

I look to the Senate for its expedited review and hope that the President will subsequently sign the measure into law. Our countries farmers deserve nothing less.

CONGRATULATING THE ROCKCASTLE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL LADY ROCKETS BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2011 KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION'S STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 1, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Rockcastle County High School Lady Rockets Basketball Team who captured the 2011 Kentucky High School Athletic Association's State Championship title. Coach Chrysti Noble led the team to an incredible victory that our region will cherish for years to come.

On March 12, 2011, the Lady Rockets defeated a talented team from Dupont Manual High School, winning 62 to 60 in a game forced into overtime. With one second remaining, senior Angie Lawrence hit the game-winning shot.

The state title is the realization of a dream come true, especially for the team's seniors. As teammates in the fifth grade, the girls experienced success as Rockcastle County's first team to earn a trip to the Amateur Athletic Union's national tournament. After tasting victory, they decided their next goal was to win the Kentucky State Championship in high school. Heart and determination have always separated this team from the competition.

In addition, I commend the tournament's most valuable player, Kentucky's first-ever McDonald's All American, Sara Hammond, for the leadership she demonstrated throughout her career at Rockcastle County High School, both on and off the court. Sara has been a prominent advocate for Operation UNITE, spreading a drug-free message to the youth in southern and eastern Kentucky.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chrysti Noble and the 2011 Lady Rockets as the KHSAA State Champions. Coach Noble and her student-athletes have demonstrated outstanding dedication, teamwork, unselfishness and sportsmanship throughout the course of the season in achieving this great honor. I congratulate them and wish them all the best in the years to come.

ARTHUR GAGNON TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 1, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker it is a wonderful privilege to stand and pay tribute to celebrate the extraordinary life of Mr. Arthur Gagnon. Sadly, he passed away on March 24th, 2011, and his loss will be felt by all who knew this

inspirational person. Mr. Gagnon was a man that had many passions, and had a lifetime of wonderful achievements on a professional and personal level. Above all else he was a man that was truly devoted to his family, faith and country.

Mr. Arthur Gagnon was born and raised in Albany, New York, and he lived there until he enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1950. Mr. Gagnon enjoyed a successful career in the Air Force that lasted two decades, and took him to all corners of the globe. He retired as a Senior Master Sergeant and always claimed to love the work he did and the people he met along the way. After twenty years of moving around the country Mr. Gagnon and his family moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado, which allowed him to continue civilian work with the Air Force at the Air Force Academy Visitor Center. Mr. Gagnon was also endlessly committed to doing all he could to assist his fellow veterans, and he did so as a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Retired Enlisted Association and Disabled American Veterans. Mr. Arthur Gagnon was a man that had a true sense of the meaning of service.

For all of his deeds in his service to America, Mr. Arthur Gagnon was even more committed to his family. He married his wife Delores in 1953 and they enjoyed a 58 year marriage. Mr. Gagnon also had three children, and was a grandfather and great-grandfather. Many in the Gagnon family looked to the lessons they learned from their father and grandfather as an example of how they should live their own life. His son James Gagnon served as an officer in the Air Force, and one of his grandsons, Joseph Gagnon is currently a first lieutenant in the Air Force. His grandson, David Sprenger, believes that his success working in the U.S. Congress can be directly attributed to the ideals he learned from his grandfather. Mr. Gagnon clearly touched the lives of others in many ways.

Mr. Speaker, it has been an honor to stand and pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of Mr. Arthur Gagnon. He was a man that tirelessly tried to bring fulfillment into the lives of those around him, and he will be dearly missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS (AHECS)

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 1, 2011

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker: I rise today to acknowledge the contributions of the nation's Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) and applaud the vitally important healthcare workforce programs they conduct to improve access to healthcare for medically under-served individuals.

AHECs, established by Congress in 1971 as one of the Title VII Health Professions Training programs, are the workforce development, training and education machine for the nation's healthcare safety net programs. Across the nation, 56 AHEC programs and more than 235 affiliated AHEC centers collaborate with

over 120 medical schools and 600 nursing and allied health programs to improve the quality, geographic distribution and diversity of the primary care workforce.

Last year, AHECs facilitated the placement of more than 44,000 health professional students in 17,530 community-based practice settings nationwide including community health centers, rural health clinics, critical access hospitals, tribal clinics and public health departments. To address the growing shortage of health care professionals in America, over 33,000 received more than 20 hours of health career exposure, information, and academic enhancement to prepare them for health professions training programs.

The University of South Florida's AHEC Program connects students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health. The USF AHEC Program inspires youth to choose a career in the health professions with its health career camps, mentoring programs, college preparatory courses and more. USF focuses on recruiting more minority and disadvantaged youth into health careers because as the nation's population becomes more diverse, it is important that the health care workforce reflects that diversity. AHECs in the Tampa Bay area are dedicated to community service and committed to enhancing the lives of Florida's most vulnerable populations who often go without health care due to geographic isolation and economic or social status. From 2000 to now, USF AHEC and its centers, Gulfcoast North AHEC and Gulfcoast South AHEC, have placed over 13,000 health professions students, residents and providers in medically underserved sites such as community health centers, county health departments and indigent care clinics within its service area; have increased access to healthcare at these sites with approximately 3 million patient encounters; and have guided more than 10,000 youth to careers in health through student enrichment and diversity programs. Most recently, USF AHEC and its centers have also provided tobacco cessation services to over 1,600 residents of the service area in an effort to combat the nation's leading cause of disease, disability and death—tobacco use.

Not only have AHECs supported the education of future professionals, but they have supported more than 482,000 health professionals caring for the medically under-served with programs designed to enhance their skills, knowledge, and quality of care. AHECs have awarded 1.1 million contact hours of continuing education programs to current health professionals. AHECs extend the academic resources of health professions training programs into rural and medically under-served communities throughout the United States by creating partnerships between the health science centers that train health professions students, residents, faculty, and practitioners and the local providers that care for our nation's increasing number of medically under-served citizens.

Mr. Speaker, through community-based interdisciplinary training programs, AHECs identify, inspire, recruit, educate, and retain a health care workforce committed to under-served populations. To that end, I would like to take this opportunity to officially recognize National AHEC Week, March 14 through March 18, 2011.