

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO THE OSWEGO HIGH SCHOOL LADY BUCS HOCKEY TEAM

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Oswego High School Lady Bucs hockey team for their victory in the 2010 New York State Girls High School Hockey Championships.

On Saturday the 13th of February, high school hockey fans were treated to a great championship game between some of the most skilled players in the state when the Lady Bucs defeated Skaneateles in the final game 3-0. I understand that the Lady Bucs' championship win claimed the school's first team state title since the varsity boys bowling team accomplished the feat about two decades ago.

I want to congratulate the championship girls' team of Whitney Daino, Erika Lazzaro, Sage Dudley, Taylor Cianfarano, Kaitlin Friel, Sarah Mancuso, Danielle Faivus, Caroline Dougherty, Karissa Favata, Taite Phillips, Sarah Gosek, Lainey Celeste, Tessa Opet, Devyn Hutcheson, Katy Darling, Madisyn Whalen and Allison Yule on their hard work. I would also like to recognize Taylor Cianfarano for being named the tournament's most valuable player, as well as Devyn Hutcheson, Kaitlin Friel and goalie Madisyn Whalen for being selected to the all-tournament team.

I also want to extend my congratulations to head coach Dan Bartlett and assistants Beth Arduini and Andrew Lazzaro, who built upon an impressive legacy to take the team to victory. The elite status of these athletic young women could not have been reached without the combined dedication of these coaches.

Madam Speaker, the Lady Bucs' teamwork sets a strong example for the community and reminds us all what is possible when we come together. Again, congratulations to the Lady Bucs on their success.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF DEDE LONG

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Dede Long on her retirement after 31 years of exemplary, devoted service to Briar Bush Nature Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to environmental education in Abington, PA. I am honored to represent Ms. Long and the people of Abington in Congress.

Founded in 1908 as a wildlife refuge Briar Bush was acquired by Abington Township in

1962 upon the passing of its founders. In 1964 the Friends of Briar Bush was created as a non-profit organization dedicated to providing environmental education to individuals and groups of all ages through on-site and outreach experiences, protecting and nurturing a natural wildlife habitat, and promoting conservation of natural resources by increasing awareness and understanding of the environment.

Dede Long was selected as Executive Director of Briar Bush in 1979. She brought with her her experience with the USO in Athens, Greece, as a junior high school science teacher in Japan, and her work at outdoor-education schools in California. Through her stewardship Ms. Long has worked to establish many effective relationships with local organizations and the nationally recognized partnership between Briar Bush Nature Center, the Friends of Briar Bush, Abington Township and the Abington School District. During her tenure at Briar Bush, she has increased the number of staff members, completed a full renovation of all exhibits, and added facilities such as The Treetops classroom and Butterfly House.

The Briar Bush Nature Center has received numerous awards, including "Nonprofit of the Year," and "Nickelodeon Parents' Pick" for the variety of family oriented programs and events offered yearly. Ms. Long has been acknowledged personally for her valuable work, receiving the 2008 Keystone Award from the Pennsylvania Alliance of Environmental Educators. She is an active member of her community and is involved in the Rotary Club of Jenkintown, the Abington Community Taskforce, and the Eastern Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce. She also supports many special events sponsored by other community organizations including the Jenkintown Day Nursery, Abington Education Foundation, Police Athletic League and Old York Road Historical Society.

Madam Speaker, once again I applaud Dede Long for her dedication, service, and accomplishment as Executive Director of Briar Bush Nature Center and environmental leader for over three decades. I offer my heartfelt congratulations to her on the momentous occasion of her retirement.

THE KIDNEY OF BARBI VAVRA GOES TO DON NEYLAND

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise before you today to recognize Barbi Vavra and Don Neyland, two brave Liberty County Sheriff's Office employees from the great State of Texas. Their lives of service to the community are extraordinary examples of self sacrifice. It gives me great

pleasure to recognize these two outstanding Texans before Congress and this Nation.

Sergeant Don Neyland with the Liberty County Sheriff's Office has bravely served the people of Liberty County as a police officer and investigator for 19 years. Yet, his life of service is all the more impressive because he suffers from serious kidney problems. One fateful day in 2009, Sergeant Neyland learned from doctors that he would need a kidney transplant. Soon his family members all began getting tested to see if they would be able to donate a kidney; but no match was found. Still continuing to hope, Sergeant Neyland decided to hand out brochures to coworkers about becoming a living kidney donor.

Twenty one year old coworker and friend, Barbi Vavra who is a clerk at the Liberty County Sheriff's Department read one of those pamphlets and decided to get tested. She turned out to be a perfect match and agreed to donate one of her kidneys to Sergeant Neyland. The surgery took place yesterday, March 2nd, and the two are doing very well in recovery.

Texas might have lost a hero and friend to Liberty County. Instead because Barbi decided to share the "gift of life" Sergeant Neyland and now our great State has one more hero to look to. This gift is truly inspiring.

The State of Texas and our Nation is a better place because of people like Barbi Vavra and Don Neyland. I am honored to recognize Barbi and Don, true Texans, for their example of heroism and selflessness to each other and to their community.

HONORING MS. TINA HALLQUIST

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Ms. Tina Hallquist. Ms. Hallquist served her constituency faithfully and justly during her tenure as a member of the Chautauqua County Legislature, serving district 13.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Ms. Hallquist served her term with her head held high and a smile on her face the entire way. I have no doubt that her kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Ms. Hallquist is one of those people and that is why, Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to her today.

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