

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF THE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY DEBATE TEAM

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the outstanding accomplishments of the debate team at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois. Directed by Dr. Todd Graham, the team of Kevin Calderwood, a junior in political science from Chesterfield, MO, and Kyle Dennis, a senior in economics from Blue Springs, MO, won the national championship in the 54-team National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence.

It is important to note that this was a very select competition. A team must qualify for the national championship tournament by doing well throughout the year. While only 54 teams competed, more than 300 attempted to qualify.

The debate program also entered teams in the National Parliamentary Debate Association tournament. That tournament is held at the end of March at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO, and includes over 250 universities and colleges. Among the 500 debaters competing, Kevin won the top spot in the individual awards, solidifying his position as one of the best debaters in the country. Kyle took home third place overall in the individual awards.

In addition, the team of Katie Thomas, from Fort Collins, CO, and Adam Testerman, from Springfield, MO, won fifth place as a team overall. Also participating in the debate program was Nicholas Deml of La Crosse, WI. Graduate students Benjamin Haas, from Poplar Bluff, MO, and Brian Norcross from San Diego, CA, assisted Dr. Graham with team preparation.

Not surprisingly, the debate program's successes throughout the season resulted in a great deal of recognition from peers at other universities. Ryan Lawrence, a debater from the University of California at Berkeley and the top debater last year, commented to Dr. Graham that he would still hold his head high if beaten by Southern Illinois because he and his teammates considered it "the smartest, hardest-working and best debate team in the country."

Madam Speaker, Southern Illinois University has a proud tradition in teaching, research and public service. It is widely recognized that graduates who are well prepared become leaders in their fields. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the debate team, faculty and students at Southern Illinois University for their continuing commitment to excellence.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF BAYVIEW ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bayview Elementary School in Fort Lauderdale, FL on its 50th An-

niversary. For the past 50 years, Bayview Elementary School has been providing students with the skills, knowledge, and preparation they need to succeed both inside and outside the classroom.

Instrumental to the success of Bayview Elementary is the hard work of the teachers, administrators, parents and other volunteers within the community who are committed to providing these children with a topnotch education. The faculty at Bayview truly cares for the well-being of their students, and their dedication to improving the quality of education in their classrooms will benefit these students for generations to come.

I would also like to recognize Ms. JoEllen Scott, the principal of Bayview Elementary School, whose hard work and excellent leadership have helped make this school the success it is today. I am confident that Bayview Elementary School will continue to produce well-rounded and motivated students for the next 50 years and beyond.

DEACON ASPINWALL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Deacon Aspinwall who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Deacon Aspinwall is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Deacon Aspinwall is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Deacon Aspinwall for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his high school career to his college career and future accomplishments.

VIRGINIA TECH MASSACRE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today marks the 1 year anniversary of the Virginia Tech massacre. One year ago, students on the campus woke up and went to class. It was another seemingly ordinary day. But a mentally-ill coward, hungry for control and infamy, followed through on his premeditated rampage.

On April 16, 2007, there were two separate attacks, 2 hours apart on the campus of Virginia Tech. The murderer, Seung-Hui Cho, killed 32 people and wounded many.

The first attack occurred at West Ambler Johnston Hall. Cho entered the co-ed dormitory, home to 894 students, at 7 a.m. Fifteen minutes later, he murdered two victims

before returning to his dorm room. Nearly 2 hours later, Cho went to a post office to mail writings and video footage to NBC News. He was sure to inform the press because he wanted the infamy and power. This coward carried chains, locks, a hammer, a knife, two guns, nineteen 10- and 15-round magazines, and almost 400 rounds of ammunition. He was on a murderous mission.

Two hours after his first killings, Cho continued his murder spree at Norris Hall. He chained the three main entrance doors shut, placed a note on the doors that said if the door was opened a bomb would explode, and then went up to the second floor to begin the massacre. Cho peeked into the classroom twice, to view his prey. He entered Professor G.V. Loganathan's classroom, killing the professor and then killing 9 of the 13 students. Two other students were injured and only 2 students survived unharmed. Cho then walked across the hall to Christopher James Bishop's classroom where he killed Bishop and 4 other students. Cho wounded 6 others. Cho continued down Norris Hall, shooting students and professors. He returned to the classrooms several times. Cho's spree continued for 10 to 12 minutes. He fired at least 174 rounds.

The 2 hour murderous massacre taught us that universities must have a coordinated, quick system to notify students, staff, and the entire university community of a pending danger. I'm an original cosponsor on the Virginia Tech Victims Campus Emergency Response Policy and Notification Act, which would require universities to notify students and employees within 30 minutes after campus security or law enforcement determines that an emergency exists on campus. It is unfortunate that it took a tragedy to teach us this lesson.

This country continues to mourn the lives of the 32 victims from Virginia Tech. We will never forget them. And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 147, 153, 154, 155, 164, 165, 174, 178, 179, and 181 I am not recorded because I was absent due to illness.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

IN HONOR OF THE SPELLING
CHAMPIONS OF THE MULTI-RE-
GIONAL STATE SPELLING BEE

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, last month, students from all over Minnesota met at the St. Cloud Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites to compete for the honor of traveling to Washington in May for the Scripps National Spelling Bee. I commend all of the students who participated for their extraordinary commitment to academics and their brilliance and poise under pressure.

In particular, I share in all of Minnesota's pride in 8th Grader Catherine Cojocar of Holy Spirit Catholic School in Rochester, Minnesota, who will be participating in the National Spelling Bee for the second year in a row.

I also wish to commend the winners of the Central Minnesota Regional Spelling Bee who competed amongst 56 students in grades 5 to 8 from 34 different school districts. These students earned a spot at the State Bee: Ali Fuller of Chisago Lakes, Christina Huling of Annandale, Matt Schultz of St. Michael-Albertville, and Peter Doyle of Rocori. The skill these young men and women showed is truly awe-inspiring. They are a real example for us all.

HONORING THE LONE STAR COLLEGE SYSTEM UNIVERSITY CENTER ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today very proud to honor and congratulate the Lone Star College System University Center in The Woodlands, Texas, on its 10th anniversary.

The University Center broke ground in June of 1996 under the theme of "common ground for the common good." Partner universities, which include: Prairie View A&M University, Sam Houston State University, Texas A&M University, Texas Southern University, University of Houston and University of Houston-Downtown, began offering courses in September of 1997, and facilities were opened in January of the next year. Since that time, the University Center has indeed honored the vision of providing multi-level quality higher education instruction to a diverse population of citizens from north Houston, north Harris and Montgomery counties.

Over the past decade, the Center has experienced phenomenal growth. Student enrollment and the number of courses offered has grown four-fold. In 1997, the Center served 374 students in 65 classes. Today, over 2,300 students participate in 255 classes. Fifty-two thousand students have been served in ten years with no signs that growth will stop.

This unique partnership between the six Texas universities and the five colleges of the Lone Star College System has created amazing educational opportunities for the students of the region. Through this partnership, students at the University Center can complete baccalaureate degrees, master's degrees and continuing professional studies in over 65 programs without having to drive long distances. Having such programs right in their own backyard is an opportunity that the enrollment numbers clearly tell us is just too good to pass up.

The University Center is not only an asset to our community now, but the sky is the limit for its future impact. By offering convenient access to top quality instructors and innovative teaching, the opportunity for students to achieve their higher education goals in my district has never been so strong.

I consistently hear from employers that University Center students take their outstanding

educations and make a mark in the workplace. Many careers have been started or enhanced through this unique educational resource. As the University Center moves beyond its first decade, the best is truly yet to come.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to represent the University Center in the U.S. House of Representatives, and I urge you to join me in congratulating the Lone Star College System—University Center on this momentous occasion.

RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF THE TREATY ROOM AND THE CROSSROADS OF DESTINY EXHIBIT AT THE GARST MUSEUM IN GREENVILLE, OHIO

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the grand opening of the Treaty Room and the Crossroads of Destiny Exhibit at the Garst Museum in Greenville, Ohio.

One of most significant historical moments in Darke County was the signing of the Treaty of Greene Ville, which ended forty years of conflict over the upper Ohio Valley and opened the door for western settlement, leading to Ohio's statehood. This exhibit tells the story of life on the frontier: war, resolution, loss, progress and the growth of a nation.

While Darke County is no longer the Western edge of the United States, its citizens retain the finest qualities of frontier settlers: generous hearts, a zeal for public service and the passionate patriotism that General Anthony Wayne, General William Henry Harrison, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark exhibited more than two centuries ago.

It is my pleasure to congratulate The Garst Museum, the Darke County Historical Society and the citizens of Darke County on the grand opening of this new exhibit.

CONGRATULATING ST. MARY OF VERNON ON THEIR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 30th Anniversary of St. Mary of Vernon, a well-established church located in the 10th district of Illinois.

In 1978, Father John Finnegan went to Lake County to establish a new parish in the Vernon Hills area. The first Mass took place on August 15, 1978, in a rented space at Hawthorn Jr. High School. Three years later, in 1981, the church moved into their new Worship Center which doubled as a building for Mass as well as for social and community activities. In December of 2005, the church moved into a new church building, fulfilling their dream. Despite the acquisition, the congregation takes pride in the fact that it is the people inside the church's walls that make St. Mary of Vernon what it is.

The parishioners of St. Mary of Vernon are dedicated to the Catholic education for all

ages. Their goal is for all activities and gatherings to have a spiritual dimension and regular participation in these programs helps develop a community within the church.

Going beyond themselves, St. Mary of Vernon believes in serving the needs of their surrounding community. Through outreach programs, people feel welcome in the church at all times. To maximize their impact, they also partner up with other congregations and community efforts.

This year we pause to celebrate the church's 30th Anniversary and their impact on our community. I commend St. Mary's for their accomplishments over the years and know they will continue to do great things in the years to come.

IN HONOR OF GERRET AND TATIANA COPELAND

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Gerret and Tatiana Copeland for their momentous gift to Christiana Care Health System's Center for Heart and Vascular Health. The Copelands' gift will enable Christiana Care to purchase a Stereotaxis remote navigation system that can more effectively target problem areas in the heart while still preserving healthy tissue, thereby providing the people of Delaware with the best treatment available for a potentially fatal disorder.

Stereotaxis is used to treat Atrial Fibrillation, a common heart condition that occurs when the heart rhythm becomes irregular, possibly leading to blood clots and eventual stroke. The current procedure—which involves inserting a catheter through the artery, identifying the areas of the heart that trigger the irregular heartbeat, and destroying those areas—puts healthy tissue in the heart at risk, is time consuming, and has only a 50 percent success rate. The Stereotaxis equipment, which will be housed in a new surgical suite named for Gerret and Tatiana, uses computer technology to create three-dimensional images of the heart and veins, allowing the cardiologist to direct a magnetic catheter with greater precision and less chance of damaging the patient's heart. These features should increase procedure success rates to as high as 90 percent. In addition, the Stereotaxis procedure is shorter than the traditional procedure; thus, the patient should require less sedation, less post-surgery medication, and recover at a faster rate. This type of cutting-edge equipment is available in only 100 hospitals worldwide.

The Copelands are no strangers to philanthropy: they have been generously supporting various causes in Delaware for many years, most notably the arts. Their gift to Christiana Care, however, is very personal. In 2006, following a cardiac catheterization, Gerret underwent heart bypass surgery to treat blockage in six of his arteries. Due to the extraordinary skill of the dedicated team of doctors at Christiana Care, Gerret has since made a full recovery. He and Tatiana hope that their donation will help others benefit from the same exceptional care.