

COMMENDING THE HUNTERDON
CENTRAL SOFTBALL TEAM ON
THEIR CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Hunterdon Central Regional High School's Softball Team on its outstanding victory this past weekend in the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association's Blue Ribbon Awards Group 4 Championship. Hunterdon Central had previously been given the state ranking of fourth by the Newark Star Ledger and earned this title after compiling an astounding 31–2 record for the season. Hunterdon Central had previously won the Group 4 championship in 1999. Hunterdon Central prides itself on fundamentals and execution and the team's skills and experience demonstrate a mastery of the sport. The hard work of the Lady Red Devils shows determination and teamwork.

I also congratulate Hunterdon Central coach Pete Fick who has now achieved a career record of 699–227–1.

I commend the entire team on its hard work and congratulate all of the players on their stellar season and well deserved championship.

I am also pleased to praise the team's accomplishments with my colleagues in the House of Representatives and with the American people.

RECOGNIZING THE PRINCE WIL-
LIAM CLEAN COMMUNITY COUN-
CIL AND ITS 2010 VOLUNTEER OF
THE YEAR

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Prince William Clean Community Council (PWCCC) and its 2010 Volunteer of the Year, Walter Skaja. With the help of dedicated volunteers like Mr. Skaja, the Council works to eliminate litter and graffiti in our Prince William neighborhoods and commercial centers.

The idea of forming an organization in Prince William County aimed at addressing environmental issues was conceived in 1982 during a spring cleanup effort led by a group of concerned local citizens. These individuals, who later became the founding members of PWCCC, immediately recognized the importance of litter prevention education as a way to long-term environmental cleanliness. In 1986, the Prince William County Litter Control Council was born. The organization later came to be known as the Clean Community Council and became an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, a nationwide non-profit that uses education and hands-on stewardship to advocate litter control, waste reduction, and community beautification.

The Council's litter prevention and graffiti abatement efforts have not gone unnoticed. The Council's accolades include a 1994 Governors Award for Volunteering Excellence. The

Council was a 2000 Virginia Stewardship Award Winner in the Communication/Education Category and received the Prince William County 2001 Partners for the Potomac Environmental Patron Award, 2000 and 2002 Keep America Beautiful National Awards and a 2008 Keep America Beautiful President's Circle Recognition Award.

The Council's volunteers always have been essential to its success and the Volunteer of the Year Award is a way to recognize their invaluable support.

The 2010 recipient, Walter Skaja, has been a volunteer with PWCCC since 2009. He started working with PWCCC through its Adopt-A-Spot program, where volunteers adopt an area of Prince William County and agree to remove litter and debris throughout the year. Shortly after adopting two neighborhood parks, Walter also adopted Cedar Point Elementary School. In the past two years, Walter has not been alone in his work for a clean environment. He has had help from Cub Scout Pack 1384. Walter routinely has 100 or more scouts to help him with his beautification efforts. They have transformed Cedar Point Elementary School with landscaping improvements that have included mulching and planting trees, shrubs and flowers. In addition to his volunteer work with the Adopt-A-Spot and Adopt-A-School programs, Walter spent time during the major snow storms in 2009 and 2010 removing snow from fire hydrants and clearing snow at Cedar Point Elementary School. His tireless efforts helped students, parents, and staff make it to school safely.

Mr. Speaker, we create safer, cleaner neighborhoods when residents take ownership for their communities. The Clean Community Council asks Prince William residents to take pride in their county. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the successes of the Prince William Clean Community Council as well as in congratulating Walter Skaja on being named the recipient of the 2010 Prince William Clean Community Council Volunteer of the Year Award.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
DR. NANCY GRASMICK, SUPER-
INTENDENT OF MARYLAND PUB-
LIC SCHOOLS

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Nancy Grasmick for her years of outstanding service to the people of Maryland, including her twenty year leadership role as Superintendent of Maryland public schools, the longest serving appointed school chief in the United States. Dr. Grasmick began her career as a teacher of deaf children at William S. Baer School in Baltimore City. In her years as an educator in Maryland public schools, Dr. Grasmick has served as a resource teacher, principal, supervisor, assistant superintendent, and associate superintendent in Baltimore County. In 1989, Dr. Grasmick was appointed by Governor William Donald Schaefer to act as the Special Secretary for Children, Youth, and Families and in 1991, the Maryland State Board of Education appointed her to be the first female Maryland State Su-

perintendent of Schools. All of these achievements are the culmination of many years of hard work, strong dedication, and commitment to the people of Maryland. This commitment has been recognized many times over through many awards, including her induction into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame in 2004.

Dr. Nancy Grasmick has been known for her emphasis on student achievement, teacher quality, parental involvement, and early childhood education. Under her leadership, Maryland has been recognized for its achievements in education, having been named as "the most consistently high performing state" by Education Week. Dr. Grasmick has made an enormous impact on Maryland public schools and has changed the lives of countless families in the State of Maryland and beyond.

I was my special privilege to work with Dr. Grasmick for seven years as liaison to the Baltimore City Public Schools. I saw firsthand the amazing work of a leader motivated by compassion and a burning determination to give every child the chance to succeed. Dr. Grasmick's commitment to excellence is unrivaled. She is relentless in demanding the very best of those around her, while always offering the kind word and gesture. In that way and so many others, she is a natural born leader. I could not have had a better mentor or friend. My congratulations to Dr. Grasmick on a brilliant career. We look forward to her continued contributions to the State of Maryland and to our nation.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RE-
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2055) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I want to thank Chairman CULBERSON and Ranking Member BISHOP for agreeing to offer my amendment en bloc to H.R. 2055—Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. My amendment simply removes funding from the VA Medical Support and Compliance Account and replaces it back in the very same account. My intent in doing this is to highlight an issue for my colleagues and for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

I believe that the VA needs to comprehensively examine its wait times for processing requests for mental health services from veterans and that the VA should submit a report to Congress no later than January 1 of 2012 on changes they intend to make to ensure that veterans needing mental health services receive those services in a timely and efficacious manner.

Veterans in my district often wait years for a resolution of their cases with the VA. My office works closely with veterans, assisting