

Finally, the letter reminds the Secretary that there is a serious public safety threat in Culebra that requires resolution. As a result of a rigid legal interpretation, DOD refuses to fund the cleanup of a 400-acre parcel that formerly served as the bombardment zone and which now has popular beaches, pedestrian walkways, and campgrounds.

This is unacceptable. Since 1995, there have been over 70 incidents in which members of the public have encountered unexploded bombs in this part of Culebra that could have caused them great harm.

Last March, a young girl visiting a Culebra beach suffered burns after she picked up an artillery shell containing white phosphorous.

Earlier this year, local authorities had to close the same Culebra beach when a 100-pound unexploded bomb was discovered underwater close to shore.

I have filed multiple bills to require DOD to fund the cleanup of this parcel and to remove this public safety threat, but DOD has opposed my efforts. The letter urges DOD to reconsider its position in this matter.

The use of Vieques and Culebra as training ranges may have ceased, but the legacy of such use must be addressed by DOD. Working with my colleagues, I will continue to do everything within my power to ensure that DOD fulfills its legal and moral responsibilities.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY WILDCATS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, when it comes to college basketball, there is simply no place like my old Kentucky home.

I rise with the distinct honor of congratulating my hometown University of Kentucky Wildcats men's basketball team on moving on to the Sweet 16 in the 2014 Men's Division I Basketball Tournament.

This season has had its ups and downs, but this group of young men—the youngest average age of any team in the tournament—is coalescing at just the right time.

This momentum is a testament to the players' willingness to put team ahead of self—a lesson we here in Congress could stand to learn from—and the ability of Coach John Calipari and his staff to mold raw talent into a cohesive, disciplined attack on both the defensive and offensive ends of the court in just a few short months.

Hard-fought victories by these Wildcats over Kansas State and an unbeaten Wichita State team—a very likable team—have set up what might well be the main event of the entire tournament, not just for residents of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, but for college basketball fans all around this country—a rematch between the

University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville, the two previous national champions.

With all due respect to Duke and North Carolina, the University of Kentucky-University of Louisville rivalry is the greatest and most competitive rivalry in all of college basketball. One of the reasons for this is this is a non-conference rivalry. After the original dream game in 1983, the general assembly of Kentucky mandated in State law that these two great programs in college basketball play against one another each and every year.

Our Wildcats won the meeting earlier this season between these two squads and are now looking to repeat the events of the 2012 tournament in which a victory over archrival Louisville in the Final Four paved the way for the University of Kentucky's eighth national championship.

This year's young Cats were second in the Southeastern Conference in average points scored and fourth in terms of points allowed, demonstrating that their physical play is equal opportunity on offense and defense.

Both statistics are grounded in these players' ability to pound the glass for rebounds, led by forward Julius Randle, who has averaged a double-double all season and routinely finds ways to rebound and drive when double-, triple-, or even quadruple-teamed.

While Randle and other big men—including freshman Dakari Johnson and future draft prospect Willie Cauley-Stein—collapse opponents' defenses, the outside shooting threats of twins Aaron and Andrew Harrison and James Young keep the Cats a threat from the perimeter.

As any college basketball fan can tell you, these young men have a lot to live up to, given the legacy of the University of Kentucky and the lofty expectations of the most passionate fan base in all of college basketball, the Big Blue Nation.

The Wildcats represent the greatest tradition in the history of college basketball as the winningest program of all time, in both the number of total wins and total win percentage.

As Coach Cal said at the beginning of the season:

Kentucky doesn't just play college basketball; we are college basketball.

Even former coach and current Louisville coach Rick Pitino said that the University of Kentucky is the Roman Empire of college basketball.

This new batch of Cats, young as they are, has already lived up to this imposing pedigree. While Friday's game against Louisville will be a significant challenge, I know it will be "On, On, U of K" to the Elite Eight and the Final Four; and I know, for many in the Bluegrass, a win over the Cardinals will be enough to call this season a success.

In fact, I am so confident this game will go in favor of the Wildcats that I have made a friendly wager of locally distilled Kentucky bourbon with my

good friend, the Member from Louisville, JOHN YARMUTH.

While he thinks I will be eating crow, I am pretty sure that the Wildcats will be eating some Cardinal come Friday night.

REFORM THE MILITARY SYSTEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, last week, as the world watched in disbelief, the trial of Brigadier General Sinclair concluded much as it began, flawed and unjust.

Even with the world watching, the military once again demonstrated its outright incompetence at administering justice.

Brigadier General Sinclair walked out of the court a free man, even though he had pled guilty to these charges:

He pled guilty to an inappropriate relationship with his accuser; an inappropriate relationship with another female Army captain; an inappropriate relationship with a female Army major; possessing and displaying pornographic images and videos on his computer in Afghanistan.

He pled guilty to using a government-issued travel card for personal purposes for a trip to Tucson, Arizona, and a trip to Fort Hood, Texas, to see his mistress.

He pled guilty to attempting to start an inappropriate relationship with a female Army lieutenant; sexually explicit communications with a female Army major, requesting and receiving nude photos and a sexually explicit video of her.

He pled guilty to vulgar language to describe female staff officers; impeding an investigation; and adultery with his accuser.

Again, these aren't the charges the judge found Sinclair innocent of, but all of the charges Sinclair pled guilty to.

His punishment? No demotion in rank, no forced retirement, no jail time.

Instead, a small fine that he will pay with his generous taxpayer-funded pension and a potent message to those that are thinking of coming forward: you will be dragged through the mud, and you will be punished, not the perpetrator.

A civilian would have been fired. The misuse of government funds and the gross misconduct by General Sinclair, who pled guilty to all of those charges, should have been more than enough to fire him.

I would like to say that I was shocked by this unconscionable decision, but after working on this issue for 3 years, I have learned that this pattern is the rule, not the exception.

Whether the Army intended it or not, this was a high-profile test case for whether the military can hold its highest officers accountable for committing serious offenses. It failed.