

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2000

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request a leave of absence for today, December 11, 2000. Due to a terrible case of the flu, I am unable to be present to take part in the House of Representatives' legislative activities.

ON REVEREND JIM MITULSKI

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2000

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to pay tribute to the Reverend Jim Mitulski, a true friend and hero to thousands of people in need. For 15 years Reverend Mitulski has lead the congregation at the metropolitan Community Church (MCC) in San Francisco. Through his caring and compassion, his action and his deeds, he epitomizes the real spirit of Christianity.

Fifteen years ago, when Reverend Mitulski first came to MCC, situated in the heart of San Francisco's Castro District, the city was facing the onslaught of the AIDS epidemic. Reverend Mitulski recognized the needs and rose to the challenge, providing sanctuary and sustenance—physical, spiritual, emotional, and psychological—to his congregants and other members of the community. He provided a safe haven, support, acceptance, and love for the sick and dying, some of whom had been rejected by their own families. He ministered to those in need with unflagging compassion and enabled them to live out their lives with dignity. Over the course of his service at MCC, Reverend Mitulski presided over 500 funerals of his parishioners. He never gave up hope and he never stopped serving as a source of faith and inspiration to the survivors.

Mr. Speaker, I join the other members of the San Francisco community who have met Reverend Mitulski's decision to resign with a mixture of sadness and happiness. We are sad that he is stepping down, but happy that he is finding new ways to contribute to our community and to grow. Mostly, however, we are grateful for his leadership, his spirit of Christianity, his unselfish offering up of everything he had, and his untiring willingness to work within a community in crisis as it faced untold losses. Rev. Jim Mitulski is an example of the best of what San Francisco has to offer. We have been blessed by his years of service and wish him all the best in his new endeavors.

CONGRATULATING THE MARYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL RED REBEL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2000

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, on December 2nd of this year, the Maryville High School Red Rebel football team became the 1999–

2000 Class 4A state champions after defeating East High School of Memphis, 33–14, at this year's championship game in Murfreesboro, TN.

This is a remarkable accomplishment for this team, as they started this year's season with a record of 0–4. Against all odds, the team pulled it together with unparalleled strength and determination and came back to win their 2nd state championship in 3 years. Their last championship came in 1998.

The spirit of this team reminds me of the story of former Baltimore Orioles' third baseman Brooks Robinson, a Hall of Famer. Robinson once said that there were only a few in the Hall of Fame who got there mostly on superior athletic ability. Robinson said that the other 600 or so got there because of drive, determination, discipline, and desire. This team possesses the same qualities.

In an address to a jubilant crowd at a homecoming celebration at Maryville High School, George Quarles, Head Coach of the Maryville Red Rebels football team said, "To our team, I want to say thank you for not giving up. It would have been so easy to quit after going 0–4, but you didn't. The biggest lesson is not to give up. I am proud to be your coach."

Mr. Speaker, I ask the readers of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and my fellow colleague to join me in congratulating Head Coach George Quarles and the Maryville High School Red Rebel football team for their glorious victory. I also include the following news article printed in the Knoxville News Sentinel. The team's leadership, strength, and determination should be recognized by all, and their sportsmanship and dedication are at a level that should be followed by every high school team in this Country.

[From the Knoxville News Sentinel,
December 10, 2000]

MARYVILLE PLAYERS LAUDED FOR "TEAM EFFORT"

(By Ken Garland)

The Maryville High School football players never gave up, their coach said. They hung in there and went for the gold.

And they got it. A gold football trophy declaring them to be the Class 4A state football champions came their way after last weekend's state championship in Murfreesboro.

The Red Rebels defeated East High School of Memphis, 33–14, in the championship round Saturday night, Dec. 2.

They came home with that championship trophy, their second in three years, to the adoration of their fans in the community and at the school. Those fans came together Thursday morning in the MHS gymnasium for a celebration.

Meanwhile, across the county, fans of Alcoa High School were gearing up for a celebration honoring their football team. The tornadoes won the Class 2A state championship and were honored at a reception at Alcoa High School Saturday.

Read more about that reception in the sports section of today's News-Sentinel.

Maryville Head Coach George Quarles said the state win came as a surprise to him.

"Nobody was more shocked to be here than me," he told students and guests at the celebration.

After losing the first four games of the season, Quarles figured the team had no chance in the world of making even the playoffs. But, he said, the team proved him wrong.

The state championship gives the seniors on the team an impressive history, said Ath-

letic Director Jerry Thompson. The seniors have "played on a (state) runner-up team and on two state championship teams," he said.

The Red Rebels won their other state championship game in 1998. They have won several other state championship games in years past.

Shortly after that 1998 game, the team lost its head coach to another school. School officials named Quarles, who had been offensive coordinator for six years, as the new head coach.

At the ceremonies, Quarles thanked school officials who "took a chance on an untried head coach" and promoted him.

Over and over, the officials who spoke, and some who didn't, kept attributing the state championship to the team's "never-say-die attitude."

"What a remarkable turnaround," Thompson said. "Never in the history of Tennessee football has this happened."

Maryville Mayor Steve West, who presented the team with a proclamation naming Thursday as Maryville High School Day, said it was a "team effort."

"It's a team effort that makes you go to the championships," he said, "Maryville High has always been known for team effort."

"You all did a fabulous job."

Quarles, who also was named Class 4A coach of the year, told the team members he was proud of them.

"To our team, I want to say thank you for not giving up," he said. "It would have been so easy to quit after going 0–4, but you didn't. The biggest lesson is not to give up."

"I'm proud to be your coach."

TRIBUTE TO RAYMON AYALA

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a unique and outstanding American, Norteno artist and five-time Grammy Award nominee Raymon Ayala, who is one of the most popular artists in regional Mexican music today. He celebrates his birthday today, and I ask the House of Representatives to join me in offering him our good wishes.

Ayala, who began his exemplary career at the age of 18, has been one of the great entertainers of his generation. His skill at the Mexican "conjunto" music (music with an accordion base) is unparalleled in the industry. His steady rise and his continuous output of inclusive music has made him a favorite of fans throughout the Southwest and in Mexico.

In the 30 years that Raymon Ayala has graced the charts, he has recorded over 75 albums, never straying from his conjunto roots.

Ayala's success has turned on precisely the same elements that ensure the success of any musician in the industry: a straightforward style, balanced music, and lyrics with universally understood themes. His music touches on tragedy, loneliness, broken relationships, and experiencing love in all its complicated nuances . . . the sort of music that appeals to all music lovers, regardless of their favorite format.

Raymon has taken great care to ensure that the material on his albums reflects the excellence that has been his lifelong trademark. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing this talented patriot a happy birthday.