

Shaun is remembered by friends as being a calm, thoughtful person, who was always willing to help others. An avid fisherman and hunter, Shaun was the type that loved to go camping, and he enjoyed all the wonders nature had to offer. Shaun's qualities demonstrated throughout his youth made him an ideal member of the United States Marine Corps. Shaun was a leader who consistently exemplified strength, not only physically, but mentally and morally as well, and he will continue to serve as an inspiration and example to those who knew him.

First Lieutenant Blue leaves behind a loving family. Shaun leaves to cherish his memory his adoring parents, Jim and Debbie Blue, and countless other friends and family members who will never forget the impact he had on their lives. Shaun will be greatly missed by a saddened but proud community and a grateful nation.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Marine Corps 1LT Shaun Blue. First Lieutenant Blue is an inspiration to us all for his patriotism and willingness to fight for his country. He paid the ultimate sacrifice for the betterment of his country and the world, and his passing comes as a setback to the northwest Indiana community, which has already been shaken by the realities of war. First Lieutenant Blue will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his community, and his country. Thus, let us never forget the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

TRIBUTE TO THE CASSADAGA
VALLEY GIRLS AND BOYS BASKETBALL TEAMS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of the Cassadaga Valley girls and boys basketball teams. Both teams played with distinction this season, meeting various challenges and contributing with their talents both as a team and individually.

I would like to acknowledge girl's team players Casey Mathers, most improved player; Kari Barmore, co-most valuable player and rebounding award and scholar-athlete award winner; Jenna Beichner, co-most valuable player; and Jennifer Zanghi, receiving the defensive award.

I must also acknowledge boy's team players Kevin Watson, earning the distinction of most valuable player and Bob Zanghi earning the most improved player and scholar-athlete awards.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating the great successes of both of these teams, both acknowledged by the NYSPHSAA as deserving of the Scholar-Athlete Team Award. It is a pleasure to honor this fine young athletes here today.

INTRODUCTION OF BRISTOL BAY
PROTECTION ACT

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge the Natural Resources Committee to take action on the bipartisan Bristol Bay Protection Act, which I introduced today with my colleagues, Congressman WAYNE GILCHREST and Congressman MAURICE HINCHEY.

The Bristol Bay Protection Act will renew long-standing, bipartisan protection for this economically, culturally, and ecologically important marine ecosystem through a Congressional prohibition on oil and gas development in the waters of Alaska's North Aleutian Basin.

When Congress returns from the district work period we plan to introduce the Bristol Bay Protection Act. The Exxon Valdez oil tanker spill, which fouled more than 1,200 miles of pristine Alaskan shoreline and caused billions of dollars in economic damage, moved the Congress and President George H. Bush to place the North Aleutian Basin Planning Area (which includes Bristol Bay) under moratoria from oil and gas development in 1990. In 1998, President Clinton later followed up with an extension of this moratorium on pre-leasing and leasing activities in the same waters until 2012.

This past January, President Bush removed the long-standing executive ban on offshore drilling in Bristol Bay, opening the way for leases the Federal Minerals Management Service (MMS) has proposed in 2010 and 2012.

Alaska's Bristol Bay and the southeastern Bering Sea encompass one of the most productive marine ecosystems in the world. These sub-arctic waters support important commercial fisheries, representing more than 40 percent of the Nation's annual seafood catch. The area targeted for oil and gas leasing overlaps with important habitat and fishing grounds for pollock, cod, red king crab, halibut and salmon—fisheries which generate more than \$2 billion dollars annually. These fisheries support fishermen and fishing families throughout Alaska and the Pacific northwest.

Bristol Bay sockeye salmon runs, the largest on earth, are the lifeblood of many remote, Native villages in southwestern Alaska. Subsistence and commercial harvest of salmon resources are the economic mainstay of these culturally-unique communities.

The region's coastal wetlands, lagoons and sheltered bays serve as migratory hubs, staging areas and wintering grounds for millions of waterfowl and shorebirds. The southeastern Bering Sea is also home to a number of marine mammal species—many of which are threatened or endangered—including sea otters, Steller sea lions, fur seals, humpback whales and the North Pacific right whale. As a testament to the region's ecological importance, five National Wildlife Refuges and eight Alaska state protected areas have been established here.

The U.S. cannot drill our way to energy security. The risks posed by offshore oil and gas development to the renewable resources of Bristol Bay and the thousands of people in Alaska and along the west coast whose livelihoods depend upon their continued health are simply too great.

The bipartisan Bristol Bay Protection Act restores protections to the people, wildlife and habitats in the North Aleutian Basin Planning Area. It is my hope that the Committee acts swiftly to protect this pristine area.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GEORGE
FILIOS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend George Filios for his personal and professional successes, he is truly the embodiment of the American Dream.

George came to the United States from Greece in December 1955 and began working in the textile mills in Lowell, Massachusetts. In 1957, he began work in the construction industry as a painter and carpenter and attended school in the evening to learn English and the Principles of Construction. In 1958 George, in partnership with George Papageorge, founded G & G Construction Company. George took the Oath of Citizenship in May, 1961 and subsequently moved to California. George returned to his native Greece in 1966 where he met his lovely wife, Nitsa Statara.

George established the Filios Construction Company in 1967, specializing in the construction of apartment complexes and subsequently teamed up with Alex Spanos. Following the birth of his first child, Spiridon Filios in 1968, George was offered a management position within A.G. Spanos Companies, thus began a fruitful relationship spanning over thirty years. Soon thereafter, in 1970, George's daughter, Vayia Filios was born. The Filios family relocated to Southern Nevada in 1975 recognizing the booming economy of the region and opportunities it presented to the buildings and construction trades.

In addition to his professional success, George has also contributed greatly to his community. Following the family's move to southern Nevada, George became very much involved with the St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church. He was intimately involved in long range planning of building Church facilities and in 1978, during his Presidency of the Parish Council, they acquired the land necessary to construct a new Church and community center. George was also very involved with the University of Nevada Las Vegas, where he served as the Administrator of the A.G. Spanos Companies Faculty Award. Furthermore, George has served on the State Contractors Board, from 1981-1984, and as a member of the Clark County Commission Multifamily Council.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my good friend George Filios. His success in business and philanthropic pursuits is truly commendable and his dedication to the community should serve as an example to us all. Through hard work and determination he has succeeded, thereby truly personifying the American Dream. I thank him for his service to the community and wish him the best in his future endeavors.