

terminated under “close-out procedures”, as a federally supported urban renewal project as of 1975. Project activities remaining to be completed now fall to the Township’s community development department.

After the annexation of the north end of the Township to the City of Oak Park, the current population is approximately 2,840 people.”

This is not an easy history, but it is one that we must remember. The financial collapse and the economic recession have also been difficult for the Township and its residents. But I have always been struck by the fabric of community that exists in Royal Oak Township, the generations of families whom have called it home and the determination to maintain the identity of the Township and build a stronger future.

I have enjoyed participating in many activities and events in the community like the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Day commemoration and the ever popular Pearls of Wisdom luncheon, which honors citizens of 90+ whose lives represent the splendor of the American story.

Newly elected Township Supervisor, Donna Squalls, along with all of the dedicated Township Trustees and other local elected officials are poised to move the Charter Township of Royal Oak forward, and I look forward to following their success in the years to come.

As I close, I can say with confidence that Royal Oak Township and its residents are in good hands with Congressman GARY PETERS. My office will, of course, stay in close touch on issues that impact Oakland County and southeast Michigan as we all work together to revitalize our Michigan economy.

**TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA HICKS,  
SATSUMA EDUCATOR AND HALL  
OF FAME COACH**

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2012*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join with the citizens of Satsuma, Alabama in mourning the loss of one of their most distinguished and beloved citizens, Patricia Hicks, who passed away December 8, 2012, at the age of 71.

A native of Satsuma, Pat Hicks was a graduate of Satsuma High School and William Carey University in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

She embarked on a life-long career of coaching in 1975 when she helped petition the Mobile County Board of School Commissioners for support of girls’ sports activities in the city.

As coach of the Satsuma High School “Lady Gators” softball team, she led her players to state championships in 1986, 1987 and 1990. She also coached the Lady Gators to the 1994 title game. The 1986 championship team garnered the first state title won by any Satsuma High School team, boys or girls, earning a 43–1 record.

She was also an accomplished volleyball coach, totaling an impressive 476–175 record. She was named Mobile County softball coach of the year nine times and twice as Mobile County’s volleyball coach of the year. She was also a member of the Mobile Bay Sports Authority.

In 2001, Pat’s lifetime of contributions to sports were recognized on the state level when she was inducted into the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame. On December 2, 2012, Satsuma High School named the “Pat Hicks Softball Field” in her honor.

In addition to her distinguished teaching and coaching career, Pat was active in giving back to her community as a long-time member of the Satsuma City Council, serving for twelve years. She also was a member of the Satsuma City School Board since June 2011.

Pat has been described by many of her friends and former players as both a legend and an inspiration. She was a role model and advocate for our youth and her presence in Satsuma will be sorely missed.

On behalf of the people of South Alabama, I offer my personal condolences to her husband of 49 years, Neal; her son, Chris; mother Mary Piece; and many family and friends. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

**RECOGNIZING THE NORTHVIEW  
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM  
AS CLASS 1A FLORIDA STATE  
CHAMPIONS**

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2012*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Northview High School Football Team as Class 1A Florida State Champions.

No single component by itself renders a champion, but rather it requires a combination of discipline, desire, focus, and determination. The Northview High School Football Team found the perfect blend of each element, and these student athletes proved that this year was theirs by capturing the championship title after their 42–21 win over the Trenton Tigers at the Florida Citrus Bowl.

While the Northview Chiefs Football Team may have entered the championship as the underdog, under the leadership of Coach Sid Wheatly and with the help of over 1,500 fans who made the 450 mile journey to Orlando to cheer them on, the Chiefs came out on top and dominated the state’s previously number one ranked team. After a scoreless first quarter, the Chiefs went on to have a 21-point run in the second quarter that helped propel them to victory. The win was a team effort with excellent defense that forced turnovers in the air and on the ground and with an offense that produced over 226 total yards. The Chiefs made school history on November 30, 2012, earning their first state championship.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the players, coaches, students, faculty and staff at Northview High School and their continuing commitment to excellence. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating the Chiefs on this impressive victory, and we wish them all the best for continued success.

**EPA’S FOOD RECOVERY  
CHALLENGE**

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2012*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the United States, more than 34 million tons of food waste is generated each year. Individuals, households, businesses, restaurants, hospitals, and schools are some of the many institutions that are contributing to this national dilemma. As a result, our landfills overflowing with food waste.

We are challenged daily by the economic impacts that food waste has on our society. Clearly, we need to take action.

The Environmental Protection Agency is confronting this issue with their Food Recovery Challenge. Specifically, the EPA is asking for participants to reduce their food waste through donation and recycling.

Among food that is thrown away, a majority of it is wholesome and unspoiled. This could be donated to help feed American people at soup kitchens or shelters. In other words, we should use food to feed people, not fill our landfills. Other food that is unfit for human consumption can be disposed of in an environmentally safe way, for example, composted.

Two major universities in Houston are currently participating in the Environmental Protection Agency’s Food Recovery Challenge. The University of Houston and Rice University have committed their efforts to reducing food waste on their campus.

These Houston universities are setting a great example of how our country should be addressing issues at home. They are taking preventative action through the Food Recovery Challenge to fight our economic and environmental issues of tomorrow.

This is one EPA idea that I support. And that’s just the way it is.

**HONORING ELIZABETH E. (LIZ)  
BASS**

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2012*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Tuolumne County Supervisor Elizabeth E. (Liz) Bass on her retirement from the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors and to thank her for her dedicated public service.

Liz Bass has been a resident of Tuolumne County for 40 years, and her entire time in Tuolumne County has been spent serving in either public education or local government.

Liz began her local public service career in 1972, when she joined the faculty at Sonora High’s “Opportunity School,” a continuation program, as a teacher. She continued her service in public education until her retirement as Principal of Cassina High School in 1996. Even before her retirement as a teacher and school administrator, Liz made time to run a successful election to the Sonora City Council in 1994, where she served for 10 years.

Also, unique to any other locally elected official, Liz hosted a radio show on KVML called