

past year will certainly be ranked among the best in New York State high school athletics:

GIRLS LACROSSE TEAM

Brittany Barry	Allie Lloyd
Kerin Boghosian	Kerry McCaffrey
Katie Cox	Ali McDonough
Meghan Crisafulli	Tara McKennett
Erin Daly	Anna Mitchell
Bradie Dwyer	Jenna Piscopo
Jackie Fiore	Jessie Riccio
Lauren Gallagher	Meghan Rose
Ali Holland	Caitlin Sotell
Brittany Jesser	Kristin Strief
Kaitlain Kamrowski	Meg Sullivan
Meg Lindsay	Erin Walters

I would also like to extend special recognition to Garden City High School Head Girls Lacrosse Coach Diane Chapman, Assistant Coach Janet Walsh, Principal John Okulski, and Athletic Director Nancy Kalafus.

Once again, congratulations to all the students, coaches, and parents on this wonderful achievement.

TRIBUTE TO ABE ROSENTHAL

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Abe Rosenthal, the New York Times journalist who received the Presidential Medal of Freedom earlier this month for his consistently insightful comments on human rights, and his outspoken defense of persecuted Christians and Jews throughout the world.

Many observers of foreign affairs have difficulty believing that Christians in the modern era have been, and continue to be, persecuted on a wide-scale basis throughout the world. Rosenthal's articulate and passionate writings helped bring much-needed awareness to their plight. In 1997 alone, he wrote over 20 stories about persecuted Christians, detailing the plight of Christians in a wide variety of regions, including China, the Sudan, and Pakistan.

The awareness he raised about people of many different faiths who suffer religious persecution helped win passage of the historic "International Religious Freedom Act of 1998" which established the United States Commission on International Religious freedom, and laid out a framework for denying foreign assistance to egregious violators of religious freedom.

I was very proud to have had a direct hand in writing portions of that legislation. I personally chaired several hearings on religious persecution around the world, and my committee covered the persecution of every faith. We took testimony from Muslim Uighurs, who are persecuted by Communist China; the worldwide problem of Anti-Semitism; as well as persecution against Christians.

The creation of the Commission and the office of the Special Ambassador, as well as the institution of the annual Religious Freedom Reports, were among a number of measures provided by Congressman Frank Wolf's landmark legislation on international religious freedom, which my committee—the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights—marked up in 1997, and enacted by Congress in 1998. All these measures rep-

resented important steps toward helping millions of people around the world who are persecuted simply because they are people of faith. But the Reports themselves clearly demonstrate that we need to do more.

Some find it odd that a man who has become such a great champion for persecuted Christians is himself Jewish. But this is not really so unusual when you look beneath the surface. When Rosenthal learned that Christians suffered for their faith, while most in the world have turned a blind eye, he felt compelled to act. The Jewish community has a special sensitivity to religious persecution, because when it happens, it almost always hits their community first. "Never again" has a special meaning to a community that was almost exterminated while the rest of the world looked on and watched.

Rosenthal's passionate and steadfast desire to speak out for basic human dignity was formulated in a profound way because of a brutal murder that occurred in 1964 in Queens early in his career with the New York Times. In that year, a woman named Catherine Genovese was brutally murdered in her own neighborhood. Although approximately 38 of her neighbors heard her cries for help, not one person responded as she was stabbed over 30 times.

The incident caused Rosenthal to question our responsibility to speak out against injustice, not just for a neighbor suffering in our midst, but for all those who suffer injustice and persecution throughout the world. "I am not going to be one of the 38," he said—one of those who failed to speak out or act.

I am proud to say that Mr. Rosenthal has remained true to his promise. He has consistently spoken out on behalf of those suffering for their faith. He has acted boldly not only through moving readers and inspiring persecuted Christians all over the globe, but also by challenging leaders of government who would rather not be bothered by the sufferings of the oppressed, and business leaders bent on a drive for profits above all else. He has moved many to show a concern for basic human rights and re-evaluate their priorities.

Mr. Rosenthal, you have acted, speaking out on behalf of so many, and you have called so many others, including us here in this Congress to do the same. For this, you deserve our thanks and praise.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LAO VETERANS OF AMERICA, MICHIGAN CHAPTER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Lao Veterans of America, Michigan Chapter. These veterans who served in the United States "Secret Army" are Hmong and Lao combat soldiers. They served in Laos during the Vietnam War from 1961 until 1975.

The Lao Veterans of America is made up of tens of thousands of Hmong and Lao combat veterans and their families who played a historic role in the covert operations during the Vietnam conflict era. Fearless Hmong men, women and children fought and died alongside U.S. soldiers. It is reported that approximately

35,000 to 40,000 Hmong soldiers lost their lives in combat, 50,000 to 58,000 were wounded, and 2,500 were missing in action. Even when the war had ended, North Vietnamese Communist forces continued to commit deadly acts of violence on the innocent people of Laos.

The Lao Veterans of America represent a group of selfless men and women, who risked their lives in the fight for world freedom and democracy. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Lao Veterans of America, Michigan Chapter, for their outstanding efforts and contributions to this world.

HONORING ALBERT NI ON HIS FIRST PLACE FINISH AT THE MATHCOUNTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Albert Ni for placing first at the MATHCOUNTS Championships. As an eighth-grader from Kennedy Junior High School in Lisle, Illinois, Albert defeated 227 other competitors to finish first in the nation as an individual champion.

This year was Albert's second time participating in the MATHCOUNTS competition, improving on his 37th place finish in the nation last year. At the competition this year, Albert aimed to place in the top three in the individual competition, but far surpassed his goal by placing first. As the MATHCOUNTS Individual National Champion, Albert received an \$8,000 college scholarship, a computer, and a trip to space camp.

Additionally, Albert competed as a member of the hard-working and talented Illinois team, which included Christopher Chang, Greg Gauthier, and Jeffrey Kuan. In the MATHCOUNTS Team Championships, the Illinois team finished second in the country after a team from California—an impressive accomplishment.

The success of Albert and his teammates demonstrates the excellence in education that the communities and schools in Illinois—and in the 13th Congressional District in particular—have always worked hard to achieve. Our students and teachers know that a solid math and science education is key to future success, and competitions like MATHCOUNTS simply underscore that students in Illinois and the 13th Congressional District are leading the way to excellence in mathematics.

This fall Albert will attend the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy and he is looking forward to continuing his involvement in math competitions at the high school level. We wish him much continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday afternoon July 18, 2002, I was called back to

my district for emergency purposes. As a result, I missed 4 rollcall votes.

Had I been present, the following is how I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 320 (On Agreeing to the Amendment) to H.R. 5121—"Moran of Virginia Amendment"—"Yea"

Rollcall No. 321 (On Passage—H.R. 5121—Legislative Branch Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2003—"Yea"

Rollcall No. 322 (On Ordering the Previous Question)—"Yea"

Rollcall No. 323 (On Agreeing to the Resolution—"Yea"

HONORING COLONEL JAMES A. MARKER UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Colonel James A. Marker upon his retirement from the United States Air Force.

Colonel Marker, who has served in active duty for 43 years, is the longest serving member of the Air Force currently on active duty. When he first enlisted on June 1, 1959, Dwight D. Eisenhower was the President of the United States. He served as an enlisted airman for 14 years before being commissioned as an officer in October of 1973.

Colonel James A. Marker, Jr. is the Inspector General, 375th Airlift Wing, Scott Air Force Base, Ill. As Inspector General, he supports the wing commander through oversight of the wing fraud, waste, abuse, and complaints program, processing complaints from the military and civilian work force, their families, the general public, elected state and federal officials, and higher headquarters personnel. He performs complaint analyses to determine the appropriate investigation method or referral agency, appoints and trains investigation officers, conducts investigations, reviews evidence, coordinates legal and appointing authority review of completed reports of investigation, and notifies complainants of investigation findings.

Colonel Marker is a graduate of Jefferson Union High School, Richmond, Ohio in 1958. The Colonel earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology in 1973 from the College of Great Falls, Mont. and a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice in 1983 from Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg, Mo.

Colonel Marker entered the Air Force as an airman basic and performed various duties as an enlisted security policeman. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in October 1973 through the Bootstrap Commissioning Program and remained in the security police career field. If the Air Force published a list of air force terminology, the word "lifer" would surely be in it. Next to it, possibly, would be a picture of Col. James Marker. And he'd be smiling. Being called a lifer no longer offends him. On the contrary, he sees the term lifer as a badge of honor, a proud testimony of his long, devoted service.

However, his career almost didn't get off the ground. Marker had three relatives who fought

in World War II and inspired the 18-year-old to join the Air Force. But the teen from Steubenville, Ohio, wasn't thinking of a lifelong commitment when he signed up in Pittsburgh. He wanted to be a photographer. But the Air Force needed cops, air policemen back then.

He soon married Bev, and they both decided he'd re-up. He's been doing that ever since. The couple raised five children and lived in too many places to count—three tours were in Alaska. He is ending up here at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. After 14 years, Marker, then a technical sergeant, decided to become an officer. Col. Marker stayed because he loves the people, his job and the service he's given his country. That he's a true patriot is apparent when he talks about that service. "If it were up to me," Marker has said, "I'd stay in the Air Force until the day I die."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Colonel James A. Marker and to congratulate him for his retirement after 43 years of active duty service in the Air Force.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Speaker, because of commitments in my home state of Wisconsin, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 320 through 325. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Aye on rollcall No. 320

Aye on rollcall No. 321

No on rollcall No. 322

No on rollcall No. 323

Aye on rollcall No. 324

Aye on rollcall No. 325

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes due to a family medical emergency. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote 324, on agreeing to H. Con. Res. 439, I would have voted yea.

Roll call vote 325, on agreeing to H. Res. 492, I would have voted yea.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 22, 2002, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall Nos. 324, and 325. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 324 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Con. Res. 439, Honoring Corinne "Lindy" Claiborne Boggs; and rollcall vote 325 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 492, Expressing Gratitude for the 10-

month World Trade Center Cleanup and Recovery Efforts.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 324 and 325.

HONORING ALEXANDER MOULTON OF CLIFTON, TEXAS

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, the 11th Congressional District and Central Texas lost an outstanding young citizen and one of the leaders of the next generation with the untimely death in June of Alexander (Alex) Moulton of Clifton.

Alex and his twin sister Alyson were born in Austin on December 14, 1982, the children of Robert and Carol Moulton. In his all-too-brief life, Alex, lived in Texas, Virginia, New Hampshire and New Mexico before the family settled in Clifton, a city of approximately 3,500 resident just north of Waco.

On a hot Texas summer afternoon in June, Alex and a group of friends were swimming at nearby Lake Whitney when one of Alex's friends started struggling in the water. Two of the group ran for help and Alex went into the water to help his friend. Alex was able to keep the struggling swimmer afloat until help arrived, but by then, he was exhausted himself. Alex went under and stayed under. When his friends were able to pull him to shore, they could not resuscitate him. Alex Moulton, at 19½ years of age, had given his life so that another could live.

Losing a friend and a loved one is always a heavy burden, a loss made even harder to bear and more difficult to accept when it is someone with the promise of such a bright future. For Alex Moulton, who grabbed each minute of life with joy, and held on until he had wrung it dry of all the possibilities, every day sparkled and every tomorrow looked even more dazzling. This was the life that he sacrificed to help someone in trouble.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Members of the House of Representatives to join me in honoring and celebrating the life of Alex Moulton.

HONORING THE CHILDREN'S HOME OF LUBBOCK

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the Children's Home of Lubbock, Texas for the outstanding work it does on behalf of children in the State of Texas. The Children's Home of Lubbock has shown an unwavering commitment to service and placement of disadvantaged and deserving children.

The doors of The Children's Home of Lubbock opened in 1954. The house began as an extension of the Broadway Church of Christ in Lubbock, Texas. Since that time more than 4,400 children have been helped either through placement in a family or by receiving