students at T. J. Lee are taking steps toward a healthier future by making important nutrition choices at a young age.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating them for receiving this tremendous honor.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LAVACE STEWART ELEMENTARY

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate LaVace Stewart Elementary School in Kemah, Texas, in my congressional district, for being awarded a No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon award. LaVace Stewart Elementary School earned this award by going from acceptable to exemplary in State accountability ratings in less than 4 years.

LaVace Stewart Elementary School is one of only 23 Texas schools selected for the Blue Ribbon award, which honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that demonstrate superior academic performance or high gains in student achievement.

LaVace Stewart is certainly worthy of this award. As Dr. Sandra Mossman, superintendent of schools for Clear Creek Independent School District said, ''[W]hen you walk into [LaVace Stewart] you can immediately feel the enthusiasm for learning and witness the compassion for children.''

Madam Speaker, I agree with Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings that ''It takes a lot of hard work by teachers and students to become a Blue Ribbon school, and it's a privilege to celebrate their great effort.'' I am pleased to extend my congratulations to the teachers, administrators, parents, and the students of LaVace Stewart Elementary School for the school's is named a Blue Ribbon School.

IN MEMORY OF STAFF SERGEANT JAMES DAVID BULLARD

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Staff Sergeant James Bullard of South Carolina. Staff Sergeant Bullard was killed last week while serving with the South Carolina Army National Guard's 218th Brigade in Afghanistan.

Staff Sergeant Bullard is the second member of the 218th to lose his life serving during Operation Enduring Freedom. As a former member of the 218th brigade I wish to recognize the ultimate sacrifice made by Staff Sergeant Bullard and express my deepest condolences on behalf of the House of Representatives and my family to his wife, Amber, his son, his parents and family, friends, and fellow soldiers. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this difficult time.

Just like the millions of brave men and women who served our country in uniform, Staff Sergeant Bullard was a true patriot who fought to defend our freedoms and to protect American families. We are forever grateful for his sacrifice and that of our military men and women around the world.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th.

TRIBUTE TO SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY BULLDOG FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the South Carolina State University Bulldog football team. This season the Bulldogs celebrate 100 years of play on the gridiron, and what a tremendous century it has been.

In 1907, what was then South Carolina State Agricultural and Mechanical College played its first game against Georgia State in Savannah. Just 3 years later, SC State became a charter member of the Georgia (GA)-South Carolina (SC) Athletic Association, which eventually changed its name to the South Atlantic Association.

In 1919, South Carolina State College won its first GA–SC Intercollegiate Association Championship. The Bulldogs were on their way to building a tremendous legacy.

Just 4 years later in 1923, SC State lost an important rivalry game with Tuskegee College, 13–6, in Orangeburg. However, the loss fueled the fire in the Bulldogs, and they went on 4 years later to a perfect 7–0 conference record and to capture their second South Atlantic Conference title. That season the team racked up six shutouts and lost only one game. This began the Bulldogs' reputation as a powerhouse in the South Atlantic Conference.

Oliver C. Dawson was named the Bulldogs' head football coach in 1937, marking the beginning of a new era. Coach Dawson was a beloved leader on campus—teaching classes and coaching multiple sports. During his tenure, the football team took a 2-year hiatus due to World War II, but they came back full of passion. In 1947, they went undefeated in regular season play and took on Shaw University for the Black National Championship in Washington, DC. Although SC State lost that game 8–0, the Bulldogs showed the tenacity for which they have become famous. Coach Dawson left such a legacy at SC State that the current football stadium bears his name.

Many trying years followed the 1947 successful season. The team struggled to regain its elite status, and then in 1965 tragedy struck. Player John Devlin of Greenwood was stricken while on the field and died. This sudden loss of a player and teammate revived the Bulldog spirit and the team went on to an 8–1–0 record that season under the leadership of Coach Oree Banks. Devlin's #31 jersey became the first ever retired in SC State athletic history. That same season, several Bulldog players received All-Conference honors, and Coach Banks was named SIAC and NAIA District 6 Coach of the Year.

In 1970, SC State President Maceo Nance led the school to become a charter member of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC). This transition was followed by the need to find a new head football coach. In 1973, SC State tapped alumnus Willie Jeffries to lead the Bulldogs. Prior to Coach Jeffries' arrival, the Bulldogs had posted a dismal 1–9 season. He followed that with a 7–3–1 record, which was just the beginning of a tremendous era in Bulldog football history.

Under Coach Jeffries, the SC State Bulldogs built a record of 50–13–4 in just six seasons, and won its first of eleven MEAC titles. In 1976, the team captured its first Black National Championship in a 26–10 win over Norfolk State.

Due to his great success, other football programs sought Coach Jeffries' leadership. In 1978, he left to make history as the first African American head coach at a majority white university at Wichita State.

The Bulldogs rallied under the helm of its former Assistant Coach Bill Davis, who led SC State to its second National Black Championship, and the first of two straight invitations to the prestigious Division IAAA playoffs. Coach Davis led the Bulldogs to dominate the MEAC in the 1980s with back-to-back, 10-game seasons in 1980 and 1981.

Coach Davis was succeeded by Dennis Thomas in 1985, who coached the Bulldogs for three seasons. Then in 1989, the Bulldogs' favorite son, Willie Jeffries, returned as head coach.

In his second stint, Coach Jeffries produced seven winning teams. In 1994, he led the Bulldogs to a 10–2 season, again winning the MEAC championship. Coach Jeffries ended his career as the Bulldogs head football coach in 2002, and he was succeeded by another SC State alumnus.

Coach Buddy Pough left his assistant coaching job at the University of South Carolina to return to Orangeburg to lead the team he loved. His passion for the team and the players showed, as he orchestrated a new era of Bulldog dominance. In 2004, SC State compiled a 9–2 record and the Bulldogs once again were at the top of the MEAC conference. That season, the team ranked number two in the final polls of both the Sheridan Broadcasting Network and the American Sports Wire. They earned a Top 25 Division I–AA poll ranking from both the Sports Network and USA Today/ESPN. Today, Buddy Pough continues to lead the Bulldogs with the same tenacity.

The South Carolina State Bulldog football team has compiled a vibrant 100-year history. Over the century, the Bulldogs have won eleven MEAC titles. They have three National Black Championships in 1976, 1981, and 1994, and earned NCAA Division I–AA berths in 1981 and 1982. Three of its players have been enshrined in the prestigious Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio—Marion Motley (Cleveland Browns, 1965), David ''Deacon'' Jones (Los Angeles Rams, 1980) and Harry Carson (New York Giants, 2006). In addition to retiring #31 John Devlin's jersey, four other Bulldog standouts have had their jerseys retired—#66 Deacon Jones, #75 Harry Carson, #90 Donnie Shell, and #94 Robert Porcher.

Madam Speaker, I invite you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary 100-year history of the South Carolina State University football team. As an SC State alumnus and football fan who spent my entire