

at an uncle's house. At this house the boy did not have a bed. He slept on the couch. He did not have toys, but he did find a role model. In fact, he found two role models, the uncle and the uncle's partner in crime, both of whom had outstanding warrants and both of whom were suspected drug dealers.

The house they lived in was a suspected crack house with more than 40 sales per day conducted at all hours of day and the night. Neighbors claimed they heard gunshots at night; and police were building a case against the owners, but had not yet made any arrests. So we had a little boy living in a crack house with no bed, no father, no mother and two drug dealers as his role models.

At school, the boy was displaying the effects of his confused and tormented childhood. He was suspended for fighting, and in one instance even stabbed another child in the neck with a pencil. The school identified him as potentially violent and scheduled him to see a psychologist, but the appointment was scheduled for one week too late. Even though everyone knew this child was in trouble, no one bothered to go to his house, no one bothered to help him.

That is the true failure here. It is not guns or not enough restrictions on second amendment rights. The true failure was this little boy falling through the cracks of a system that let him down. His role model stole guns or maybe traded drugs for stolen guns, no one is quite sure. But we are quite sure that the boy was taught that violence, not words, was the way to solve problems. One neighbor remembers the uncle threatening to shoot up his house while holding the little boy in his lap.

Sadly, many of the remedies that people have pointed to would have done nothing to change the outcome of this tragic event.

This little boy with one parent in jail and the other reported drug user was living with two drug dealers who threatened their neighbors and traded in stolen guns, and in the meantime he was watching the violence that is so rampant on today's television. All of this was going on while he was in his most impressionable formative years. He had yet to learn right from wrong, and no one cared to teach him. The result was almost predictable. So anyone who claims that a trigger lock, a storage law, or any law at all would have prevented this tragedy is simply wrong.

What would have prevented this tragedy? That is a good question. The only thing that would have prevented this tragic event is if this innocent child had two loving parents. Only when violent repeat offenders are incarcerated and away from our children will this type of crime be prevented. The need here is not for unenforceable mandates, the need is for real solutions to violence. Let us work together to find ways to strengthen families and help parents teach their children right from wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I call on all of my colleagues to focus on the real solutions that will help restore and protect our families and our communities.

NATIONAL CHAMPION MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues from Michigan to pay tribute to the National Champion Michigan State Spartans Men's Basketball team.

On Monday night, this group of fine young men provided us with a display of sportsmanship, dedication, and perseverance that all of us must admire. This group, affectionately known as the "Flintstones" because of several players who hail from the Flint area, overcame many adversities, such as halftime deficits and injuries throughout the tournament on their way to the championship.

The heart and soul of the Michigan State team is their senior leadership. At a time when many college athletes make a quick jump to the professional ranks, it is refreshing to see this talented group of young men stay in school, get their education, and use their God-given talent and their experience to lead the Spartans to the National Championship.

Often times people place too much emphasis on athletics, especially college athletics. But this Michigan State team has taught us an important lesson. We have learned that through hard-work, dedication and loyalty you can achieve your dreams. Young people often look to sports figures to role model and the young men of the Michigan State basketball team are truly worthy of that admiration.

I would like to salute Head Coach Tom Izzo, Seniors Mateen Cleaves, Maurice Peterson, and A.J. Granger, Saginaw native Jason Richardson, and the entire Spartan team for an outstanding season. You have made us proud, not just as Spartan fans, but as Michiganders. Congratulations.

PERMANENT NORMAL TRADING RELATIONS WITH CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak this evening in support of Permanent Normal Trading Relations with China. I want to commend the Speaker of the House for setting a date when we will have the vote before Memorial Day.

I want to commend the President for the extraordinary effort that he is putting into this. I want to commend Ambassador Barshefsky; Secretary of Agriculture, Dan Glickman; and Secretary of Commerce, Bill Daley for their strong effort to help us pass Permanent Normal Trading Relations with China.

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We must approve permanent normal trading relations with China in May, or our economy will suffer for years to come. It will be a terrible mistake for this country not to approve this agreement. There are 1.3 billion people in

China, 20 percent of the world's population, one of the fastest growing economies in the world. This is a good deal for America. It cuts overall tariffs from 24 to 9 percent by 2005, cuts overall agriculture tariffs from 31 to 17 percent, it gives us five times more market access for cotton, 20 times more market access for rice, an unbelievable potential for poultry, beef, pork, soybeans, wheat and nearly every other ag product, and a huge potential for technology, banking, telecommunications, insurance. We give up nothing in this agreement, Mr. Speaker. This agreement grants us access to their market. It does not give them any additional access to our markets.

China has had access to our markets for the last 20 years. The Chinese want a seat at the international trade negotiating table. They must give access to get that. If this agreement does not happen, we will lose out and the rest of the world will gain. Literally the rest of the world will laugh all the way to the bank. China is going to enter the World Trade Organization whether we pass this agreement or not. Our choice is whether we want to have the same access to a market of 1.3 billion people as the rest of the world. The only choice for us to make is to approve permanent normal trading relations with China.

CONGRATULATING NCAA CHAMPION MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARY MILLER of California). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Spartans of Michigan State University, which my son Paul attended, on winning the National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball championship. The Spartans defeated the Florida Gators 89-76 in the championship game to capture the NCAA championship. It was certainly an exciting game that showcased some of the best talent the NCAA has to offer.

The Spartans are a great example of what hard work, determination, and a passionate desire to win can accomplish. The Spartans were led by seniors Morris Peterson and Mateen Cleaves and junior Charlie Bell, the Flintstones as they are commonly known in Michigan. All three grew up in my hometown of Flint, Michigan. They have brought a sense of spirit and optimism to our community and our State. I could not be prouder of these young men. They played basketball together and against each other at Berston Field House, a recreational center in the heart of downtown Flint. Over the years, Berston Field House has provided young men and women with not only a great place to play sports but also a safe alternative to the streets.

Peterson, Cleaves, and Bell have all been guided by strong family values

and principles. All are graduates of the Flint public schools, where academics are stressed before athletics. They all possess a deep sense of spirituality that is clearly rooted in faith and family. And they never miss a chance to praise and celebrate those roots. Their accomplishments shine bright in the eyes of the people of Flint.

Morris Peterson was named Big 10 player of the year and joined Mateen Cleaves as one of the 10 players selected to the John Wooden All-American team. Charlie Bell earned a spot on the third team All-Big-10 Conference. All three, along with A.J. Granger, made the All-NCAA tournament team.

The Spartans finished their story-book season with a record of 32-7, becoming Big 10 regular season co-champions, Big 10 tournament champions, and NCAA champions. Today, Mr. Speaker, I salute Michigan State's accomplishments and share the joy of their victory with MSU students and alumni and especially the people of Flint.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

NATIONAL SLEEP AWARENESS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I, too, would extend my congratulations to all of the athletes that we have heard talked about. In my own congressional district, the Westinghouse High School boys team went to the finals, lost by three points. Unfortunately, they did not win; but they came close, and, of course, the Marshall High School girls were city champs. They did not win the championship this year, but they have won it so many times until they know that they will be back next year.

Mr. Speaker, last week was National Sleep Awareness Week. I rise today to pay tribute to the work that the National Sleep Foundation and other health professionals are doing in this arena. I think it is important that we recognize the efforts of medical researchers who have devoted their professional careers to studying the impact of fatigue and sleep disorders on our Nation's health, safety, and pro-

ductivity. We should also take time to reevaluate our own personal health habits and determine how we can improve our own health in order to be stronger and more effective citizens.

While physicians and patients now pay attention to the adverse health impacts of poor nutrition and inadequate exercise, too few people pay attention to the harm that can result from inadequate or disordered sleep. Sleep scientists have linked such ailments as high blood pressure, hypertension, depression, and cardiovascular disease to inadequate sleep. The National Institutes of Health estimate that 40 million Americans suffer from chronic sleep disorders, the vast majority of which remain undiagnosed and untreated; and another 20 to 30 million suffer intermittent sleep-related problems.

The survey conducted by the National Sleep Foundation found that 58 million Americans report suffering excessive daytime sleepiness at levels that interfere with their day-to-day activities. Evidence tells us that America's sleep debt is on the rise. Yet numerous studies have concluded that the general public and primary care physicians lack the basic sleep knowledge to address these problems. As a result, the toll on human health, safety and productivity is enormous.

This problem is more than simply getting a good night's rest. It encompasses medical problems, lack of education, and the tools required to address this public health concern. Sleepiness, whether the result of untreated sleep disorders, volitional sleep deprivation, or shift work has also been identified as casual factors in a growing number of on-the-job injuries. This corresponds directly in lost productivity, personal injuries, medical expense, property and environmental damage due to sleep disorders and sleep deprivation.

The cost of this problem is estimated by the National Sleep Foundation to exceed \$100 billion each year. It is the personal injuries that are the most tragic part of this equation. However, we hear numerous reports on television and in the news about drivers who fall asleep at the wheel and kill themselves, a family member, or an innocent bystander.

As I alluded to earlier in my statement, there are ongoing research efforts into the impact of sleep deprivation. I am privileged that the Northwestern University Medical School in my district; and one of my constituents, Dr. Phyllis Zee of Oak Park, Illinois, has spent over a decade creating innovative approaches to improved sleep and daytime performance in older adults and by conducting research on the genetic basis for human sleep disorders.

As with any type of important health research, there is also need to provide information to the members of the community at greatest risk. Many minorities, for example, do not receive

education on proper sleep habits or recognition of symptoms that could indicate a chronic disorder. Through the work of the National Sleep Foundation, however, outreach to high-risk groups is beginning to change. It is important that we in Congress support these efforts and support strong public education and prevention programs to address this public health issue and this public health crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that all Americans would look seriously at something as simple as getting enough rest, getting enough sleep and the impact that it can have on enhancing rather than diminishing the quality of life for all of us.

STRENGTHENING THE RURAL ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, the United States has enjoyed the longest sustained period of economic growth in the history of the Nation. We have gone from record deficits to record surpluses. 20 million new jobs have been created in the last 8 years. We have the highest homeownership rate ever, the lowest unemployment in 30 years, and the lowest poverty rate in 20 years. Under current plans, we expect to eliminate the Federal debt; and we are looking forward to a surplus of more than \$3 trillion over the next 10 years. Farmlands are being transformed into subdivisions overnight.

Ordinarily that would be good, indicating progress. But the transformation of farmland into subdivisions is but further evidence that small ranchers and farmers are a dying breed. At the turn of the last century, close to half of the population in America lived and worked on ranches and farms. With the recent turn of the century, that number has been reduced to only about 1½ percent of the population. In 1900, thousands and thousands of small farms and ranches dotted the countryside, growing tobacco, cotton, wheat, soybeans and other products, raising pigs, poultry, horses and cattle. Today, by contrast, four companies are responsible for 80 percent of the beef market.

Despite the rosy economic picture for some, many in rural America are suffering. Despite the economic boom, many in rural America have not shared in the bounty. In rural America, low-tech factories have been driven out of business by lower paying foreign competitors. Small tobacco growers and other farmers face extinction. The digital divide has left us with two Americas. According to a recent article in the New York Times, large chunks of rural America are being depopulated. Small ranchers and farmers are being impoverished, forcing them to sell out.

The Department of Agriculture reports that wheat is at the lowest price since 1986, cotton at its lowest since