IN RECOGNITION OF CHABOT COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and congratulate the Chabot College women's basketball team on a remarkable championship run that ended with the Gladiators bringing home the first place trophy for the California Community College Athletic Association women's state basketball championship.

On Sunday, March 22, the Gladiators of Chabot gave Mt. San Antonio College their first loss of the year in the championship game. This was the Gladiator's first state championship, but we know that it will not be their last. Prior to this year, Mt. San Antonio had won six of the last ten state championships.

I am proud of the Gladiators for bringing the trophy home to Hayward and Northern California. Since 1998 only one other Northern Californian team has won the championship.

The Gladiators showed grit, determination, and focus in their narrow victory over a tough Mt. San Antonio team. A late three pointer put the Gladiators on top and free throws down the stretch sealed the deal.

Head Coach Mark Anger and his staff have led a truly exemplary group of student athletes for the entirety of the season, finishing with 31 wins and only four loses, and clinching Chabot College's first Coast Conference North Championship in 13 years.

I want to give special recognition to stand out players Morgan Green, who received the State Player of the Year, the MVP Final Four, and the MVP Coast Conference North awards; Alana Simon, who was first team All State, All Tournament Final Four, and fist team All Conference; and Michelle Townsend, who was third team All State, All Tournament Final Four, and first team All Conference.

I wish the best of luck to all of the players and coaching staff of the Chabot College Gladiators.

Go Gladiators!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, during the rollcall votes on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, I was absent after returning to El Paso to meet with representatives from the U.S. Army who are conducting the Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment (SPEA). The SPEA is a formal review of our country's military installations in preparation for a reduction in force that will take the Army from 470,000 active duty soldiers to 420,000 by the end of the decade.

Had I been present, on rollcall number 136, I would have voted ''no.''

On rollcall number 137, I would have voted ''no.''

On rollcall number 138, I would have voted ''no.''

On rollcall number 139, I would have voted ''yes.''

On rollcall number 140, I would have voted ''no.''

On rollcall number 141, I would have voted ''no.''

On rollcall number 142, I would have voted ''no.''

HONORING TRINNIE 'PITO PITO' BACA

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to honor Trinnie 'Pito Pito' Baca, a living institution and tireless community leader in Belen, New Mexico.

When Pito Pito was three or four years old, he was unexpectedly bitten by thousands of red ants, resulting in convulsions and long-standing health complications. His family has lovingly cared for him ever since, and Pito Pito has shared his own love and compassion with friends and neighbors in Belen for more than 60 years.

In 2013, the City of Belen officially designated December 16 ''Trinnie Baca Day'' and Pito Pito received a key to the city in recognition of his lasting contributions. Residents will tell you that no gesture is too small for Pito Pito to demonstrate his heartfelt appreciation for his beloved community.

Famously known for dropping by local businesses to help sweep the entrance, shaking a stranger's hand, enthusiastically signaling motorists to honk their horns, and attending community events and funerals, Pito Pito's presence is felt in the community. He can always be found with a helping hand and guiding heart. Through his acts of love and kindness, Pito Pito demonstrates the profound impact one individual can have on an entire community.

I join family, friends, and everyone who has met Pito Pito in celebrating his birthday. Our state is richer and fuller because Pito Pito teaches and reminds us to love more, to be selfless, and to always remember that it is the people around us who make life worth living.

HONORING MADISON BRASUELL

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Madison Brasuell attends Foster High School in Richmond, Texas. The essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

The role that our government should play in our lives is a question being prodded back and forth between Congressmen and women since the creation of our nation. The answer is subjective, of course, because it is impossible to make 320 million people happy with the system by which our government is ran. The efficacy of our current system, however, is questionable at times and I believe that the government should play a minuet role in our lives.

I should start by noting that we are lucky to live in a country that gives us so much freedom in our daily lives. We are given, in my opinion, the most important facet anyone could ask for: the freedom of speech. With this amendment, we have the liberty to tell our government how we really feel and not fear the consequences for voicing our expressions. Though more often than not our government hears our desires and doesn't do anything about it. They promise to minimally interfere with our lives but then set new regulations on sectors that directly impact our lives and wind up hurting us in the end. It is unacceptable for a government to not genuinely care for its people.

I would ideally choose to live in an environment where there is a strong state government with little national government intervention. The national government's only job should be to provide a system defense, build and maintain highway systems and infrastructure, provide police enforcement, and keep peaceful trade facilitated with other countries. I feel that the government should have no control on our healthcare system, other than impose strict regulations, such as the certification of medical professionals and sanitation laws. I also believe that the government has no business interfering with our money except the protection against monopolies and the strict investment regulations. Other than that, I would say making the national government stronger would be detrimental to our nation.

My utopian government has flaws, as does every plan, but many Americans would agree on making the national government weaker. This would give Americans more freedom of choice because they would have more control over their lives and not have a ''government shadow'' tracking their every move. By having a government focus primarily on its safety of their people, they can focus less on trying to satisfy each individual and more on satisfying the nation as a whole.

225TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PATENT ACT

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, on April 10, 2015 the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office will recognize the 225th anniversary of the first U.S. Patent Act.

When President Washington signed the bill that laid the foundation for our patent system, even he could not have foreseen the revolution in technology that was yet to come. During these past two centuries America has been at the forefront of innovation, from the industrial revolution to the telegraph and telephone, to modern computers and the Internet, to a whole new era of mobile computing and personal devices.