

A PROCLAMATION HONORING  
STARLIGHT SCHOOL FOR THEIR  
SUPPORT OF THE TUSCARAWAS  
COUNTY ROCKETS SPECIAL  
OLYMPICS BASKETBALL TEAM

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Starlight School has displayed incredible dedication to creating well-rounded students; and

Whereas, the Starlight School has been supportive of their athletes; and

Whereas, the Starlight School has broadened the abilities and skills of their athletes in the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, the Starlight School has always promoted sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with their friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate the Starlight School on supporting the Tuscarawas County Rockets Special Olympics Basketball team in winning the Ohio Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous amount of support they have given to their athletes.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL  
CRITTENTON FOUNDATION

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the 125th anniversary of The National Crittenton Foundation and its 23 member agencies. Among its distinguished agencies, is one that I particularly wish to honor, Florence Crittenton Programs of South Carolina.

South Carolina's Crittenton movement began when founder Charles Crittenton visited Charleston, South Carolina in 1897. Along with the pioneering female pediatrician, Dr. Kate Waller Barrett, Mr. Crittenton served as an early advocate of services for young, unmarried, and pregnant women.

Based in Charleston, Florence Crittenton Programs was the first historically-documented agency to respond to the needs of young women. Its establishment was spurred by local concern following the suicide of a young pregnant woman. In the early 1900s, the South Carolina movement consisted almost solely of volunteers who took these young women into their homes in order to keep mothers and children together.

In 1934, the first residential home to serve girls and young women was built in Charleston. Today, the building still serves as the core of the multifaceted agencies of the Florence Crittenton Programs of South Carolina.

Through its tireless work, Florence Crittenton helped to develop positive social change in the attitudes toward pregnant and parenting young women. The agency also focused on the specific social needs of the young women.

As such, in 1975, the agency hired master's level staff to develop a sophisticated clinical

program to respond to the mental health needs of the young women.

In the 1980s, the agency's name was changed from the Florence Crittenton Home to Florence Crittenton Programs of South Carolina. The change reflected the growing development of multiple professional programs and services such as day programs for local clients and community education in local county schools.

Additionally, a family development program was created to provide off-site housing for mothers and children. The family development program was also created to provide educational instruction to help young mothers cultivate nurturing relationships with their children.

Florence Crittenton Programs of South Carolina is truly a beacon of light and hope to young, unmarried mothers. Its service to the community of South Carolina has offered tremendous help and given even greater guidance to the young women it serves.

Madam Speaker, this organization is located in my District and I am proud to represent them in this August body, and ask that you and my colleagues join me in commending them for 125 years of national leadership.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN MacDONALD

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to someone who has dedicated his adult working life to a career of helping people in Oregon's Second Congressional District, my chief of staff, Brian MacDonald.

Brian is one of those rare individuals in this process who puts the needs of others ahead of his own. For new staffers and interns he is the ultimate coach, helping them grow into their jobs, undertake their responsibilities with proper attitude and professionalism and prepare for future opportunities. In short, he cares deeply about the people he works with and works tirelessly to help them be the best they can be.

And when it comes to helping Oregonians, I've never worked with anyone who is more dedicated and effective. Forget time zone differences between the east coast and the west coast. Forget what day of the week or weekend it is. When Oregonians call for help, Brian is there, Blackberry in hand, ready to respond.

All of us who have the great privilege of serving in the Congress know that we cannot do it alone. Given the enormous volume of incoming requests for assistance, the extraordinary list of complicated issues to understand and vote on, and the sheer confusion of the schedules we keep, it takes a talented team of thoughtful and capable staff to make it all work. Over the course of nearly 10 years as my Chief of Staff, Brian has distinguished himself as one of the best at pulling everyone together and juggling it all successfully.

But Brian MacDonald is more than just one of Capitol Hill's finest. He is a caring husband to his wonderful and talented wife Poppy, and a very proud papa to his son Gill and daughter Marley. Before Gill arrived in the world, I remember Brian remarking about how he didn't

think the addition of a child would significantly affect his time commitment to his work on the Hill. In fact, he said that because he requires less sleep than most, he didn't foresee many changes at all. To which I suggested the hours he usually set aside for sleep might not be the same ones that his yet-to-be-born son would choose. As the parent of a soon-to-be 18 year-old son, I remembered the days of bottles, diapers and sleepless nights all too well. And, of course, we all know "the rest of the story." Now, in addition of having to juggle the daily flurry of activities in a Congressional office, Brian and his wife have two wonderful children to raise.

Madam Speaker, on April 19, 2008, Brian will reach a milestone in his life. He will turn 40. And as much as he would not want anyone to know or celebrate such an occasion, those of us who consider him a dear friend and colleague cannot let this significant—well, historic—mark pass without notice.

Therefore, I rise today to both wish him the very best on the occasion of his 40th birthday and to thank him for his friendship, his leadership, and his thoughtfulness. He is truly a trusted friend, a terrific chief of staff, and the living definition of what "public service" is all about.

THE 1ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
SHOOTINGS AT VIRGINIA TECH

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, an oasis. That is what so many of us are reminded of when we think of Virginia Tech. The Commonwealth of Virginia's land-grant university, it is located in a beautiful valley in southwest Virginia. Virginia Tech—home of the Hokies—is located just outside my congressional district, a short drive from the Roanoke metropolitan area. It is linked in so many ways to the Roanoke Valley and to the Commonwealth as a whole.

Those links were never more evident on this day a year ago—April 16, 2007. Whether direct—as a result of being a student, a faculty member, an administrator, an employee—or indirect—a family member, a contributor, a supporter, a friend—those links combined to form a chain a year ago today. That chain was formed almost instantaneously when shots rang out in a dormitory and an academic building. The chain formed from innumerable links in reaction to unspeakable horror, heroic response, shared grief, and what became an outpouring of worldwide support.

The day that led us to this one, 365 days later, broke like so many others on the campus in Blacksburg. Like any other university, Virginia Tech thrives on routine—dining hall lines and daily classes, instruction and research, service projects and athletic contests, friendships formed. None of those or a multitude of other routines have been the same since. For the first time in my nearly 16 years in Congress, I literally turned around halfway through my 4-hour drive to Washington. I knew that I couldn't continue that trip, with such events occurring a mere 40 miles away from my front door affecting my constituents, friends, and associates in Blacksburg.

But in the gathering that I attended the next day on campus, I saw a remarkable transformation. I saw a community touched by the deaths of 32 people—students and professors all—turned into a friendship community unlike anywhere else. And then the world began sharing its hopes that the Almighty would transmit healing to each and every person touched in some way by the heartbreak that had befallen Virginia Tech.

One cannot help but reach out to our fellow man at times such as those like April 16, 2007. The magnitude with which the globe embraced Virginia Tech in its ultimate time of need still amazes me. It does so because I see that embrace as visible evidence of the university's motto at work—"Ut Prosim"—"That I may serve." And we have seen that service in ways, shapes, and forms we could never have imagined being necessary on the Virginia Tech campus.

On that day and on each day since, we are reminded of the marvelous impact that comes from simply lending a hand. There are the first responders—the police officers and other emergency service officials who put their lives in harm's way in order to save the lives of those who did not fall, and bring an end to the chaos. There are the school officials—tested as if in a war zone, yet called back each day hence to preserve the integrity of a storied institution of higher learning. There are the thousands who gathered spontaneously on the Drillfield the evening of the shootings—one large force whose aim was to bring light to the deep darkness of the day just finished. There's the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund—formed to serve as the clearinghouse for contributions, small and large, that began pouring in to help offset the untold costs associated with what beset the families of those who died and the university itself. There are the orange and maroon ribbons worn on our clothes, the visits by performers like Dave Matthews and athletic teams like the New York Yankees.

And so it has continued through the year since, almost unabated. The outpouring of support remains active. And so be it, for we should never forget the 32 lives taken. It is for them that we continue to grieve with and pray for their families and friends, that God may bring them comfort through the memories of the wonderful things their loved ones accomplished. It is for them that we are drawn to the memorial on the Drillfield, a part of the campus that will permanently serve as a destination for reflection. We remain steadfast in offering a kind ear to anyone who is touched in any way by the April 16, 2007 shootings at Virginia Tech and still requires reassurance. And we thank each person participating in today's remembrance events on campus, showing through their time and talents that they stand ready to help put the events behind us while maintaining recollections of lives lost.

We were all Hokies United a year ago. A year later, Virginia Tech has prevailed. It remains Virginia Tech. Today, let us pray to God for the men and women who passed into his embrace on April 16, 2007. Let us never forget the sacrifices, far and wide, made in service to the Virginia Tech community. And let us hope for healing, for it is through that healing that we can shape the lives of those yet to come who yearn to be able to proudly share in saying, "We are Virginia Tech."

A PROCLAMATION HONORING  
COACH LINDA HOBART FOR  
COACHING THE TUSCARAWAS  
COUNTY ROCKETS SPECIAL  
OLYMPICS BASKETBALL TEAM  
TO WINNING THE OHIO DIVISION  
IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

### HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Coach Linda Hobart showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Linda Hobart was a leader and mentor for the Tuscarawas County Rockets Special Olympics Basketball Team; and

Whereas, Coach Hobart has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach Linda Hobart for leading the Tuscarawas County Rockets Special Olympics Basketball Team to winning the Ohio Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 Basketball season.

### ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIRGINIA TECH SHOOTINGS

### HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, 1 year ago today, 32 students and faculty at Virginia Tech lost their lives when a deranged gunman, Seung-Hui Cho, opened fire on campus, indiscriminately killing and maiming everyone in his path. One of the most deadly school shootings in American history, the tragedy stunned the Nation and shook the school to its core. I cannot imagine how the parents and families of the victims dealt with the heart-breaking news that their loved ones, who they thought were in a safe learning environment, had become the victims of gun violence. On this one year anniversary, my thoughts and prayers go out to the victims, their families, and the entire Virginia Tech community as they continue to cope with the aftermath of that tragic day.

But it is also important to honor the courage displayed by the entire Virginia Tech community during the days and weeks following the shooting. Students, faculty, parents, alumni, and Blacksburg residents all came together to help each other cope with the physical and psychological damage of the shooting. The resolve demonstrated by the Hokie community was one of the most poignant acts of solidarity that I have ever witnessed.

Shortly after the tragedy, many of those affected chose to participate in initiatives to fix the laws that facilitated the perpetration of this crime. First among them was the deficient manner in which mental health records were added to the national background check system. Given his mental health history, had

Seung-Hui Cho's information been handled properly he would have been prevented from purchasing the weapons used in the shooting. Responding to pressure from these citizen advocates, Congress passed the NICS Improvements Act, a law providing funding to States to insure that mental health records are added efficiently to the national background check system.

This week, I had the pleasure of meeting yesterday with a survivor of the Virginia Tech massacre. Her name is Lily Habtu. Lily was shot in the jaw and arm during the violent melee. She described how the events of that day have forever changed her life. That trauma could have left Lily a shell of her former self, afraid to face a world that no longer made sense. Instead, Lily has become an activist, joining the Alexandria, VA-based organization called ProtestEasyGuns.com to stand up against the gun lobby so that others might never experience the pain she was forced to bear one year ago today. Right now, she is participating in a demonstration outside the Supreme Court, calling for commonsense legislation to close loopholes that make the purchase and possession of illegal firearms and the violence they perpetrate prevalent in our society.

I am given strength by people like Lily. Rather than retreat from the world, they have channeled their experiences into a positive, fighting to prevent future acts of violence. But the sad fact is that not enough elected officials are willing to take a strong stand on gun safety issues.

The problem is not confusion over what laws need to be implemented. Requiring universal background checks, closing the gun show loophole, preventing terror suspects from purchasing firearms, tightening laws against straw purchases, and banning weapons like the .50 caliber sniper rifle and the rapid-fire assault rifle are all positive steps that would reduce violent crime yet do not restrict the lawful ownership of firearms. The lack of action on these measures is not due to uncertainty over policy, but rather a lack of political courage.

We will never forget the lives cut short on April 16, 2007, and the families and friends of the victims who continue to suffer today. But our sympathy for these victims is hollow unless it is matched with a determination to prevent gun violence. It is imperative Congress honor the memory of the Virginia Tech victims. As a body, we need to stand up before another tragedy occurs, by passing strong, responsible gun safety regulations.

### FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OF- FICERS CONGRESSIONAL BADGE OF BRAVERY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 15, 2008*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4056 which provides Congress the ability to recognize and honor the dedicated men and women in Federal law enforcement who risk their lives and welfare daily while performing necessary and often hazardous duties.