as it relates to bananas and sugar.

In the case of the former, we have expressed the importance of the higher tariff of Euro 275/t to ensure adequate protection is in place for our farmers.

For sugar, the proposed cut of some 39% is a grave concern for us, as is the proposed timetable for implementation over a four-year period.

In 2004 damage from Hurricane Dennis totalled some US\$40million. The impact was much greater in 2005, with more hurricanes affecting the agricultural and tourism sectors, and even more horrible damage to our infrastructure.

Through these illustrations, which in some cases may be magnified based on the country in the region you choose, I proffer today, that our solutions for the various sub-regions we represent and by extension, the hemisphere, cannot be simple, unilateral or implemented overnight.

CARICOM formally launched the Single Market just over a month ago and we hope to move towards the Single Economy by 2008, as we had envisaged in the Grand Anse Declaration of 1989 in Grenada.

We have, through the methodical, comprehensive and measured approach, taken the necessary steps to ensure that our modus operandi, carries with it the philosophy, that no country will be left behind. For this reason, we in CARICOM have been careful to elaborate plans for a Regional Development Fund to assist in the adjustment period. We also fervently believe that at the hemispheric level, no country should be left behind.

Over the years and even now, we have put in place a number of other institutional arrangements that seek to ensure a structured operation through which we hope any future transition can be seamless and effective. CARICOM Heads entertain no misconceptions of the challenges we face. If we are to effectively deliver on the objectives in our revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, we must take some bold steps and remain unwavering in the commitment to achieve the targets.

The moment has arrived for us to now seek solid bipartisan commitment to national and regional goals, which will then translate into full integration into other institutional arrangements. The strength of governance will only be enhanced when we are able to replace the retracing of steps by different administrations, with a brisk walk forward towards our common goals.

Education must be an engine driving growth and pushing development. The technology-driven world we live in today demands knowledge, skills, research and solutions, and a thirst for answers by our youth. We must facilitate that process at all levels to ensure that progression from one level to the other, from one discipline to the next,

takes place consistently. If we are to achieve these objectives as outlined in the Millennium Development Goals, the Charters of the Organization and the Strategic Plan, we must act now on this other pillar of development.

Justice and the rule of law in all its forms, at all levels, must exist without compromise or prejudice. We have to exercise the will to maintain law and order, not merely through the imposition of penalties but through the encouragement of a sense of just, law-abiding and ordered behaviour by all our citizens. Too much of our resources are being spent on managing conflict and security and therefore preventing us from providing more, as opposed to securing less, as we do now.

Sometimes when we seek to solve larger problems, such as the challenges to globalisation, we over-think and over-analyse them and by-pass the adherence to the fundamentals. We must always be mindful of the basic elements, the smallest cogs in the wheels, the importance of measurements.

Let me now address an issue which is very close to my heart. The conduct of international and institutional relations can only be improved when we allow principle, integrity, honour and justice to prevail. The people we lead and the interests we serve are looking to us to provide enlightened and inspired leadership. That expectation becomes magnified with every decision we are called upon to take, because we are more interdependent than we have ever been before.

Security, health and environment issues remind us daily of our own vulnerability as individuals and countries and behave us to be mindful of these concerns at all levels. The recent outrage in the Muslim world recalls for us the far-reaching effect of our actions and by extension our own intolerances. We must guard against these inclinations.

Inclusion and inclusiveness must be one of the principles which we use to dovetail our own actions and create what I would call concentric circles of goodwill. The old adage holds true today that "we will reap what we sow". Let us be mindful of the seeds we put down today, to avoid reaping bitter fruits in the future.

Sixty years after its creation, the OAS is summoned to face bold new challenges which confront our entire Hemisphere. In order to adequately respond, the modality by which it operates must change. It must avoid sterile debate and become an instrument of positive change.

This requires that it become an effective Institution for decision-making at the highest political and economic levels. This must be your quest for the decade ahead.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has indeed been a pleasure for me to address you today; to share my thoughts and to issue a charge and a challenge to you all. As life and experience have taught me, the process of learning never ends. As we learn we must impart, for in the words of Khalil Gibran—"to withhold is to die". We have a tremendous responsibility to make the world safer and better, for those who have placed their confidence in us. We have many opportunities to do so everyday by our own conduct and leadership. Let us not deny ourselves a Hemisphere of social justice where peace, prosperity and harmony will prevail.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MAINE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL'S WE THE PEOPLE: THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION PROGRAM

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, from April 29–May 1, 2006, approximately 1,200 students from across the country will visit Washington, D.C., to take part in the national finals of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. The We the People program is administered by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

I am proud to announce that a team from Maine Township High School, located in my Congressional district, will represent the State of Illinois in this prestigious national event. These outstanding students, through their knowledge of the Constitution, won their statewide competition and earned the chance to come to our nation's capital and compete at the national level.

While in Washington, the students will participate in a 3-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which they "testify" before a panel of judges. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles as they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues.

We the People students display great political tolerance and commitment to the principles and values of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. With many reports and surveys indicating the lack of civic knowledge and civic participation, I am pleased to support such a superb program that is producing an engaged citizenry.

Mr. Speaker, the names of the outstanding students from Maine Township who will be participating in the national finals are:

Lauren Allegritti, Cailin Bake, Katy Bratko, J.P. Carolan, Liz Chao, Rebecca Christopher, George Gianakakos, Melissa Hansen, Katherine Hapeman, Andrew Juiris, Natalie Kociubinski, David Krone, Chris Lenzini, Matt Lenzini, Meghan Machon, Meghan McKelvey, Christine Recsetar, Pat Rhine, Mike Ross, Janelle Santos, Christina Solari, Amanda Swanson, Bill Warnock, and Mary Yu.

I also wish to commend their teacher, Andrew Trenkle, who is responsible for preparing these young constitutional experts for the national finals. Also worthy of special recognition is Patton Feichter, the state coordinator, and John Heuman, the district coordinator, who are among those responsible for implementing the We the People program in my district.

I wish these students much success as they prepare to compete at the We the People national finals, and I applaud their outstanding achievement.