

HONORING SIEGEL HIGH SCHOOL'S LADY STARS FOR WINNING THE CLASS AAA STATE SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 10, 2008*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Siegel High School Lady Stars soccer team for winning the Class AAA state soccer championship.

The victory marks the first time in school history that the Lady Stars won the state soccer championship. In each of the four previous years, they competed in the state championship tournament, making it as far as the semifinals twice. This year, The Tennessean picked Franklin High School as the favorite to win the tournament, which also included Brentwood High School and Collierville High School.

However, in the end, the Siegel Lady Stars beat the Brentwood Lady Bruins 2-1. The 2008-09 girls soccer team is the third Siegel High School sports team to win a state title, joining the 2006 boys tennis and 2007 girls tennis squads.

I congratulate the Lady Stars and their support staff, which includes Kerbi Towry, Sarah Jameson, Stephanie Surgener, Caroline Elbaum, McKensie Gibson, Mercedes Llanos, Savannah Hawkins, Maggie Trollinger, Tawanna Myers, Tori Hawkins, Julie Brackin, Samantha Pewitt, Lauren Bennett, Taylor Eaton, Katie Copeland, Brandi Phillips, Kayla Ernst, Stephanie Parra, Kelsey Naish, Alison Ristvedt, Hayley Sloan, Caroline Gerhart, Kristina Davis, Sydney Eakes, Morgan Thompson, Briesi Davis, Cassidy Jagger, Kim Conrad, Araceli Vazques, Claire Stampley, Sydney Dewberry, Head Coach Eric Shelton, Assistant Cliff Matlock, Assistant Adam Shelton, Athletic Director Alan Bush, and Principal Ken Nolan.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY THROUGH RESPONSIBLE HOMEOWNERSHIP ACT

**HON. DAVID DREIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 10, 2008*

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, the current economic crisis that we are facing as a nation has spread throughout many sectors and many industries. The banking industry has been crippled, credit markets have frozen and manufacturing capacity is shrinking. The worst job loss numbers in 34 years were just released last Friday, and the losses were widespread throughout every major industry.

But this crisis began with the housing industry, and it will not be fixed without addressing the root problem of excess supply that drives down prices. The lack of home buyers has caused the supply of unsold homes to increase rapidly. This not only causes blight in neighborhoods across the United States, but also places severe downward pressure on home values. Falling home prices are particularly detrimental to working American families, many of whom rely on their home as a financial investment to build long-term wealth.

As home prices fall, homeowners are faced with the reality of declining equity in their homes and many are finding their mortgage debt to be greater than the value of their home. Declining values and increased foreclosures create a vicious cycle. As more homes enter foreclosure, home values continue to decline, leading to yet more defaults and further declines in value. All of the ripple effects that we've seen throughout the economy, in the credit markets and beyond, stem from this core problem.

We also know that irresponsible actions on both Wall Street and Main Street contributed heavily to this current situation. We need a plan that addresses the core problems of the housing industry, providing an immediate stimulus to the economy, while rewarding responsible, working middle-class families who live within their means and make prudent financial decisions.

Today I am introducing a bill that will help to accomplish just that. This legislation offers a new tax credit for 2009 and 2010 for every home purchase made with a down payment of at least 10 percent. A home buyer making a down payment of 10 percent will receive a \$5000 tax credit. A home buyer making a down payment of 15 percent will receive a \$10,000 tax credit.

By linking the tax credit to down payments, this bill will encourage only responsible home ownership. And by incentivizing home buying, it addresses the oversupply of homes that is creating such strain on the broader U.S. economy.

Unlike the credit enacted by Congress this summer, which was offered only to first-time homebuyers, this credit would be available to anyone who is able to meet the down payment criteria set forth in the bill. This ensures that all working families, not just first-time buyers, are able to take advantage of the new credit.

Furthermore, this bill requires a significant down payment. We all know that irresponsible participants in our housing markets—individuals, banks and government-sponsored enterprises—took advantage of the system and helped to create our current crisis in the first place. That's why this bill encourages home buying that is based on sound financial planning.

I believe this plan will deliver quick relief by restoring our ailing housing industry. It enables responsible home buyers to jumpstart the industry, stop home prices from continuing to plummet and restore the communities that have been plagued by foreclosures. And because this new benefit will expire at the end of 2010, it will encourage quick action. Our challenges won't be solved overnight and there are no quick fixes. But we must take this expeditious and prudent step to put us back on the path to recovery.

BELLE GROVE PLANTATION LAND FUND CELEBRATION

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 10, 2008*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize that on November 1, 2008, the Board of Directors of Belle Grove Planta-

tion in Middletown, Virginia, celebrated the completion of a \$1 million campaign to purchase 183 acres of adjacent land. I was pleased to join in the celebration of this milestone which is an important step toward preserving an essential part of this historic landscape for future generations. The master of ceremonies was Belle Grove Board Member Ambassador James E. Nolan, Jr. During the program, held on the 1797 Manor House's front lawn, James R. Wilkins, Jr. presented the final \$10,000 gift for the campaign to Belle Grove's executive director, Elizabeth McClung.

The gift was a grant from the James R. Wilkins Foundation, which made the first major contribution to the campaign. The Wilkins family members are descendants of Jost Hite, the first recorded settler in the Shenandoah Valley. The land they helped preserve at Belle Grove was originally owned by Jost Hite in the 18th century. Major Isaac Hite, Jost's grandson, received this land in 1783 on his marriage to Nelly Madison, sister of President James Madison. Here they built their limestone Manor House in 1797, with design assistance from Thomas Jefferson. The plantation grew to 7,500 acres during Major Isaac Hite's lifetime. On October 19, 1864, Belle Grove was at the epicenter of the Civil War Battle of Belle Grove or Cedar Creek.

The newly-purchased 183 acres reclaims a portion of the original plantation and Civil War battlefield, and nearly triples the size of the historic site which has been open to the public since 1967. Belle Grove Plantation is both a Virginia and National Historic Landmark, is owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and is the centerpiece of the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park.

The following major donors who made the land purchase possible were honored at the event, and a commemorative preservation plaque was dedicated: James R. Wilkins Foundation, Fred and Christine Andreae, Belle Grove, Inc., Byron and Kathleen Kanter Brill, County of Frederick, Virginia, Mr. and Mrs. Carl W. Thompson, The Beirne Carter Foundation, David and Barbara Came, Martha Cook, Nancy Larrick Crosby, Bob and Betty Edwards, Mary C. Ewing, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Mary P. Robinson, Lilburn and Nancy St. Clair Talley, Kathryn Perry Werner, William and Elaine Brandt, Malcolm and Mildred Brumback, Mr. and Mrs. Harry F. Byrd, III, Chemstone Corporation, The Robert Claytor Family, William H. and Jean G. Clement, Joy Holler Costello, Pat and Warren B. French, Jr., The Hite Family Association, Suzanne W. McKown, Charles J. Reeder, Donald and Madeline Stewart, and William S. and Elizabeth W. Talley.

HONORING PHIL FULMER'S TENURE AS UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE'S FOOTBALL COACH

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 10, 2008*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Phil Fulmer for his impressive record as University of Tennessee's football coach. Coach Fulmer finished his career at UT with a record of 152-

52, including two Southeastern Conference titles, seven SEC Eastern Division titles and the 1998 National Championship.

A Winchester, Tennessee native, Phil graduated from Franklin County High School and went on to UT where he played offensive guard for the Volunteers' football team. Phil and his team completed the 1969–71 seasons with a combined record of 30-5, capturing the SEC Championship in 1969 and winning the 1971 Liberty Bowl.

After graduating from UT in 1972, Phil began coaching as a graduate assistant in 1972, serving as linebacker coach and defensive coordinator for UT's freshman team. From 1974–78, he left UT to coach at Wichita State University and later Vanderbilt University.

Phil returned to his alma mater in 1980 as an assistant coach and offensive coordinator. In 1992, he became the 20th head football coach of the Volunteers. During his tenure, Tennessee had 17 All-American selections, went to 14 bowl games and produced 16 First Round NFL draft picks. Phil was named 1998 National Coach of the Year by Sporting News, the Football Writers Association of America, the American Football Coaches Association, and the Maxwell Football Club. In 1999, he won the State Farm Eddie Robinson National Coach of Distinction Award. Phil was inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame in 2001. Most recently, he was inducted into the Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame, in 2008.

UT will always be a special place for Phil, having spent more than 34 years there as a coach, student-athlete and a father of four UT students—Phillip, Jr.; Courtney; Brittany; and Allison, who plays on the UT softball team. Phil will continue helping his alma mater as a special assistant to UT President John Peterson.

I wish Phil, his wife, Vicky, and their family the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING HOSPITALMAN  
MARK A. JAMES, UNITED  
STATES NAVY SCOTTSDALE  
HEALTHCARE'S "SALUTE TO  
MILITARY" HONOREE

### HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 10, 2008*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a member of the Armed Forces from my home state of Arizona. Every month Scottsdale Healthcare honors service members that perform diligent service to this country. For the month of November, they have recognized Mark A. James, Hospitalman 3rd Class, United States Navy.

I commend Scottsdale Healthcare for paying tribute to such an outstanding service member for his bravery and service to our country.

Hospitalman 3rd Class James displayed an early interest in military service through his participation in the Junior ROTC program offered by his high school. After graduation in 2005, Hospitalman James joined the U.S. Navy. He completed his boot camp training and hospital corpsman courses at Naval Station Great Lakes in Great Lakes, Illinois. After

finishing initial training, Hospitalman James was stationed in Sasebo, Japan, and was also deployed for one tour in Kuwait.

After completing his service in Japan, Hospitalman James is currently on his way to joining the crew of the USS *Abraham Lincoln*, which is an aircraft carrier based out of Everett, Washington. Hospitalman James has received the Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Expert Rifle Badge, and a Certificate of Achievement, and is looking forward to a career in naval medicine as a physician's assistant.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the inspiring efforts of this brave citizen who is serving our country and protecting the lives of his fellow servicemen in combat.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ALTON YATES

### HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 10, 2008*

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor the life achievements of Mr. Alton Yates, a man of many talents and passions who, by his own convictions and beliefs in the dignity of human kind, paved the way for so many to achieve their goals, and influence the course of history.

Alton Yates was born of modest yet proud means, the second of seven children, raised in the powerful and nurturing shadow of his father, a man of principles, character and determination. His father instilled in him the need to achieve beyond your born station in life, and by so doing help to sew in the fabric of humanity threads of decency, respect, and quest for the betterment of mankind. Alton Yates accomplished his earlier goals, and those of his father by making sure all that was available to him through education and interaction, he would absorb and be nurtured by this new found knowledge. Here is a man of unparalleled dedication and commitment. He is not only a pioneer in the early days of the space program and the civil rights movement, Alton Yates went on to a successful career in city government and business. He was a pioneer in the early days of the space program as a volunteer for a program that would test the effects of space flight on the human body. This was America's first efforts to put a man in space and to ensure that man could survive in space. Likewise, as we celebrate the historic inauguration of President-Elect Barack Obama as the next President of the United States of America, this journey for him and all of us, including Alton Yates began before he was born. Alton Yates was there at the beginning. He sat down at lunch counters, time and time again, often suffering human indignity and physical abuse at the hands of those who would seek to deny him, and us, our piece of the American dream, simply, and only because of the color of one's skin. Alton Yates and others like him paved the way that has led to the election of an African-American President-Elect. Alton Yates never recoiled from the responsibility of family, community, and service to mankind.

From the early days of segregation, to the chance to help establish this nation's space

program, as an African-American, to his ability to serve and protect the ideals of equality and personal responsibility, we are indebted to Alton Yates for his courage and his belief in the sanctity and strength of the human spirit.

We acknowledge his wife of 48 years, former Jacksonville City Councilwoman, Gwendolyn Yates for her individual achievements and the support she and family has given to Alton that has allowed him to soar to great heights, as a man, a husband, a father, a pioneer, and a civil rights leader and gentleman.

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA L. FRANCO

### HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 10, 2008*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, in my years of public service, I have benefitted from the efforts of many capable employees on my staff who have come and gone. Yet there has always remained one constant in my office, Martha Franco, and for that I am truly grateful.

Martha was born in Guadalajara, Mexico. Her parents, Maria and Doroteo Franco and her siblings, Jeronimo, Humberto, Benilde, Bertha, Oscar, Abel, Hector, Dinora and Gloria all emigrated to the United States where they settled in the small town of Colusa, California. As a naturalized citizen, she is a model example of someone who made the efforts required to become a U.S. citizen and has gone on to contribute to our country through public service. She is also active in helping needy families in the Sacramento area and from the small village in Mexico where her family is from. Martha first came to work for me in 1984 when I served in the California State Senate.

When I was elected to Congress in 1990, Martha became my Executive Assistant and Office Manager. She has worked for me in Washington and in California, and this year I named her as my Deputy Chief of Staff. Martha's loyal presence has meant so much to my wife, Julie, to me, and to our entire organization. The people who call upon our office have appreciated seeing a familiar face through the years, and I have appreciated having someone who knows the many people who have been important to us throughout my career. Martha's unsurpassed character and dedication have allowed me to trust her with confidential and sensitive materials and to do so with great confidence.

Martha's spirit is demonstrated by her commitment to family and heritage as well. She cares for her father at home and is a wonderful aunt to her many nieces and nephews, their beloved "Tia Mart". I know she is looking forward to spending even more time with her large family as she begins a new chapter in her life.

While our work together will soon end, Martha will always remain an important person in our lives. As she looks to new opportunities, I wish Martha all the best, and look forward to her continued friendship in the years to come.