

RECOGNIZING THE WHITE OAK ROUGHNECKS FOR WINNING THE TEXAS CLASS 2A BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is with enormous pride that I recognize and congratulate the White Oak Roughnecks on an outstanding basketball season in which they captured the Texas State Class 2A Basketball Championship for the second year in a row.

The entire east Texas community of White Oak and all Roughneck fans have a vast storehouse of exciting memories as a result of the Roughnecks' dominating two year stretch of championship basketball. The team went undefeated in district and compiled an impressive 74–2 record over the past two seasons. Going into the championship game with an impressive 37–1 record this year as they also had in 2012, there was no doubt the White Oak Roughnecks were a powerful force in Texas and a basketball team with which to be reckoned.

The all important game of 2013 saw White Oak ultimately defeat the Brock Eagles just as they had in 2012 to claim the Class 2A State crown for the second straight year. White Oak led most of the game, but Brock rallied in the second half turning up the heat and bringing the fans to their feet in a heart stopping final ten seconds through which White Oak emerged the victor, 56–54.

Clearly a team does not get to the ultimate and lofty plateau of excellence without a coaching staff that knows its players. There is no doubt that each of the individual players, coaches, and supporting personnel involved with the success of the Roughnecks will benefit from having participated and witnessed the level of success that is achieved when each individual gives all they have while working together with such dedication and passion.

This tribute goes out to all of the athletic staff including Superintendent Mike Gilbert, Athletic Director Gerry Stanford, High School Principal Dan Noll, and Coaches Ron Boyett, Billy Terry and Brett Cloud.

The team members achieving this memorable accomplishment included Slade Sutton, Skylar Sutton, Dylan Gale, Kris Anderson, Josh Benson, Cass Carr, Tanner Sharp, Hayden Nichols, Gabe Michael, and Levi Yancy.

No athletic team ever becomes a champion without unwavering support, and that is exactly what the Roughnecks experienced from the entire community of White Oak, Texas. That is why congratulations go to all who contributed in any way to the success of the Roughnecks during this championship season.

May God continue to bless all of their efforts both in school and as they one day finish high school and use that same drive and determination to make this country even stronger. Congratulations to the State Basketball Champions, the White Oak Roughnecks, as their legacy is now recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF RITA WILLIAMS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Rita Williams, an exceptional journalist whose image and voice have been beamed into Bay Area living rooms for four decades. She is retiring from KTVU after 35 years at the station.

Rita is a top-notch reporter and superb storyteller. I know from first-hand experience that she is fair, professional and that she won't give any elected official a pass. Rita has earned the adoration and admiration from her colleagues, her interviewees and her viewers.

But don't just take my word for it; this is what other people are saying: Greg Suhr, the San Francisco Police Chief says, "If there was a 'how to' book on how to be the most gracious fair objective 'cool under fire' reporter in the world, Rita Williams' picture would be on the cover." Ed Chapuis, her news director for over 10 years says, "Her stories were always the hardest for her editors to edit, because each word was placed with such purpose and precision." Bill Drummond, journalist and husband of the late Faith Fancher, Rita's long-time friend and colleague, says, "With Rita the reporting came first, and because of that commitment, her stories transcended the usual limitations of the television news medium."

Rita grew up in Lubbock, Texas. She was the first in her family to earn a college degree. After she graduated from Texas Tech University with a B.A. in journalism, she worked as the press secretary for the late Texas Congressman George Mahon, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. She then earned her Master's degree in political science/international affairs from George Washington University. Rita worked as a news reporter at KSAT-TV in Texas from 1975–1978 and then moved to California. She was a reporter for KQED-TV before she joined KTVU in 1980. From 1985–86, she was also a Knight Fellow and taught broadcast news writing at Stanford.

When Rita entered the broadcast world, it was dominated by men. Surviving and even thriving in this testosterone-driven environment was no small accomplishment, but Rita did it with grace and tenacity. She calls herself the "first broadcast broad." She opened KTVU's San Francisco bureau in the Hall of Justice.

Rita has reported thousands of social, economic and political stories, treating each one as the most important story at the time. Her work has earned her several Emmies, Tellies, a PASS award from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, a public service award from the Society of Professional Journalists and many other awards. She was one of the lead investigative reporters in the Oakland BART shooting stories that contributed to a prestigious Peabody award and Edward R. Murrow award to KTVU.

While Rita takes utmost pride in her profession and work, she views her family as her biggest accomplishment. Rita and her husband of 37 years, Lindsey, are the proud parents of Brad who is now a law student in San Francisco. Brad and my children grew up around the same time, so Rita and I often compared notes and shared school referral options.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor one of the finest journalists and human beings I know. On her last day on the air at KTVU, Rita humbly thanked her viewers and said, "You have entrusted me with one of the biggest responsibilities anybody could ever have, to be a reporter and to be your eyes and ears."

I hope that I have used that trust well and that you have learned something in return." The answer to that hope is a resounding yes!

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TOM FILLIPPO

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues, Congressman PAT MEEHAN and Congressman JOE PITTS, I rise today to congratulate Tom Fillippo of Malvern, Pennsylvania on receiving the Chester County Economic Development Council's Hall of Fame Award for his outstanding accomplishments within the Chester County business community and the entire area community. The litany of his accomplishments and contributions is amazing.

In addition to his role as President and Chief Executive Officer of Devault Foods, Tom served as Chairman of the Board of the Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry from 2002 to 2006. Tom also serves as Chairman of the West Chester University's Council of Trustees, a Board Member of the West Chester University Foundation and Sturzebecker Foundation, and a Board Member of the Paoli Hospital Foundation. Additionally, he serves on the Central and Western Chester County Industrial Development Authority and the Chester County Industrial Development Board of Directors.

Tom is a member of the West Chester University Football Hall of Fame and has received numerous awards for his service to the business community and community at large including the Chester County Boy Scouts' Community Service Award, the Great Valley Chamber's Business Leader of the Year Award, the West Chester University Distinguished Alumni Award, the American Meat Institute's Community Service Award, and the Order of the Purple Heart's Outstanding Citizen Award.

Mr. Speaker, in light of his outstanding professional accomplishments and exemplary record of service to the Chester County community, we ask that our colleagues join us today in recognizing Tom Fillippo of Malvern, Pennsylvania on receiving the Chester County Economic Development Council's Hall of Fame Award and, on behalf of our constituents, thank him for his tireless and unceasing efforts to make the County a wonderful place to raise a family and succeed in business.

DON MACDONALD TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Don MacDonald of Colorado. Don