

celebrated by Americans, Mexicans, and many others around the world.

The victory of the Mexican army over the French at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862, came to represent unity and patriotism for the Mexican people, which is now celebrated today as Cinco de Mayo. That same spirit of unity and patriotism exists in this country, and sharing it with as many as possible is an honorable and notable goal.

Millions of Hispanic Americans thrive and contribute in our country, with over 18 million residing in the Western United States, 65 percent of them of Mexican descent. These citizens bring their unique culture to communities throughout the United States. This is the epitome of what this Nation is all about—having the freedom to come together and celebrate so many different cultures.

On Cinco de Mayo, we reflect on the contributions of the country of Mexico, the battle for unity and patriotism, and that our freedom to celebrate is not something we can take for granted.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I was not present on April 30, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on the following rollcall votes: rollcall 227, rollcall 228, rollcall 229, rollcall 230, rollcall 233.

I would have voted “nay” on the following: rollcall 232.

CONSOLIDATED NATURAL RESOURCES ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support S. 2739, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008. S. 2739 includes the text of many important House-passed Federal lands bills, including H.R. 1100, my legislation to ensure the preservation of the beautiful natural surroundings at the Carl Sandburg Home Historic Site in Western North Carolina.

Carl Sandburg is one of America's finest and favorite poets. In 1945, Sandburg moved to Flat Rock, North Carolina, where he would spend the rest of his life.

The Sandburg Home is an important part of both our heritage and our economy in Western North Carolina. It is imperative that we protect the integrity of the Sandburg Home Site so future generations can fully appreciate its tremendous natural beauty. Expanding this site will also allow Western North Carolina to attract more tourists to the area, further driving the economy of the region.

I thank my colleagues in the House for the overwhelming bipartisan support they demonstrated in passing H.R. 1100 last year, and I thank Senators DOLE and BURR for their support of this legislation in the Senate.

I ask my colleagues to join me once again in preserving this national treasure.

HONORING JENNIFER AND JAMES GRIFFIN ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR MARRIAGE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two of my constituents who were married Saturday, March 8, 2008. Jennifer Lewis Fowlkes and James Sean Griffin celebrated their commitment to each other at a wedding ceremony held at the Griffin home in Land O'Lakes, Florida. A couple firmly dedicated to the Pasco County region, Jennifer works for Verizon and James is an entrepreneur.

As George Eliot once said, “What greater thing is there for two human souls than to feel that they are joined together to strengthen each other in all labour, to minister to each other in all sorrow, to share with each other in all gladness, to be one with each other in the silent unspoken memories?” Having known the Griffin family for many years, Jennifer and James will have a lifetime of wedded joy ahead of them. I can only hope that their marriage is as long-lasting and full of love as that of James' parents, Danielle and Jeff Griffin.

Madam Speaker, we should all be jealous of newlyweds like Jennifer and James. Their lifelong journey began with the first step of a marriage ceremony, and they have yet to see the ups and downs and joys and sorrows that come with every union of man and woman. Their commitment to each other is one to be celebrated and commended and one in which I offer my congratulations and wish them well as they begin their new life together.

HONORING RYAN HOPKIN AND JAMES ETIER

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mrs. CUBIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ryan Hopkin and James Etier, Wyoming's State Honorees for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. These students were selected in a highly competitive, nationwide program, recognizing their outstanding acts of volunteerism.

Ryan Hopkin, a senior at Powell High School, installed crosswalk flags for younger children at dangerous intersections around the town's elementary schools. This innovative idea placed canisters on either side of the street, with cans provided for picking up and depositing the flag after use. That way, each student has a neon orange flag to carry, alerting drivers of their presence, and increasing their safety on the trip to school.

James Etier, an eighth-grader at Rock Springs East Junior High School, did a variety of volunteer activities at an after-school program. He helped out at the Humane Society shelter, worked at an elementary school with young children, and volunteered with the Salvation Army. James also assisted a group of senior citizens with yard work, in addition to visiting the local nursing home to meet residents.

Volunteerism is a community activity that is important to instill in our youth and these two individuals embody the spirit of service. I applaud them for their hard work and dedication to helping others. I hope they serve as role-models for their fellow students, leading by example.

In addition, I would like to recognize Wyoming's Distinguished Finalists, Elizabeth Whetstone of Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Walter Wilson of Albin, Wyoming, for their commendable efforts.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA HAWKEYES WRESTLING TEAM ON WINNING THE 2008 NCAA DIVISION I NATIONAL WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID LOESACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Mr. LOESACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an amazing team from the 2nd District of Iowa, which I represent. I'm proud to stand before my colleagues today and commend the University of Iowa Hawkeyes wrestling team for winning the 2008 NCAA Division I National Wrestling Championship. As many wrestling fans know, the University of Iowa has a celebrated history of exemplary wrestlers and coaches that have allowed the University of Iowa, the city of Iowa City, and the entire State of Iowa to boast numerous Big Ten Titles and NCAA championships.

In total, the University of Iowa Hawkeyes wrestling team has won 32 Big Ten Conference Championships, and since 1975, a total of 21 NCAA Division I National Wrestling Championships. The current team has kept the Hawkeye record strong and it's my privilege to congratulate them on the 32nd Big Ten Title and 21st national championship for the school.

The University of Iowa Hawkeyes wrestling team is led by Head Coach Tom Brands who, in addition to this championship win, was named Big Ten Coach of the Year and the National Wrestling Coaches Association Coach of the Year. Under Coach Brands' leadership, along with his assistants and strength coaches, the team also had two individual national champions.

Mark Perry won his second national title while overcoming a knee injury during his match, and was also awarded his fourth all-American honor. Brent Metcalf won his first national title. He was also awarded his first all-American honor, the Dan Hodge Trophy, was named as the Big Ten Wrestler of the Year, was crowned a Big Ten Champion, finished the season with a 32-match winning streak, was named Outstanding Wrestler at the NCAA and Big Ten Championships, and was named Outstanding Wrestler at the Division I NWCA/Cliff Keen National Duals. Including the two individual national champions, the team had a total of seven all-Americans and six Academic All-Big Ten wrestlers.

With the wrestling program starting in 1911, the current University of Iowa Hawkeyes Wrestling Team has built upon past successes to continue the teams and schools winning tradition. As wrestling fans know, much of this