

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SOUTHWESTERN RANDOLPH HIGH SCHOOL—OUR MOST VALUABLE TEAM

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Sixth District of North Carolina, I would like to personally congratulate the Southwestern Randolph High School varsity softball team on its win at the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 3-A softball championship. On June 2, 2007, the Southwestern Randolph Cougars accomplished a phenomenal feat in completing the season with an almost perfect record of 31–1. Even more remarkably, the team finished the season with no losses to other 3-A schools and was able to claim the first state championship for the school since 2001.

Congratulations are in order for Anna Maness who was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player, not only because of her accomplishments on the field, but also because of her attitude about the game. In fact, Maness told the Asheboro Courier-Tribune, "I couldn't have done it without defense; I couldn't have done it without the offense. It should say Most Valuable Team." It is this kind of teamwork that makes the entire Southwestern Randolph team special. Maness should also be commended on her impressive efforts during the tournament, striking out 16 batters and allowing no runs.

Looking at the roster, it is easy to see that the most noteworthy thing about this group of young women is their ability to work together. The seniors on the team: Valerie Campbell, Brittany York, Jessica Hogan, Natalie Haithcox, Ashley Seawell, and Kendra Cox finished their four years together on the team with an impressive 110–13 record, making it to the final tournament every year but one. Cougars Head Coach Steve Taylor told the Asheboro Courier-Tribune that he credited the success of the seniors to the fact that, "all their work ethics were positive toward reaching their goals."

The entire roster contributed to Southwestern Randolph's latest softball triumph. The other members of the team included: Brittany Marsh, Stacy McCaskill, Ashley Jones, Nicole England, Kristen Simmons, Dalton Brower, Brittany Garren, Amelia Frye, Holly Berry, Katheryn Auman, Cynthia Hayes, Hannah Hughes, and Erin Billups.

Those who didn't wear a uniform, but contributed in so many other ways, can equally share the accolades coming to Southwestern Randolph's champions. We start with Head Coach Steve Taylor, Assistant Coaches Lee McCaskill, Danny Campbell, and Wendel Seawell, Athletic Director Gary Leach, and Principal Dr. Chris Vecchione. Congratulations are also in order for the faculty, staff, students, and families of Southwestern Randolph High School on another outstanding athletic season.

Madam Speaker, I join the people of the Sixth District of North Carolina in congratulating everyone involved in this outstanding athletic achievement. I am glad to see that these young athletes were able to see their hard work and determination lead to a state championship.

JOHN HAYDEN CHIAVETTA MAKES HIS MARK ON THE WORLD

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John Bryan and Rebekah Sparrow Chiavetta on the birth of their second child, John Hayden Chiavetta. John was born on Thursday, May 24, 2007 and weighed 6 pounds and 15 ounces. My wife Faye joins me in wishing John and Rebekah and their daughter, Charlotte, great happiness upon this new addition to their family.

As the father of three, I know the joy and pride that John and Rebekah feel at this special time. And I know that Charlotte is excited to have a brother with whom she can share the wonders of childhood. Children remind us of the incredible miracle of life, and they keep us young-at-heart. Every day they show us a new way to view the world. I know the Chiavettas look forward to the changes and challenges that their new son will bring to their lives while taking pleasure in the many rewards they are sure to receive as they watch him grow.

I welcome young John into the world and wish John and Rebekah all the best as they raise him.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATION ACT, 2008

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, as we consider the FY 2008 Military Constructions Appropriations Act, I am concerned that we are significantly under funding our commitment to clean up communities impacted by base closures in the past. There is an estimated \$3.5 billion backlog of environmental cleanup at bases closed during the previous BRAC rounds. Unfortunately, the funding levels in this bill are not enough to make a dent in cleaning up bases closed in previous BRAC rounds.

The bill does include significant funding to deal with cleanup at bases closed in the 2005 BRAC round. The irony is that the new round of BRAC has so much money appropriated that current outlays will spend less than 10%

in the upcoming fiscal year of its budget authority while in the same vein the Legacy BRAC account will be spending nearly half of its budget authority in the same fiscal year. I appreciate that there is an increase above the President's budget for this effort, but it is simply not enough to make up for past years of Congress abrogating its responsibility of environmental restoration of past BRAC rounds.

Communities across the nation have waited decades for remediation and at the current levels of funding will have to wait for over 40 years before the job is done. In order to address this problem, I am submitting the following amendment with my colleague Congresswoman BROWN-WAITE in order to properly finish the job of environmental clean up at former military bases before we can fully address a new round of cleanup.

The amendment I am offering decreases by \$201,000,000 the Base Realignment and Closure Account 2005 account and increases the Base Realignment and Closure Account 1990 by \$50,000,000 in order to work towards this goal. CBO has scored this amendment as outlay neutral.

CENTRAL DAVIDSON HIGH SCHOOL—OUR PERFECT SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, pitching a perfect game is certainly an amazing feat on its own. Pitching a perfect game in the championship, however, is something particularly special. Words cannot describe just how rare this feat is. So, please allow me to brag for just a bit about the remarkable achievements of Chelsea Leonard and the rest of the North Carolina State High School Athletic Association 2-A softball champion Central Davidson High School Spartans.

On June 2, 2007, Ms. Leonard pitched Central Davidson to a resounding 4–0 victory over South Brunswick High School, while not allowing a single hit. She also struck out 18 of 21 batters. And on her way to winning MVP of the tournament, she tallied an impressive 53 strikeouts while compiling a 3–0 record. What's more, she didn't allow a single run or even a hit for 19 innings. Folks, these numbers are simply off the charts.

And while Chelsea—a sophomore no less—performed spectacularly throughout the state tournament, the rest of the team was equally impressive. In the run-up to the Spartans' second consecutive year in the state softball finals, every member of the team contributed to a sparkling 32–1 record. So, please allow me to recognize every member of this fine team: Ashley Hulin, Tess Swing, Carrie Jernigan, Whitney Lohr, Heather Lanier, Nicole Perry, Lindsay Thore, Hannah Buie, Allison Lohr, Erin Cole, Gina Antonucci, and

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Haley Hanes all contributed to this special season with their pitching, hitting, base running, and fine defense.

Accolades are also in order for the talented coaching staff, including, of course, Head Coach and Athletic Director Gene Poindexter who brought his team back to the finals after a difficult loss in that game last year. His hard work over the past 8 years has been instrumental to the Spartans' success. The assistant coaches—Steve Hayes, Brian Starnes, Jim Welborn, Greg Leonard, Richard Cid, Sterling Charles, Mike Pickett, and Jordan Stogner—all deserve special recognition. This sensational season would not have been possible without their help or without the support of Principal Kevin Firquin. And I cannot forget to mention the terrific fans who supported the team throughout the entire season and who came out in force to cheer on the Spartans in the state tournament.

Madam Speaker, this was a spectacular season for the Central Davidson High School softball team. I am sure that everyone in the Sixth District of North Carolina will join me in congratulating all of these fine athletes and the rest of the Central Davidson High School community on their outstanding achievements.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID BYRON CHAPEL AS A U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor David Byron Chapel, a constituent from Parma, Michigan who has been named a member of the 43rd Class of Presidential Scholars. The Presidential Scholarship was established in 1964 to honor our country's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. Only 144 high school seniors are offered the title of a Presidential Scholar, and I am proud to honor David Byron Chapel as one of Michigan's two Presidential Scholars.

Mr. Chapel's work has spanned all areas of community service; from mission trips with his youth group, local service projects, peer tutoring and his church music program. David has touched the lives of many with his service.

Highlights of Mr. Chapel's volunteer work include a center for underprivileged children, summer Vacation Bible School, fundraising projects for his school's Academic Boosters Club, frequent visits to his local nursing home to spend time with the elderly, and service as a substitute Church pianist. In addition, David has spent numerous weekends helping with Church maintenance, local landscaping and yard work, as well as operating his own small-scale lawn care business.

David's academic achievements are exemplified through the numerous scholarships he has already been awarded. He has received such awards as the Marsh Family Scholarship and the University of Michigan Regents Merit Scholarship for exemplary academic performances throughout his high school career. In addition to these prestigious awards, David has received numerous other recognitions.

These are not the first awards Mr. Chapel has received to honor his achievements. David has been named a National Merit Finalist, Student of the Month, Big 10 Drum Major and Best Supporting Actor in his high school drama program. He has also worked diligently to receive his Academic Letter and Pin, the Community Service award all four years of high school, Honor Roll and All A's Award's each semester.

I offer the congratulations of the U.S. House of Representatives to Mr. David Byron Chapel for his leadership, dedication to community service, and being named a U.S. Presidential Scholar.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN AND JOAN SHAMP

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great couple who are a wonderful example of what is right with America. John and Joan Shamp just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary! Sadly, in America, it has become a rare thing for two people to stay together this long.

They are the proud parents of five children and very involved in the lives of their grandchildren. They exemplify achieving the American dream through hard work, and they demonstrate the love of a strong family who are there to help each other and others daily. I wish them many more happy years!

HONORING UNITED STATES COAST GUARD COMMANDER WILLIAM J. QUIGLEY

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise before you today to honor the outstanding career of William J. Quigley, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Coast Guard.

Commander William J. Quigley is the Prospective Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard Cryptologic Group. He assumed his current duties as the Coast Guard Liaison Officer to the Commander, Naval Security Group, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland in 2004. Immediately prior to this assignment, he served as Chief, Intelligence Resource Management Office, Intelligence Directorate, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

Commander Quigley was born in Lowell, Massachusetts and grew up in Hudson, New Hampshire. A 1984 graduate of the Coast Guard Academy, Commander Quigley began his career as a deck watch officer aboard the Coast Guard Cutter (USCGC) ALERT (WMEC-630) in Cape May, New Jersey. Commander Quigley's service included numerous afloat assignments and is a qualified Coast Guard Cutterman.

Commander Quigley's shore side assignments include duty as a Watch Officer at the Coast Guard Intelligence Coordination Center in Washington, D.C.; the supervisor of the Coast Guard Detachment at the Navy Operational Intelligence Center in Suitland, Maryland; the Coast Guard Liaison Officer to the Department of State in Washington, D.C. and Chief, Operational Analysis and Planning Division, Office of Operations Strategic and Business Planning, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters.

Commander Quigley holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering (BSEE) from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, New London, Connecticut and a Master of Science degree in Strategic Intelligence (MSSI), earned at the Joint Military Intelligence College, Washington, DC. Individual military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, Coast Guard Commendation Medal with gold star and operational distinguishing device, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal with gold star and operational distinguishing device, the Commandant's Letter of Commendation, the National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal. Commander Quigley is married to the former Paula May Harris of Hampden, Massachusetts. They currently reside in Millersville, Maryland with their two sons, Kyle and Connor.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today in honoring Commander William J. Quigley, a man whose deep commitment to the United States and the United States Coast Guard has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to our great country.

IN PRAISE OF ARMY SGT MATTHEW SOPER

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and praise Sergeant Matthew Soper, a constituent of mine who died while serving his country in Iraq; Sgt. Soper's truck was hit by an IED in Iraq on June 6, 2007.

SGT Soper of Jackson was 25-years-old. Sergeant Matthew Soper served in the Michigan Army National Guard's 1461st Transportation Company based in Jackson. Sergeant Soper was courageous as he manned the front vehicle gun in his company.

SGT Soper's family has said the military changed their son and brother. His sister stated he joined the military to "call something his own," and to make people proud. Nothing serves as greater evidence to the heart of this young man than his selflessness in volunteering for a second tour of duty in Iraq. SGT Soper's first tour was in 2004 and 2005. I stand here today to tell the country and SGT Soper's family how proud of him I am.

The country mourns the loss of a soldier and we celebrate his life. My thoughts and prayers are with Matthew's family. I thank them for their beloved sons' dedicated service to the United States. May God be with them.