

As the Center moves into its third decade of service to women business owners and outstanding advocacy for the strengthening and support of minority and women owned businesses, I am proud to recognize its impressive achievements.

# HONORING THE 2005 FOOTBALL SEASON OF THE LIVINGSTON ACADEMY WILDCATS

## HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 7, 2006*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the championship season of the Livingston Academy Wildcats. The Wildcats won their first state football championship at the Class 3A Blue Cross Bowl in December.

Residents of Overton County, Tennessee, can be proud of their Wildcats. The team fought against the odds as they went into the playoffs as the Number 4 seed in Region 2-3A with a 5-5 record. They impressively defeated four region champions on their way to the state football championship.

Early in the championship game, the Wildcats held a 21-0 lead over David Lipscomb. Showing great skill and determination, the Wildcats left MTSU's Floyd Stadium as victors with a 28-13 win over their competitor.

This group of Wildcats was the first football team in the school's history to advance past the quarterfinals. In addition, they became only the second team from the Upper Cumberland to win the state title.

I commend the Wildcats and their head coach, Matt Eldridge, for a wonderful season and an outstanding championship win. Danny McCain, Bobby Gore, Bruce Lamb, Grant Swallows, David Clouse and Dale Platt serve as the team's assistant coaches. Gary Ledbetter is Livingston Academy's principal.

I congratulate all the talented members of the 2005 3A State Champion Wildcats: Jake Peterman, Jonathan Sullivan, Clint Cooper, Jamie Cravens, Levi Holt, Josh Simpson, Joe Reynolds, Wilson Cates, Mike Jones-Larue, Cody Waddey, Dustin Looper, Josh Carwile, John Michael Stephens, Jonathan McGill, John Cody Brown, Vincent Woodruff, Drew Cannon, Steven Morgan, Jamey Vaughn, Josh Huitt, Colton Hummel, Seth Melton, Kevin Scott, Jordan Bailey, Jake Reeder, Gary Massengille, Josh Coffee, Kiefer Smith, Tyler Livingston, Sam Nelson, Jeremiah Jackson, Terrance Melton, David Petry, Cody Shokoui, Blake Moon, Beau Massengille, Curtis Beaty, Levi Cobble, Volby Loftis, Brad Pendergraft, Ryan Bowman, Jesse Cole, Wade Ford, Josh Looper, Bobby Perdue, Jacob Coffee, Ethan Livingston, John Willeford, Robert Holt, David Ledbetter, Justin Gore, Ryan Duke, Jonathan Preece and Jacob Collins.

# INTRODUCTION OF THE SUNSHINE IN MONETARY POLICY ACT

## HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 7, 2006*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Sunshine in Monetary Policy Act, which re-

quires the Federal Reserve to resume reporting the monetary measure known as M3. M3 consists of M1 (M1 is currency in circulation plus travelers' checks, demand deposits, Negotiable Order of Withdrawal (NOW) accounts, and similar interest-earning checking account balances) plus M2 (M2 is M1 plus household holdings of savings deposits, small time deposits, and retail money market mutual funds balances except for balances held in IRA and Keogh accounts) plus institutional money market mutual fund balances and managed liabilities of deposits consisting of large time deposits, repurchase agreements, and Eurodollars.

The Federal Reserve Board has recently announced it will stop reporting M3, thus depriving Congress and the American people of the most comprehensive measure of the money supply. The cessation of Federal Reserve's weekly M3 report will make it more difficult for policymakers, economists, investors, and the general public to learn the true rate of inflation. As Nobel laureate Milton Friedman famously said, "inflation is always and everywhere a monetary phenomenon." Therefore, having access to a comprehensive measure of the money supply like M3 is a vital tool for those seeking to track inflation. Thorsten Polleit, honorary professor at HfB-Business School of Finance and Management, in his article "Why Money Supply Matters" posted on the Ludwig von Mises Institute's website mises.org, examined the relationship between changes in the money supply and inflation and concluded that "money supply signals might actually be far more important for inflation—even in the short-term—than current central bank practice suggests," thus demonstrating the importance of the M3 aggregate.

The Federal Reserve Board has claimed neither policymakers nor the Federal Reserve staff closely track M3. Even if M3 is not used by Federal Reserve Board economists or legislators, many financial services professionals whose livelihoods depend on their ability to obtain accurate information about the money supply rely on M3. For example, my office has been contacted by a professional money manager complaining that the Federal Reserve Board's discontinuing M3 reports will make it difficult for him to do his job.

Whatever lack of interest policymakers are currently displaying in M3 is no doubt related to the mistaken perception that the Federal Reserve Board has finally figured out how to effectively manage a fiat currency. This illusion exists largely because the effects of the Fed's inflationary policies are concentrated in malinvestments in specific sectors of the economy, leading to "bubbles" such as the one that occurred in the stock market in the late nineties and the bubble that many believe is occurring in the current real estate market. When monetary inflation is reflected in sector-specific bubbles, it is easier to pretend that the bubbles are caused by problems specific to those sectors, instead of reflecting the problems inherent in a fiat currency system. Once the damage to our economy done by our reliance on fiat currency becomes clear, I am certain that policymakers will once again take more interest in M3.

Economists and others who are following M3 have become increasingly concerned

about inflation because last year the rate of M3 rose almost twice as fast as other monetary aggregates. This suggests that the inflation picture is not as rosy as the Federal Reserve would like Congress and the American people to believe. Discontinuing reporting the monetary aggregate that provides the best evidence that the Federal Reserve Board has not conquered inflation suggests to many people that the government is trying to conceal information about the true state of the economy from the American people. Brad Conrad, a professor of investing who has also worked with IBM, CDC, and Amdahl, spoke for many when he said, "It [the discontinuance of M3] is unsettling. It detracts from the transparency the Fed preaches and adds to the suspicion that the Fed wants to hide anything showing money growth high enough to fuel inflation..."

Discontinuing reporting M3 will only save 0.00000699% of the Federal Reserve Board's yearly budget. This savings hardly seems to justify depriving the American people of an important measurement of money supply, especially since Congress has tasked the Federal Reserve Board with reporting on monetary aggregates. Discontinuing reporting M3 may not be a violation of the letter of the Federal Reserve Board's statutory duty, but it is a violation of the spirit of the congressional command that the Federal Reserve Board ensure the American public is fully informed about the effects of monetary policy.

Mr. Speaker, knowledge of the money supply is one of the keys to understanding the state of the economy. The least the American people should expect from the Federal Reserve Board is complete and accurate information regarding the money supply. I urge my colleagues to ensure that the American people can obtain that information by cosponsoring the Sunshine in Monetary Policy Act.

# HONORING McDONALD AND ROSETTA CRAIG

## HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 7, 2006*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to honor McDonald Craig, the owner of a Tennessee Century Farm in Linden, Tennessee. On Christmas Day in 1871, Craig's great-grandparents, Tapp and Amy, purchased the 110 acre farm. Tapp and Amy Craig, freed from slavery after the Civil War, were the first African-Americans to buy property in Perry County.

The Craig family has owned and farmed this land in Perry County for more than 130 years. As a farmer and musician, Craig has not only maintained his family's legacy, but he has also made a name for himself as a country musician performing at local festivals and fairs.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing McDonald, his wife Rosetta, and their family for contributing so much to our community.