

HONORING MELISSA JONES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Melissa Jones of the Legacy High School girls' basketball team. On March 22, 2007, Melissa was selected as the All-Colorado Player of the Year by the Rocky Mountain News staff with input from coaches statewide.

This was Melissa Jones' senior season playing for the Legacy High School Lightning. During prior seasons Melissa demonstrated her superb abilities and proved to be a stand-out player. Preceding her senior season, neither major Colorado newspaper ranked the Legacy Lightning in the top ten. Yet that ranking quickly changed as Melissa and her teammates beat, for the first time, their Front Range League rival Horizon High School.

The Lightning, led by Melissa Jones, won a share of the league title and then went on to knock off Regis High School in the Class 5A semifinals. Regis was 21-0 and was the tournament's No. 1 overall seed. Melissa skillfully led the team to the title game clearly showing that the pre-season rankings underestimated her determination. Melissa's skills and abilities, along with her outstanding teammates, carried the Legacy Lightning into the title game. Melissa and the Lightning's success have served as an inspiration and a source of pride for athletes of all stripes in Colorado.

Melissa Jones' statistics for the season included an average of 22.1 points, 8.1 rebounds and 5.1 steals. During the tournament she averaged 29 points and recorded four 30-point performances during the final eight contests.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Melissa Jones for her storybook season and well-deserved selection as the Rocky Mountain News' All-Colorado Player of the Year. Her talent, vision and leadership are undeniable, and she is a source of pride for women's basketball, for Legacy High School and for all of Colorado. I wish her continued success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, on March 21, 2007, I was unavoidably detained during a vote on H.R. 327, the Joshua Omvig Veterans Suicide Prevention Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

BICENTENNIAL OF THE BRITISH ABOLITION OF THE TRANS-ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the bicentennial of the British abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade.

On March 25, 1807, the British Parliament passed the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act. Acknowledging this day 200 years later is extremely important because it represents a key event to the abolishment of slavery in Great Britain and the United States. Great Britain will begin to participate in various commemorative activities. Today, here in the United States, the United Nations is also observing the bicentennial by convening a special General Assembly session where speakers from around the globe will discuss their viewpoints about slavery. Rex Nettleford, a historian, will deliver the keynote. I applaud and thank the United Nations and Great Britain for recognizing the historic importance of the passage of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act.

There is a need for people in the United States and around the world to remember and be reminded of the institution of slavery and its impact on the world during times other than Black History Month. The immeasurable sacrifices endured by enslaved people are too significant to be forgotten. I appreciate the work done by so many people and organizations that provide education on slavery and events that led to freedom of slaves in the United States and other countries. Educating people about slavery and the struggle for freedom provides an excellent opportunity to improve race relations, cultural understanding, and diversity.

I have introduced a resolution commemorating the British Abolition of the Slave Trade Act. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution. One year from now, the United States will participate in activities related to the abolishment of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. I look forward to those activities next year.

YOUTH ACTIVISM ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a special group of young people in Ft. Lauderdale, FL who are raising awareness about the important and urgent issue of human trafficking.

As you may know, human trafficking and forced labor is one of the most prolific areas of international criminal activity and is of significant concern to the United States and the international community. The overwhelming majority of those trafficked are women and children.

According to the most recent Department of State estimates, between 600,000 and 800,000 people are trafficked across borders each year. If trafficking within countries and forced labor are included in the total world figures, estimates rise to 4 to 27 million people.

Human trafficking is now considered a leading source of profits for organized crime generating billions of dollars. Trafficking in persons affects virtually every country in the world. Traffickers exploit poverty, war, natural or man-made disasters, and ignorance.

The students at the Ft. Lauderdale Prep School are raising money to combat global human trafficking and they have created a large mural to commemorate the 200th Anni-

versary of the Abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Sale, which occurred on Friday, March 25th. I commend these students on their efforts to raise awareness on this issue. The passion and motivation of these students are worthy of emulation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PEACE PROCESS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reiterate support for the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 and the St. Andrews Agreement of 2006, and to commend the tireless efforts of all involved in the peace process.

On April 10, 1998, the Good Friday Agreement was signed in Belfast, ending 3 decades of violence known as The Troubles. However, this landmark agreement was unable to deliver a lasting government to Northern Ireland, and in 2002 the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Executive were suspended.

In October of 2006, the process was restored with the St. Andrew's Agreement, which established timetables for the restoration of the government of Northern Ireland and breathed life back into the process. This timetable required that both sides make some serious concessions to establish a peaceful and lasting government.

Gerry Adams of Sinn Fein and Ian Paisley of the Democratic Unionist Party sat together for the first time ever on Monday, March 26, to announce that they had come to an agreement and that a provincial government will be established on May 8th of this year. I would like to commend them for working to establish this government, and urge the rest of my colleagues to join me in congratulating them for their great diplomatic work.

TRIBUTE TO THE EAST AURORA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, East Aurora, New York took center stage last week, as the East Aurora High School Girls varsity basketball team earned the distinction of the New York State Class B championship, following a successful 44-41 overtime victory on Saturday, March 17th in Troy, NY.

The East Aurora Blue Devils' team slogan for the 2006-2007 season was "ONE: One Mission, One Goal, One TEAM" and the mission of this very talented team was to reach their goal of making it to the state tournament. Not only did they reach the tournament, they fought their way to the championship game, and to the title itself.

This game marked the first appearance made by the East Aurora Blue Devils in a state final. Additionally, their victory marked the end of a hard fought, record breaking season for the East Aurora Blue Devils who finished the season with a strong record of 24 wins and only 4 losses.

The Blue Devils consist of 16 talented young women, outstanding student athletes one and all, including: Maggie Croft, Ashley Gallagher, Haley Keller, Kelsi Maciejewski, Brogan McCabe, Julia Murak, Natasha Peterson, Lauren Schwarzenholzer, Brooke Schutrum, Emily Smith, Sarah Soroka, Sam Stanley, Alicia Sweet, Sarah and Jessie Tarantino, and Meghan Wolff.

Throughout the season the players met various challenges and each time they stepped up to contribute their talents both as a team and individually. In addition to the starting lineup, the bench players provided inspiration throughout the entire season and stepped in and responded positively on the court whenever they were called upon.

Also, I would be remiss if I failed to recognize the invaluable leadership demonstrated by Head Coach Chris Koselny and Assistant Coach Matt Brown during practices, games and championship tournaments alike. I also want to acknowledge the support of school administrators, Superintendent James Bodziak, and Principal Dr. James Hoagland and Athletic Director Fred Thornley and for the additional guidance and support they received from parents, teachers and the entire community throughout the year.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating the great success of the East Aurora High School Lady Blue Devils Basketball team on a hard fought season that led them to victory in the New York State Championship Tournament at Hudson Valley Community College and a record breaking season. It is a pleasure to honor the team and their coaches here today.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUANITA HAUGEN

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, today I ask my Colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Juanita Haugen, who passed away peacefully at age 69 on March 5, 2007 after a courageous battle against lung cancer.

Juanita Haugen was an extraordinary woman whose passion for education and commitment to students enriched the lives of so many. Her efforts and unwavering dedication to public service leave a legacy that will continue to benefit the students of Pleasanton, the state of California and our great Nation for generations to come.

Juanita Haugen and her family moved to Pleasanton in 1970. Juanita became involved in the Pleasanton school system after leaving her job as a probation officer to care for her children at home. She was elected to the Amador Valley Joint Union High School District Board in 1979 and was among the first trustees elected to the Pleasanton Unified School District (USD) following the 1988 reorganization that led to the District's creation. Juanita Haugen remained a member of the Pleasanton USD until her passing, and was the longest-serving trustee in the history of the local schools.

Juanita Haugen strongly believed that children need not only a quality academic education, but also a solid ethical foundation on

which to build strong character. She led the effort in the Pleasanton USD to establish a program that teaches and reinforces positive character traits in all public school students, from kindergarteners to high school seniors. This program continues to benefit students by focusing on the way in which they live and treat one another.

In addition to her involvement with the Pleasanton schools, Juanita Haugen's passion for improving public education for all children inspired her to serve on both state and national school board associations. By sharing ideas about education that she learned from her state and national colleagues, Juanita kept Pleasanton's schools on the cutting edge. She always worked for the common good. In the words on one of her fellow school board members, "You must make decisions for the entire school district, not just for your own child or school. Juanita always (said) it has to be right for everybody."

Although Juanita Haugen's efforts won her many awards, her true measure as a leader is how her passion for education inspired others, including her family, Pleasanton's students and her community. From reading to young students to encouraging others to become involved in public service, Juanita Haugen was a valued and respected leader who touched the lives of many and improved the quality of life in Pleasanton for decades to come. It is for these reasons that I ask my Colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Juanita Haugen and sending our thoughts and prayers to her beloved family and friends.

TRIBUTE TO JUSTIN DAHMER

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a young leader in my district, Justin Dahmer, who was recently awarded the rank of Eagle Scout. Justin is the 17-year-old son of Roger and Pam Dahmer of Franklin, West Virginia, where he attends Pendleton County High School.

Justin is truly representative of the Scout Oath; to do duty to God and country, help others, and maintain physical and mental strength. He is a member of Boy Scout Troop 162 and the Boy Scout honor society, Order of the Arrows. Justin's final project to qualify for Eagle Scout Rank was refinishing a portable water tank for the Pendleton County Emergency Services Department. Thanks to Justin's hard work, respondents will now have additional equipment that would otherwise have been unusable.

Justin's contributions are not limited to his scouting activities; the high school junior is a stand out member of the Pendleton County High School football team and last fall was named all conference offensive lineman. In the off season, Justin throws shot put for the Cougars' track team. He is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and is an usher at Mt. Horeb United Methodist Church.

I am pleased to recognize this young man who truly exhibits service to God and country and thank his parents for raising such a fine citizen. It is an honor to recognize the future community leaders like Justin Dahmer.

IN HONOR OF THE CHAMPION UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS CHESS TEAM

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate the students of the University of Texas at Dallas for their victory at the 2007 Final Four of Chess held in Dallas/Fort Worth this weekend. With this win, the team earned the title of the top collegiate chess team in the Western Hemisphere.

The University of Texas at Dallas chess team won the President's Cup trophy after defeating the University of Maryland at Baltimore County, Duke University and Miami Dade College. The team's five and a half point margin of victory was the largest in the tournament's seven year history.

Team members Alejandro Ramirez, Magesh Chandran Panchanathan, Marko Zivanic, Drasko Boskovic, Dmitri Shneider and Davorin Kuljasevic were guided by their coach, Rade Milovanic. The team credits their victory to a thoughtful strategy and a rigorous practice regimen before the tournament. Drasko Boskovic, a junior business administration major, was selected as the tournament's Most Valuable Player. He outscored all other competitors and had a perfect 3-0 record.

The University of Texas at Dallas is an outstanding school of high academics; the freshman class typically boasts above average SAT scores. Located at the convergence of Plano, Richardson and Dallas, the school enrolls more than 14,500 well-rounded and ambitious students. The university offers bachelor's degrees, master's degrees and doctoral degree programs. I am proud to represent the University of Texas at Dallas in the 32nd Congressional district of Texas.

I congratulate these students for their success in collegiate chess, a true indicator of intelligence, and wish them the best of luck in their future academic and chess endeavors.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' HEALTH, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY ACT, 2007

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, as we enter the fourth year of the conflict in Iraq, we have before us today a supplemental appropriations bill that should serve one purpose and one purpose only—to provide funding for the safety, security and well-being of our troops. Time and time again, both Democrats and Republicans have pledged to provide our brave Armed Forces with the resources they need to do the job they have been sent to do. Today represents a moment in time when that rhetoric can be supported with bold and definitive action.

That is why it is all the more disappointing that at a time when we should be voting on legislation to provide the necessary supplies, armor, and technology needed to be successful, the Democrats have decided to politicize