

HONORING THE 2016–2017 GONZAGA BULLDOGS MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM AND THEIR REMARKABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 12, 2017*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of the 2016–2017 Gonzaga University Bulldogs Men's Basketball Team. After a spectacular 37–2 season culminating in an appearance in the NCAA Championship game, we celebrate and reflect upon their success.

This season once again demonstrated that Gonzaga men's basketball is one of the nation's elite programs. The Zags ended the regular season 29–1, a run which included their 3rd Advocate Invitational Championship, a number one ranking, and their fifth West Coast Conference regular season championship in a row and 17th since 1999. They also continued their run of 19 straight NCAA tournament appearances by winning the West Coast Conference Tournament Championship, their 15th since 1999 and fifth in a row. This year's NCAA Tournament was a watershed moment in the program's history. After hard-fought wins over South Dakota State, Northwestern, and West Virginia, the Zags defeated Xavier to reach their first Final Four in program history. And they capped it off, beating South Carolina in the Final Four to advance to their first NCAA Championship Game.

Additionally, the individual accomplishments of this year's team are significant. Guard Nigel Williams-Goss was a standout on the court and in the classroom, becoming a consensus All-American for his performance on the court and an Academic All-American. Przemek Karnowski shattered the record for all-time wins in Men's Division I College Basketball by winning 137 games over the course of his career. Head Coach Mark Few, who has been a leader in our community in both basketball and service, capped his most successful season by becoming National Coach of the Year. These individual accolades serve to highlight the overall success by this team.

I also want to recognize and congratulate all of the individuals who were so important in this year's success, including coaches Mark Few, Tommy Lloyd, Donny Daniels, and Brian Michaelson and all of their staff; Director of Basketball Operations John Jakus; Athletic Director Mike Roth; The Gonzaga University Administration, board of trustees, and President Thayne McCulloh; and athletes Przemek Karnowski, Nigel Williams-Goss, Jordan Mathews, Johnathan Williams III, Josh Perkins, Silas Melson, Zach Collins, Killian Tillie, Rui Hachimura, Bryan Alberts, Jeremy Jones, Dustin Triano, Ryan Edwards, Rem Bakamus, Jack Beach, Jacob Larsen, and Zack Norvell. All of them exemplify the team philosophy of hard work, personal sacrifice, and shared values. Their success is an inspiration.

So today, I rise to recognize the Gonzaga Bulldogs Men's Basketball Team and the community that supports them—the current and former players, coaches, staff, students, administration, and fans. The Gonzaga Bulldogs have long been a model for excellence in college basketball, and have continuously exceeded expectations. We are grateful for their

positive impact on Eastern Washington, and we look forward to their continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SIXTH GRADERS OF BLUE RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 12, 2017*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the sixth grade students of Blue Ridge Middle School located in Loudoun County, Virginia and the adults who worked with them, in creating an extraordinarily successful One to the World Project, recently.

Through the Loudoun County Public Schools' One to the World Project, students have an opportunity to work on a challenging societal problem using critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity to make a difference in addressing or alleviating the problem.

Students and faculty at Blue Ridge Middle School, as well as the staff at Mobile Hope of Loudoun and their Executive Director, Donna Fortier, devoted countless hours to this project and truly went above and beyond what could have been expected and I am proud of their collective efforts and generosity.

The students decided to address the problem of homelessness and made arrangements to partner with Mobile Hope of Loudoun to deliver items of support to them. As soon as the partnership arrangement was made, the sixth graders of Blue Ridge Middle School enthusiastically began to work on a variety of videos, posters, brochures, and presentations in order to raise awareness for their project and to solicit donations. Impressively, the students received over 1,400 donations, ranging from clothing to household cleaning products, and diapers to canned foods.

The project concluded with a visit and speech from Donna Fortier, whose direction and leadership truly guided the students. Not only were they able to see firsthand how local organizations like Mobile Hope of Loudoun can help those in need, but they also learned the value of being charitable.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Blue Ridge Middle School's sixth graders, the school's faculty, and Ms. Fortier for their extraordinary work on this project. Dedicating their time and efforts to helping those less fortunate attests to their unselfish character and determination to better their community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE KANNAPOLIS MIDDLE SCHOOL HISTORY QUIZ BOWL TEAM

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 12, 2017*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Kannapolis Middle School North Carolina History Quiz Bowl Team for their victory in the 2017 History Quiz Bowl. This year, the team of Katie Messick, Robert Le, Tanner

Sims, Raegan Koon, and Kandace Davis took home the top prize after beating five other squads in the competition.

Originally sponsored by the state in a partnership with various historic sites, the Quiz Bowl pits local eighth graders against each other to test their knowledge of North Carolina and national history. After the 2008 recession, the state cut funding for the event but a few dedicated teachers kept the competition alive. Now the competition operates as a community-based event showcasing exceptional students from both public and private schools.

This year's event brought a host of talent and I am extremely proud of all of the students who participated. As a history major myself, I have a deep appreciation for both our state and nation's history and I am glad these students share the same passion. I am also thankful for the teachers and volunteers who made the event possible. I look forward to many more years of a successful competition and wish all the students well as they continue their academic pursuits.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating the Kannapolis Middle School History Quiz Bowl Team on their accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF CAMP HOPE/CHRIS NEAL FARM

**HON. JASON SMITH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 12, 2017*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Camp Hope/Chris Neal Farm on the occasion of its 10th Anniversary. Created by Gold Star parents, William, "Mike" and Galia White, the camp located on the farm in St. Francois County, Missouri, honors their 23-year-old son, Marine Private First Class Christopher Neal White. Chris was killed in action in Al Anbar, Iraq on June 20, 2006. Not long after, the Whites began to develop their vision for helping wounded soldiers enjoy the great outdoors as their son had done.

Camp Hope provides outdoor adventures for combat wounded veterans of the War on Terror and active-duty combat-wounded soldiers, Marines, airmen and sailors. Their Camp Hope experience is entirely free of charge.

Camp Hope's mission is to offer these combat veterans the chance to shoot skeet, hunt turkey and deer, fish, hike, explore the country, or relax around the ever-burning fire pit. The goal is to help them experience healing through nature.

Since 2007, dozens of wounded soldiers from across the nation and all branches of service have laughed and cried together and found their own sense of peace at this 170-acre farm near Farmington. Volunteers—many of them veterans themselves—have helped to make the dream come true donating their time and money to these heroes on the homefront.

In celebration of the 10th Anniversary of Camp Hope/Chris Neal Farm, it is my great pleasure to honor the Whites, the volunteers who join them and the combat veterans they serve today before the United States House of Representatives.