

ROMANIAN NATIONAL DAY

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 1995

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Romania's national day. On December 1, the people of Romania celebrated the 77th anniversary of the creation of the modern Romanian state. The Romanian nation, of course, is much older, and is one of the culturally richest societies in Europe.

The modern Romanian state arose after World War I and the demise of Austro-Hungarian empire. For most of the ensuing 70 years, Romania's people lived through one difficulty after another, culminating in the long oppressive rule of the communist dictator Nicolai Ceaucescu.

Just as modern Romania was created after the fall of an empire, so too has Romania been renewed by the fall of an empire. The demise of communism in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union was welcomed by the Romanian people, who staged a revolution in 1989 that overthrew Ceaucescu and launched the rebirth of their nation. The new Romania has experienced the initial excitement of freedom tempered by the daunting realities of rebuilding its economy, solidifying democracy and catching up with the rest of Europe.

Mr. Speaker, I visited Romania earlier this year and have seen the hard work and commitment of its people. Romania is making steady progress on all fronts. The economy has been invigorated by the expanding role of the private sector and is growing at a healthy pace; Romania's multi-party parliament debates legislation openly and the free press has grown. Romania has expressed a strong desire to join NATO, affirming its desire to become a permanent member of the western camp of democracies. Next year, Romania like the United States, will hold an election for president. This election must and will be democratic, hotly contested and widely covered by the media.

Romania still has a long way to go. There is much to be done but the direction is clear. After 77 years of hardship, things are finally beginning to look up for the Romanian people. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the people of Romania on their national day anniversary and expressing our support for Romania's continued progress.

A TRADITION COMES TO A CLOSE

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 1995

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, as the year comes to a close, a tradition also comes to a close in Denton, NC. I am, of course, referring to the sad departure of the Denton Record. I join with many other readers in saying we will miss our weekly copy of the Denton Record.

For years, Ed and Venus Wallace have kept the people of Denton and the surrounding area informed with news of community inter-

est. The daily comings and goings of the hard-working men and women of Denton and their families were chronicled in the weekly publication of the Denton Record. News both big and small found a place in its pages. If it happened in Denton, you could read about it in the Denton Record.

In many ways, the Denton Record was a throwback to a bygone era. The newspaper has been published since 1940, the Wallaces have operated the Denton Record since 1962, and they have owned it since 1984. What made the weekly paper unique was that it cared about the community in which it was published. The citizens of Denton responded in kind and supported the Record for more than half a century. In this era of corporate-owned media giants, it was quite refreshing to have your hometown newspaper published by homegrown people. All of that will come to end with the end of 1995.

We will miss reading Venus' "Squibbles" column. We will miss Suzy's photos of sporting events and Miss Denton pageants. We will miss Ed's steady hand which has guided the paper through its weekly scramble to write headlines and meet deadlines. Most of all we will miss knowing that if something happened in Denton we could read about in the Denton Record.

On behalf of the citizens of the sixth district of North Carolina, we offer our congratulations to the Wallaces for decades of newspaper excellence and best wishes for life after the Denton Record.

TIM COUCH'S STANDOUT PREP CAREER

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 1995

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, just this week, the Nation's football fans enjoyed a passing of the torch, or the football, in the National Football League. Miami Dolphins Quarterback Dan Marino, who recently became the NFL's all-time yardage leader, surpassed Fran Tarkenton's touchdown passes record.

The day before Marino's recordbreaking day, Kentucky's own recordbreaking prep quarterback struck again, too. Leslie County High School's Tim Couch, a legend at the prep level, threw his 133rd touchdown pass to become the all-time high school touchdown pass career leader. Tim's 1-yard pass to Jonathan Morgan on the last play of his high school career broke Bobby Lucht's national record in dramatic fashion.

Like Marino, Tim Couch had already become the all-time high school passing yardage leader by shattering Josh Booty's national passing record the week before. Couch completed his illustrious high school career with 12,092 yards. He also is the all-time leader in completions (872) and completed an outstanding 63.6 percent of his passes.

Recently featured in a two-page Sports Illustrated article, Tim Couch has given Leslie County, eastern Kentucky, and all of America's football fans something to stand up and shout about.

Tim, who is an A-B student, is also a standout basketball player (he averaged more than 36 points per game last year) and part of the wonderful community spirit and pride of Hyden and Leslie County.

Not only did this community of 375 rally around their favorite son, they brought out the best in their team (an 11-3 record) and the entire region.

Tim Couch's success provides hope not only for every aspiring young football player, but for his community and everyone who knows this very talented young man from the mountains with the desire and ability to make it big. He has set a standard of excellence for Leslie County, its young people and the entire Nation. I know that Tim will continue to be an excellent example for all to follow.

Congratulations on your standout prep career, Tim, and good luck in your future. Let's hope you are the one removing Dan Marino's name from the NFL's record books.

HONORING MARY GORMLEY

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 1995

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Gormley, who was recently elected President of the Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers—Virginia PTA—during the association's annual convention in Richmond.

I have had the privilege of knowing and working with Mary for over 16 years during my terms serving on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and since joining this honorable Chamber. Mary has been active in the PTA for more than 20 years, and has also been involved in many other community and school related activities. She has chaired or served on the executive Boards of a variety of committees. She chaired the Volunteers for the International Children's Festival, held annually at Wolftrap Farm Park in Vienna, VA. She was President of the Annandale High School Band Boosters as well as President of the Annandale High School PTSA. She also has served as Secretary and Membership Chairman of the Fairfax Committee of 100, and as 1st and 2nd Vice President of the Fairfax County Council of PTA's. Additionally, Mary has served on various Fairfax County School Board committees including, School Consolidation, Substance Abuse, and the Division Superintendent Dr. Robert Spillane's Advisory Committee to name a few.

On the road to attaining the prestigious position of Virginia State PTA President Mary served on the State level as 1st and 2nd Vice President.

Mary's many years of giving have been recognized by her receiving an Honorary Life Membership in the National PTA; an Honorary Life Membership in the Virginia PTA; Lady Fairfax for the Fairfax County Fair, and Commendations from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Fairfax County School Board.

Mary is the wife of Brian Gormley and the proud mother of 3 children, Sean, Matthew, and Brienne Gormley.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in honoring Mary Gormley, a woman who puts not only the good of the community, but our children's education and well-being ahead of herself.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY'S
CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 1995

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the resolution congratulating Northwestern University's championship football team, the Wildcats, for its 1995 Big Ten Conference Championship and for its invitation to the 1996 Rose Bowl.

For the second time in its 122-year history, Northwestern is going to a bowl game. The 1995 winning season represents an unprecedented turnaround for Northwestern football.

Northwestern University has won the Big Ten Conference Championship with a perfect record in conference play. It recently received its invitation to the Rose Bowl. We will all be watching New Year's Day as the Wildcats play our friends at USC. We will all be cheering with Coach Gary Barnett, just as we cheered 4 years ago, when he first came to Northwestern and promised to take "the Purple to Pasadena."

We celebrate with University's President Henry Bienen, Coach Barnett and his dedicated and hard working team of coaches and athletes. We commend Northwestern University for its Big Ten Championship and for its invitation to the Rose Bowl. Northwestern's academic excellence has never been doubted; now let no one doubt its athletic excellence. Everyone wondered how this miracle occurred, but for Northwestern fans, it wasn't a question of how, but a question of when.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to join us in celebrating Northwestern football.

TRIBUTE TO CARMEN LOMAS
GARZA

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 1995

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very unique artist from Kingsville, TX, whose works illuminate the life and times of south Texans. Carmen Lomas Garza's impressionistic paintings illustrate the various aspects of life in our native community through the eyes of her childhood and can now be seen at the Smithsonian Museum.

Her exhibit, now showing at the Hirshorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, is entitled: "Directions: Carmen Lomas Garza." Her work inspired a popular children's book. Children's Book Press of San Francisco saw the wisdom of illustrating her paintings with short descriptions of what the paintings show.

Cuadros de familia—Family Pictures—is Children's Book Press' best seller, selling over 195,000 copies. It includes 32 reflections of the Mexican-American life in south Texas. It is an ideal gift for a youngster at Christmas.

As a child, the artist was teased and punished for speaking Spanish in school. But as she grew older and wiser, she used her art as a bridge to get past her anger, and to reflect her pride in our culture.

Her work is a touching glossary of childhood memories in Kingsville, TX. The scenes she depicts include: her grandfather peacefully watering his corn; the local faith healer expelling the flu from a neighbor; and a community cakewalk to raise money to send young people to college.

She told me about the peace she found growing up in south Texas with her family, and her desire to pass that along to the next generation through her art. She remembers the times we all remember with our family, eating on the front porch, making tamales, picking oranges, swimming in the Gulf of Mexico, and celebrating birthdays.

One of the most memorable paintings—and one just purchased by the Smithsonian for its permanent collection—is a tribute to her mother who supported her dreams of becoming an artist. The painting portrays the artist and her sister laying on the roof dreaming under the stars as their mother prepares their beds. Lomas Garza describes her mother as laying out the bed for our dreams of the future.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I highly recommend this exhibit to you and your constituents.

SALUTE TO HOMETOWN HEROES

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 1995

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gerri Schmidt and Robin Dorman of Branford, CT for their truly heroic effort to save the lives of three small children from a fire last Wednesday. These women displayed inspiring selflessness in aiding their neighbors and dousing the flames that engulfed a local condominium.

According to the authorities with the Branford Fire Department, three children aged 5, 3, and 14 months are alive and well today because of these two fine women. Careless playing with matches by one of the children is said to have caused the blaze.

Yesterday, as Gerri Schmidt walked her dog and Robin Dorman backed her car out of the drive, an elderly woman raced from a condominium on Watch Hill Road, screaming, "Fire! Fire!" Schmidt and Dorman ran to the woman who told them of the children trapped by the fire inside the building.

Not thinking of themselves, these women raced inside. There Schmidt found the five-year-old and the three-year-old in a bedroom and the 14-month-old in a hallway and carried them outside to safety. Dorman, meanwhile, ran up the stairs through heavy smoke and beat back the flames with a blanket. By the time the firefighters arrived on the scene, the children were safe and the flames were nearly extinguished.

Real life heroes are all too rare in this day and age. Gerri Schmidt and Robin Dorman have earned our praise, our thanks, our admiration and our acknowledgement, and I want to recognize them for their bravery.

Webster's Dictionary defines heroism as "fulfilling high purpose or attaining a noble

end." On behalf of the House of Representatives, I would like to extend my praise of Gerri Schmidt and Robin Dorman who truly define heroism. Thanks to our hometown heroes.

THE BEST SMALL TOWN IN
AMERICA

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 1995

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Essex, CT, on being named the Best Small Town in America by author Norman Crampton. Mr. Crampton's book, "The 100 Best Small Towns in America," recognizes Essex for qualities its residents, and people across Connecticut, have appreciated for many years. The residents, officials, and business people of the community should be very proud of this honor, which acknowledges their commitment to their community.

Mr. Crampton ranked towns across the Nation using several criteria, including per capita income, crime rate, public school expenditure per pupil, and percentage of population with a bachelor's degree. While every survey seeking to rate communities relies on similar factors, the author also considered community efforts to provide housing to all income groups and to encourage residents to play an active role in town affairs.

In the final analysis, Essex rose above every other small town in America to be named No. 1. Since settlers first came to the area in the mid-1600's, Essex, which encompasses the villages of Centerbrook, Ivoryton, and Essex, has distinguished itself. For much of the 18th and early-19th centuries, Essex was known as a world-class shipbuilding center. In fact, the first ship commissioned by the U.S. Navy in 1775, the *Oliver Cromwell*, was built in Essex and provided to our fledgling Government by the State of Connecticut. In addition to building the ships which were the lifeline of commerce in the 1700's and 1800's, Essex was an important commercial port for trade throughout the world, especially between the eastern United States and the islands of the Caribbean. The village of Ivoryton was so named because Essex was home to one of the leading manufacturers of piano keys. Manufacturers in Essex also helped to pioneer commercial production of which hazel and the community remains home to one of the world's largest distillers of this product.

Mr. Speaker, it is obvious to this Member why Essex has been ranked No. 1. The community has something to offer to everyone. Families can take advantage of first-rate public schools, affordable housing, and local employment opportunities. Lying on the banks of the lower Connecticut River, Essex boasts tidal flats and marshes, coves and inlets which provide valuable habitat for many species of fish, wildlife and birds. Visitors can enjoy leisurely rides on the Connecticut Valley Railroad, affectionately known by locals as the Essex Steamtrain, and conclude their day with a great meal at the historic Griswold Inn, which has been serving visitors for more than 200 years.

During the course of writing his book, Mr. Crampton interviewed citizens in communities around the Nation. His conversations with