

CONGRATULATING THE JEFFERSON CITY JAYS' BASEBALL TEAM

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 21, 2017*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Jefferson City Jays' Baseball Team for their 2017 Missouri Class 5 Baseball State Championship.

This team and their coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing the Jefferson City Jays' Baseball Team for a job well done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 21, 2017*

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes Tuesday, June 20, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call votes 309 and 310.

HONORING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL BILL ATHANAS AFTER 51 YEARS AS A NEW HAMPSHIRE

**HON. ANN M. KUSTER**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 21, 2017*

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Bill Athanas, who retires today after serving New Hampshire communities for 51 years, 21 years at Inter Lakes High school and 30 years at Franklin High School.

His commitment to students and the community goes beyond simply being a Vice Principal. Bill could be found every morning, rain, snow, or shine, outside Inter Lakes High School with a cup of coffee in hand greeting and welcoming students, as well as catching up with parents. Along with lifting spirits, through his genuine and sunny disposition, Bill attended every event in which his students participated in, always encouraging and cheering them on.

Bill's legacy will read that he tirelessly worked to give every single student the guidance and support needed to succeed, and a warm sincere smile when they most needed it. His plans for retirement include his passion for community service, he will be returning to Franklin High School as a volunteer. We thank Bill for his service to our students and to the community.

CONGRATULATING ANNA VOLLET OF THE HELIAS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL LADY CRUSADERS

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 21, 2017*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Anna Vollet of the Helias Catholic High School Lady Crusaders on her second place finish at the 2017 Class 4 Missouri Track and Field State Championship in the 200-meter sprint.

Anna and her coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for Anna's success at the State Championship.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Anna Vollet of the Helias Catholic High School Lady Crusaders for a job well done.

IN MEMORY OF DR. BILL BARTON

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 21, 2017*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, June 17, 2017, a funeral service was conducted at Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Irmo, South Carolina, for Dr. Bill Barton, the church's founding pastor. The Church is an extraordinary institution of the dynamic community, one of the fastest growing in America.

The service was lovingly carried out by Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Dale B. Welden, Director of Worship and Arts Rev. Marc Rattray, Rev. Dan Ratchford of Smyrna Presbyterian Church in Newberry, South Carolina, Organist Sharon Rattray, and Pianist Allison Hilbish. Pallbearers were members of the Irmo Police Department where Dr. Barton served as Chaplain.

The following thoughtful obituary was included in the service program:

Dr. Whaley Seignious Barton, Jr. (Bill), 76, passed away on June 12, 2017, at Richland Memorial Hospital in Columbia, South Carolina, surrounded by his family. He was born on May 5, 1941, in Miami, Florida, to Whaley Seignious Barton Sr., of Orangeburg, South Carolina, and Helen Monroe Barton of Houston, Texas.

Whaley (Bill) faithfully served the Lord as pastor of many churches and, for nineteen years, was the founding pastor of Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church in Irma, South Carolina. After retiring, he went on to begin Ministry Resources Team.

Whaley married Linda Lee Barnes of Miami, Florida, October 22, 1961. They were happily married for 55 years. He is survived by his daughter Kathryn and husband Ray of Texas, his son Steve and wife Mary of South Carolina, daughter-in-law Melissa Barton Prim of South Carolina, thirteen grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Whaley was preceded in death by his parents, brother George, and son, Whaley S. Barton III.

RECOGNIZING WORLD REFUGEE DAY

**HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 21, 2017*

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize World Refugee Day and to stand in solidarity with refugees from around the world.

June 20th is an opportunity to recognize the millions of people from across the globe who have been forced to uproot their lives due to armed conflict and persecution. We honor their sacrifice and courage when displaced in seeking safety for themselves and their families.

In particular, I would like to recognize African Services Committee, Inc. an award-winning multiservice agency in Harlem that was founded by Ethiopian Refugees in 1981. Asfaha Hadera founded the agency in his basement in the Bronx after fleeing Ethiopia for refugee camps in Sudan and then emigrating to the U.S. He saw the need for refugee services from conflicted areas in Africa and established the organization, along with Kim Nichols.

Each year, the center assists 12,500 immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers from across the African Diaspora with health, housing, legal, educational, and social services. The staff comes from 20 countries and speaks over 25 languages, providing access to the ethnically diverse communities that live in Harlem and the Bronx. African Services Committee also works on HIV prevention and access to AIDS treatment in five HIV clinics across Ethiopia. I am proud of the work that this organization is doing to support refugees in New York's thirteenth district.

Contrary to these services, Trump issued a travel ban from six Muslim-majority countries as one of his first executive orders in March. This action was discriminatory and opposite of our American values.

On this World Refugee Day, let us remember the words on our dear Statue of Liberty, "give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses." That's who we are as Americans. We are a country that welcomes the poorest and most vulnerable among us, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

CONGRATULATING GANNON WITHERS OF THE NEW BLOOMFIELD WILDCATS

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 21, 2017*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Gannon Withers of the New Bloomfield Wildcats for his second place finish in the 2017 Missouri Class 1 Boys Individual Golf State Championship.

Gannon and his coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the team state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Gannon Withers of the New Bloomfield Wildcats for a job well done.