

CONGRATULATING THE HASTINGS
ST. CECILIA BLUEHAWKS

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, Today, I want to congratulate the Hastings St. Cecilia Bluehawks on winning the Nebraska Class C-I Boys Basketball Championship on Saturday, March 8, 2008.

In a game dominated by the defense, the Bluehawks finished ahead of previously unbeaten Bennington by a score of 50 to 43—all the more remarkable when you consider the score was only 24–22 at the beginning of the fourth quarter.

Both teams deserve congratulations for finishing a great year. As one of the Bluehawks' coaches remarked, "This group can do anything they want to do when they put their minds to it."

I think that phrase can be used to sum up all of the great athletes who dedicated themselves this year, whether they made the championship game or not.

THE SUZANNE McDANIEL PUBLIC
AWARENESS AWARD

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Suzanne McDaniel is one of the "Old Buffalos," which is what we call the first advocates in the victims' rights field. I met Suzanne 25 years ago, when I was a judge on the Harris County District Court. Suzanne worked as the director of the Witness Office of the Harris County District Attorney's Office. She was one of the first prosecutor-based victim advocates in Texas and in the entire country. Since then, Suzanne has tirelessly crusaded for crime victims at the local, State and national levels.

Suzanne began working in the trenches, in the days when victims were looked at as mere witnesses in a trial. In Harris County, Texas, Suzanne helped create the first community interagency council on sexual assault and family violence. Suzanne then went to work for the State of Texas in the Governor's office. There she wrote groundbreaking reports on crime victims and organized conferences to train and educate victims, advocates, and allied professions.

Suzanne then brought her knowledge, dedication, and leadership to the Texas State Attorney General's office where she was the State's crime victim information officer. In this position, Suzanne advocated for the passage of legislative and regulatory initiatives, including the passage of Texas' State constitutional amendment for victims. As a testament to Suzanne's significant contributions to the victims' field, the State coalition of victim organizations, VOTERS, appointed her as legislative liaison.

Not only has Suzanne tirelessly advocated for crime victims in Texas, but she brought the same drive and compassion to the national level. In 1984, when President Ronald Reagan created the President's Task Force on Victims

of Crime, Suzanne coordinated field hearings that launched victims' rights into a national concern. In addition, Suzanne served on the board of the National Organization for Victim Assistance for 10 years.

When I came to Congress, I founded the Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus to provide a voice for and to advocate on behalf of crime victims. The Caucus honors individuals, organizations, and advocates that have truly made a difference for crime victims. Instead of honoring Suzanne's contributions with an award, the Caucus has named an award after her, to forever honor her work, dedication, and compassion. On April 9, 2008, the Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus will present its first "Suzanne McDaniel Public Awareness Award." And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF THOMAS J.
GRAFF

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas J. Graff, senior counsel to the Environmental Defense Fund of California. His more than 35 years as a leader in California's environmental and water communities is to be commended, a service that he has performed with intelligence, passion, and humor.

Tom joined the California bar after receiving graduate degrees from the London School of Economics and Harvard Law School. In 1971, Tom founded the first California office of the Environmental Defense Fund. The modern environmental movement was in its infancy, but Tom Graff learned quickly.

Tom worked hard to reform California water policy, particularly in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Working closely with colleagues, allies and adversaries, Tom contributed to projects such as Mono Lake, Imperial Valley, the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, CVPIA, and the 1994 Bay-Delta Accord. His efforts in protecting California water resources led to his service on the Colorado River Board, where he worked with Californians and water advocates from throughout the Colorado River basin. A consistent thread in his environmental and water advocacy was economic solutions to complex environmental problems.

Tom Graff's influence crossed over into other aspects of California's environment and economy as well. In the 1980s, he launched efforts to address acid rains and transportation issues. Governor Pete Wilson appointed Tom to the Commission on Transportation Investment, where Tom participated in infrastructure issues.

While the law is, by nature, adversarial, Tom's gifted advocacy has gained him the respect and admiration of many, even those considered his adversaries. Many testify to Tom's practice of active listening in order to genuinely understand his adversaries' interests. This often resulted in solutions that resolved both sides' concerns. In sometimes tense negotiations, Tom was known to insert humor as well as perspective to smooth the way toward resolving potentially intense conflicts. Tom spoke accurately when he said, "We cannot repeat the water wars of the past." "We have to find a way to work together, or we will all lose."

Tom's contributions to California's environmental community have been public and political, as well as private and personal. Tom has served as a lecturer at law schools at the University of California—Berkeley and Harvard. His constant practice of mentoring junior colleagues and law students has been spoken highly of.

In everything that Tom Graff has aspired to do, he has helped broaden Californians' understanding of the challenges of balancing environmental and economic concerns, and the use of California's natural resources. It is that effort that I recognize before you today.

SEVEN KILLED IN SHOOTING AT
JERUSALEM SEMINARY

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, last Thursday was a tragic day in Jerusalem. An "act of terror and depravity" as Secretary Rice defined it, took the lives of eight young students, while gathering to have dinner.

At 8:45 pm, Thursday night, two terrorists infiltrated to a Jewish seminary in Jerusalem and opened fire in a dining hall. The shooting was continuing for a few minutes until police forces arrived and the gunmen were stopped. Eight students were killed and seven others were wounded and are still hospitalized.

Mercatz Harav Seminary is a center for studying of Judaism that is located in Kiryat Moshe quarter at the entrance of the city. The seminary holds around 500 students, including foreigners, some of them Americans. In this specific evening there were about 80 people in the dining hall when the gunmen opened fire.

The victims are Neria Cohen, 15 years old; Segev Paniel Avihail, 15 years old; Yehonathan Ytzchak Eldar, 16 years old; Avraham David Moses, 16 years old; Roy Rot, 18 years old; Yochai Lifshitz, 18 years old; Yehonadav Haim Hirshfeld, 19 years old; and Doron Mahareta, 26 years old.

I urge my colleagues to come together and find ways to resolve the conflict in the Middle East.

I would also like to express my deep sorrow for the loss of the young students. To the parents and families of the victims, I offer my sincerest condolences, and grant the families comfort and peace at this time.

HONORING MARTIN'S MILL LADY
MUSTANGS FOR WINNING THE
CLASS A DIVISION I TEXAS
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Martin's Mill Lady Mustangs basketball team for winning the Class A Division I Texas State Championship.

On March 2, 2008, the Lady Mustangs made their third straight appearance in the State tournament since they secured their first championship title in 2006. After trading leads