

conditions, with no luxuries or amenities we often take for granted.

I ask all Members to join me in thanking Hilda Grigorian for her unwavering commitment to the people of Armenia and Afghanistan and wish her well in all future endeavors.

NORTH POINT HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM CLASS 4A MARYLAND STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise and congratulate the North Point varsity basketball team on winning the Class 4A Maryland state finals. The narrow victory over Patterson High School on March 12th was not only a great achievement for the North Point Eagles but was the first time a Southern Maryland Athletic Conference team has taken the championship in 39 years.

This year's championship is the perfect ending to the perfect season. After months of training, practice, travel and games, the Eagles earned a number one seed and a home regional championship game against Glen Burnie. North Point put Glen Burnie to rest in one solid quarter, gaining a 29 to 6 lead from which Glen Burnie could not recover.

After 26 wins and no losses, North Point faced one last challenge—to beat Patterson High School in the state finals at the Comcast Center in College Park, Maryland. North Point took the lead early and then fell behind only to finish strong in dramatic fashion, triumphing by just 76 to 72 over their respectable opponents. The "epic Blast at Comcast" completed for a 27 and 0 record for these student-athletes, making them the only one in Maryland to have a perfect season.

Under the guidance of their coach, Jimmy Ball, this basketball team's strong defense made the difference. According to a recent news release, "North Point led by as much as 16 points but found themselves trailing Patterson 66-65 with 3:20 remaining. Senior Gerel Simmons scored seven points in the final two and a half minutes to seal the title. Sophomores Naim Muhammad, who recorded a double-double (20 points, 11 rebounds), and Marquis Wright, who scored nine points and dished out 12 assists, paced the Eagles defensive effort against a Patterson team that averaged more than 80 points a contest this year. Senior captain Devonte Thomas scored 10 points and collected eight rebounds while Simmons finished with 19 points."

Let me also honor the entire North Point High School community for they are an integral part of this team's victorious season. At every game the fans chant, in a unified voice, "We are North Point." As Principal Kim Hill has said, the motto declares that "We are many, but we are united as one." And as one team, one school, and one community they were able to accomplish victory. Congratulations to the North Point High School Eagles and the North Point Community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following remarks regarding my absence from votes which occurred on May 12, 2011 and May 13, 2011 due to attending my son Hunter T. Wilson's Army commissioning and graduation in Industrial Engineering at Clemson University. Listed below is how I would have voted if I had been present.

Roll Number 315—Tsongas of Massachusetts Amendment No. 5—nay; roll Number 316—Brown of Florida Amendment No. 6—nay; roll Number 317—Thompson of California No. 7—nay; roll Number 318—Insee of Washington No. 8—nay; roll Number 319—Motion to Recommit with Instructions, H.R. 1231, "Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium Act"—nay; roll Number 320—On Passage of H.R. 1231, "Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium Act"—aye; roll Number 321—H. Con. Res. 50, providing for adjournment of the House—aye.

Roll Number 322—H. Res. 264, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 754) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes—aye; roll Number 323—Mike Rogers of Michigan Amendment—aye; roll Number 324—Gibson of New York Amendment—aye; roll Number 325—Hinchey of New York Amendment—nay; roll Number 326—Carney of Delaware Amendment—nay; roll Number 327—Reed of New York Amendment—aye; roll Number 328—Motion to Recommit with Instructions, H.R. 754, the "Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011"—nay; roll Number 329—On Passage of H.R. 754, "Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011"—aye.

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS REGARDING H.R. 658

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit the following correspondence between Congresswoman MCMORRIS RODGERS, myself, and Chairman DAVE CAMP regarding the inclusion of language in the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization bill permitting tax-exempt bonds to be used to finance the purchase of fixed-wing aircraft for air ambulance services.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

March 14, 2011.

Hon. DAVE CAMP,
Chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CAMP: We write to request your support for the inclusion of language in the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization bill that would permit tax-exempt bonds to be used to finance the purchase of fixed-wing aircraft to provide air ambulance services.

Current tax law prevents states from using tax-exempt bonds to finance new fixed-wing air ambulances while tax-exempt bonds can be used for the acquisition of medical helicopters. Aircraft and helicopters are both important for emergency medical care.

While helicopters can be used to provide air ambulance services, airplanes are commonly a superior mode of emergency air transportation for critically ill patients in rural areas. In many instances, the use of helicopters for air ambulance services in rural areas is impractical because of the long distances that patients must be transported. Also, airplanes present the safest and fastest mode of transportation during inclement weather. Allowing states to use tax-exempt bonds to finance fixed wing aircraft used exclusively for emergency medical services in the same way they can for helicopters will allow for better emergency medical service in our rural communities and save more lives.

Thank you for considering bringing equality to the tax code for fixed-wing aircraft that provide air ambulance services.

Sincerely,

DOC HASTINGS,
CATHY MCMORRIS
RODGERS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 3, 2011.

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HASTINGS: Thank you very much for your recent letter regarding the provision in the Senate's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bill that would permit tax-exempt bonds to be used to finance the purchase of fixed-wing aircraft that provide air ambulance services.

I appreciate your leadership, as well as that of others such as Representative Dave Reichert, a Member of the Committee on Ways and Means, in bringing this issue to my attention. As we prepare to enter negotiations with the Senate on a final version of the FAA reauthorization legislation, I look forward to working with you and other interested Members to better understand this issue and to explore possible modifications to current law in this area.

Thank you again for your letter and interest.

Sincerely,

DAVE CAMP.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 3, 2011.

Hon. CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS,
Vice Chair, House Republican Conference,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN MCMORRIS RODGERS: Thank you very much for your recent letter regarding the provision in the Senate's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bill that would permit tax-exempt bonds to be used to finance the purchase of fixed-wing aircraft that provide air ambulance services.

I appreciate your leadership, as well as that of others such as Representative Dave Reichert, a Member of the Committee on Ways and Means, in bringing this issue to my attention. As we prepare to enter negotiations with the Senate on a final version of the FAA reauthorization legislation, I look forward to working with you and other interested Members to better understand this issue and to explore possible modifications to current law in this area.

Thank you again for your letter and interest.

Sincerely,

DAVE CAMP.

CONGRATULATING BRIGADIER GENERAL JOSEPH A. LANNI ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brigadier General Joseph A. Lanni for his outstanding service to our Nation on the occasion of his retirement.

On behalf of the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District, I am honored to congratulate Brigadier General Lanni upon his retirement as Commander of the Air Force Security Assistance Center at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

His over 31 years of dedicated service to the citizens of our Nation and our area is both admirable and commendable. Lanni received his commission in 1980 upon his graduation from the U.S. Air Force Academy. As Commander, Air Force Security Assistance Center, General Lanni was the focal point for administering the Air Force's \$92.7 billion security assistance budget supporting foreign military sales to more than 96 countries, operating more than 6,000 aircraft and other major weapons systems.

Over the course of his distinguished career, he served as an operational fighter pilot, aggressor pilot, and experimental test pilot. He also commanded a classified Flight Test Squadron and the 412th Test Wing. Additionally, he directed the F-22 Combined Test Force, and served on the Headquarters Air Force and Joint Staff. Lanni is a command pilot with more than 4,700 flight hours including the F-22 and 90 different types of aircraft and classified prototypes.

For his many years of service to our Nation, I join the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District in extending our best wishes upon his retirement and wish him ongoing success in all future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY ON ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Southern Methodist University (SMU) on the occasion of their Centennial Celebration. I am a proud alumnus of SMU, and look forward to their four-year celebration to commemorate this anniversary.

SMU has made amazing strides over the past century, rising from a small rural college to an internationally renowned university. From its founding in 1911 till today, SMU has graduated more than 100,000 alumni. The outstanding achievement and leadership of those alumni serves as a testament to SMU's tradition of success. With seven different schools, SMU ranks as one of the best universities in the Nation. The Cox School of Business is routinely ranked in the top 25 business schools in the United States. In addition to

twelve alumni who are past and present Members of the U.S. Congress, SMU has graduated such notable individuals as: John Tyson, CEO of Tyson Foods; former-First Lady, Laura Bush; Lamar Hunt, founder of the American Football League; Harriet Miers, former-White House Counsel and Supreme Court nominee; James Cronin, Nobel Prize winning physicist; Mary Ellen Weber, NASA astronaut; and Karen Hughes, former Under Secretary of State.

For these well-know alumni, myself, and thousands of former and current students, SMU holds a special place in our hearts. There is a strong sense of pride amongst the SMU community, and the values we learned in school have stayed with us throughout our lives. We were and always will be SMU Mustangs.

With an eye towards the next generation, SMU is not only celebrating the past, but planning for the future. This Centennial Celebration will serve as a time to ensure the next hundred years are even more successful than the first one hundred.

I congratulate SMU, its faculty, staff, supporters and alumni on this monumental occasion. I look forward to continued involvement with SMU, and hope we can work together to ensure outstanding achievement for the University in the years to come.

REMEMBERING THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN 371ST INFANTRY REGIMENT

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the 371st Infantry Regiment was formed in August 1917 and consisted of African-American draftees mostly from South Carolina and white officers. After training at Camp Jackson, the unit arrived on the Western Front in April 1918. It was placed under the command of the French Army because of their desperate need for new troops, and because of racial tensions within the U.S. army. The 371st soldiers were given French equipment and reorganized to fit the French army structure. They spent the spring of 1918 training in French tactics and units.

The 371st was then thrown into the "Final Offensive" of the Great War in September. Though fighting well, they suffered heavy casualties: over 1,000 men out of 2,384 were lost in eight days. On September 28, 1918, just six weeks before the end of World War I, Corporal Freddie Stowers (21) of Sandy Springs, SC was killed, leading the remnants of his company to capture German positions after an ambush. After feigning surrender the Germans opened up with machine gun and mortar fire, instantly destroying over half of the company. Stowers rallied the survivors and led them to knock out one machine gun nest, and though mortally wounded, urged them on to capture a second trench line to stop the threat and cause heavy enemy casualties. His commanding officer recommended him for the Medal of Honor.

Vice-Admiral Moreau, on behalf of the French Government, decorated the regimental colors on January 27, 1919, in Brest. The

371st won the French Legion of Honor and the Croix de Guerre. The American Distinguished Services Cross was awarded to ten officers and twelve enlisted men.

Upon the 371st Regiment's return to Columbia, SC, the community worked together to fundraise for a reception honoring the soldiers. The event was held on February 29, 1919 at Allen University. The two flags of the 371st Regiment were presented to the community during the reception. These flags are part of the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum's collection.

With the war over, the unit was disbanded and the achievements of the 371st quickly faded. Fortunately, this was not the end of the story. The Medal of Honor nomination for Freddie Stowers languished for 70 years but in 1988, several members of Congress began campaigning on behalf of African-American World War I soldiers not properly recognized. Stowers became the first African-American soldier from World War I to earn the medal.

HONORING KAREN CARUSO FOR BEING NAMED NORTH CAROLINA'S 2011 SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Karen Caruso, CEO of Mind Your Business, Inc. located in Hendersonville, North Carolina, for being named North Carolina's 2011 Small Business Person of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

In 1995, Ms. Caruso was watching an Oprah Winfrey show on abusive child care providers and saw the need for parents to be able to screen the individuals who would potentially be caring for their children. Her background in security proved to be useful in developing applicant screening services. Mind Your Business, Inc. was launched in 1996 with two employees and \$2,500 in the basement of Ms. Caruso's home.

Despite facing a market dominated by men and large corporations, Ms. Caruso's business has continued to expand. She now employs 14 people and operates a 3,000-square-foot facility in the mountains of Western North Carolina. Mind Your Business, Inc. now offers several screening options, including pre-employment screening, applicant background checks, and drug and alcohol testing services for individuals, corporate, and government clients.

Mind Your Business, Inc. is a prime example of the success that can be accomplished through a partnership between entrepreneurs and the SBA. Ms. Caruso has made use of several SBA programs, including training through SCORE, the North Carolina Small Business Technology and Development Center, and the SBA Women's Business Center.

I congratulate Karen Caruso for having the vision and perseverance to create a business that, despite these economically difficult times, has shown record profits in 2009 and 2010. Ms. Caruso's business has provided security, given peace of mind to parents, and helped ensure the safety of our region's children.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the exceptional career of Ms. Karen