

Bakersfield (CSUB) softball team. The Roadrunners advanced to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Regionals after valiantly defeating top-seeded New Mexico State, clinching the Western Athletic Conference championship. This is the first time in the history of the Roadrunner softball program that a team has reached the regional tournament level, which is a testament to the commitment, spirit, and competitiveness of this year's team. I applaud the strong leadership of Head Coach Crissy Buck-Ziegler and Assistant Coach Shelly Prochaska, who have helped pave the way for the team's ongoing success.

Accolades like these make me, and thousands of alumni, even more proud to be a Roadrunner. Ever since the Roadrunners ascended to NCAA Division I status in 2010, they continue to represent our community well, while competing against the top collegiate sports teams in the nation. This year is another shining example of the progress the Roadrunner athletic program has made. The dedication and hard work reflected by the Roadrunner softball team is contagious and spreads throughout the community.

I would like to recognize the efforts of Nadia Amezcua, Kaylynn Burt, Michelle Cannata, Adrianna Cardoza, Julea Cavazos, Maddi Clark, Nicole Curry, Josie Flores, Selena Gonzalez, Chris Hipa, Lyndsay Klimenko, Jo Larios, Amber Mills, Briana Pontecorvo, Sydney Raeber, Alex Simmons, Alyssa Stockton, and Makenzie Zinger. In the WAC tournament, the Roadrunners gave up just four runs in their three game championship streak. All three wins against the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and New Mexico State University (twice) avenged earlier losses to these two teams during the regular season.

I know the Bakersfield community joins me in applauding the CSUB softball team's unprecedented and historic accomplishments this season. I hope the program's demeanor of confidence, success, and ambition continues in the seasons to come and I look forward to more Roadrunner victories.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2016

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present in the House chamber for certain roll call votes on Monday, June 13th and Tuesday, June 14th. Had I been present on these days, I would have voted 'aye' for roll calls 297, 298, 301, and 302 and 'nay' on roll calls 299, 300 and 303.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT ALAN POWERS-WETTESTAD

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alan Powers-Wettestad of Boy Scout Troop 520 in Council Bluffs, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Approximately five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained for more than a century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. For his project, Alan dedicated himself to helping families of newborns by providing them with handmade blankets. He, with the support of his troop, made over one hundred blankets last fall and delivered them to the hospital just before Thanksgiving of last year. He also had the integrity to donate the remaining monetary donations as a Spirit of Giving Award to the obstetrics department, enabling them to purchase a new rocking chair. The work ethic, thoughtfulness, and kindness which Alan Powers-Wettestad has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Alan Powers-Wettestad and his family in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him on reaching the rank of Eagle Scout and in wishing him nothing but continued success in his future education and career.

IN HONOR OF 2017 NASCAR HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE RAYMOND PARKS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the late racing legend Raymond Parks upon his induction into the eighth class of the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

If it weren't for men like Raymond Parks, there is no doubt the racing industry as we know it would not exist today. Mr. Parks was a pivotal player in both the development and expansion of NASCAR since its inception.

After serving his country during WWII, Mr. Parks returned to the United States where he had begun a career as a stock-car owner before the war. In 1947, he attended a meeting in Daytona Beach, Florida that would change racing forever. Sitting around the table with other drivers and promoters, they agreed that racing could not grow without a formal organization to create rules and give their sport structure. As a result, NASCAR was born.

From then on Raymond Parks remained an influential member in motorsports. Known for being the first successful team owner in racing, he won the first NACSCAR title ever in 1948. He would continue to work alongside his original team to dominate the sport until his retirement. Even though Mr. Parks passed away in 2010, his legacy lives on and will now be preserved forever in the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

This year's class was selected by a comprehensive voting panel that included track owners, retired competitors, industry leaders, members of the media, and a nationwide fan vote. In total, a group of five was chosen to join the ranks of other NASCAR legends in the Hall of Fame. Mr. Parks is extremely deserving of this honor and will now be enshrined forever for his contributions to the sport.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring Raymond Parks, a 2017 inductee of the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BISHOP ROBERT C. BLAKES, JR.

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2016

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pastor Robert C. Blakes, Jr. on his Episcopal Consecration to the office of Bishop. He is the loving husband of Lisa Blakes and a great father to four children. Bishop Blakes, Jr. is the eldest son of Bishop Blakes, Sr. and has been pastoring for more than 21 years.

He and his brother Bishop Samuel Blakes serve as Co-Pastors at the New Home Family Worship Center, a ministry encompassing six locations across Louisiana and Texas. Bishop Blakes, Jr. has the pleasure of serving as Senior Pastor to both the New Orleans and Houston Ministries.

Bishop Blakes, Jr. started his work in ministry when he received his Master's of Theology from Christian Bible College of Louisiana. His dedication and love of God has landed him regular appearances on World Harvest International and CNN as well as his own weekly television show alongside his brother. Bishop Blakes, Jr. has also attracted global attention with his recently published literary work, "The Father-Daughter Talk".

I join with the Blakes family in congratulating Bishop Blakes, Jr. for his outstanding accomplishment.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE SERGEANT CHARLES H. COCHRANE

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2016

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late NYPD Sergeant Charles H. Cochrane, whose contributions to New York City's civic life are being recognized by the renaming of the intersection of West 11th Street and Washington Street as Sgt. Charles H. Cochrane Way.

On November 20, 1981, Sgt. Charles H. Cochrane became the first openly gay officer in the history of the New York City Police Department when he testified before a City Council committee considering a proposal to ban discrimination against homosexuals. Sgt. Cochrane spoke out in favor of the bill, saying "I am very proud of being a New York City policeman. And I'm equally proud of being gay." At the time, Sgt. Cochrane was a fourteen year veteran of the NYPD. His declaration before the City Council committee was a brave