

time of 1 minute and 43.95 seconds. This record held and Derek won Olympic gold.

Derek's silver and gold medals surprised the world. At 5 feet 3½ inches, Derek is a small man in a tall man's sport. He is known by his Nordic competitors as "the little man with the big strokes."

Derek grew up on the West Side of San Bernardino with his brother and single father. He attended Roosevelt elementary and Eisenhower high school. He first learned to skate at the stardust roller rink in Highland where he became an avid inline skater.

As a Mexican-American youth growing up in southern California, Derek did not set foot on ice until he was 17 years old. Derek would be 26 years old before he would switch from inline skating to ice skating in 1996 in order to shoot for Olympic gold.

Derek's road to the Olympics has not been easy. He and his wife Tiffany have struggled to make ends meet raising a baby girl, Mia Elizabeth, while Derek trained for the Olympics. Unlike most skaters who train fulltime, Derek works part-time at a Home Depot to help support his family. Derek has doggedly pursued his dream against all odds.

When people said that he could not do it, he said that he could, and he did it. Derek proved that a determined kid from a working class family in Southern California could grow up to be a champion in a sport dominated by Northern Europeans.

We do not have many Winter Olympians in San Bernardino. The beauty of the Olympic games is the opportunity they allow all of us to experience the glory and triumph through our athletes. We feel a connection with them. As the first Mexican-American to ever appear in the winter games let alone win a medal, Derek expanded the dreams of millions of Hispanic boys and girls throughout the U.S. and the world. In a world that all too often tells our children, "no you can't," Derek Parra has shown them that "sí se puede," yes, they can compete! Through faith, determination and hard work, Derek broke down barriers to become a beacon of hope to children everywhere. Derek is truly a role model for others to follow.

Derek Parra made history and opened the world of possibility of Hispanic Americans. Thank you Derek. San Bernardino is proud of you. Mexican Americans are proud of you. All Americans are proud of you. You are our hero. God Bless you.

TRIBUTE TO KANSAS CITIANS' RESPONSE TO OUR RECENT ICE STORM

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, Ms. MCCARTHY and I rise today to pay tribute to the thousands of Kansas City-area residents who over the past two weeks rose to the challenge posed by the worst ice storm to hit the Kansas City metropolitan area in decades.

The storm, which struck our area with unprecedented fury on January 29th and 30th,

cut electric power to over 450,000 area residents and caused more than \$50 million in damage in Missouri and approximately \$47 million plus damage in Kansas. Seven deaths were attributed to the storm.

As the Kansas City Star described it, the storm "blasted through [and] left most of the metropolitan area a dangerous tangle of downed trees, felled power lines and snarled traffic. . . . During an intense 12 hours, from 7 p.m. Wednesday to 7 a.m. Thursday, for example, Johnson County emergency dispatchers took 420 calls, mostly from people reporting tree limbs pulling down overhead lines. The Kansas City Fire Department dispatchers took 1,100 emergency calls in a 12-hour period; ordinarily they receive 1,400 in a month."

Mr. Speaker, our constituents dealt heroically with this unexpected calamity and we want to take special note of the outstanding contributions made by those whose job it was to respond to this crisis: police, firefighters, 911 operators, KCI airport employees, and members of the Missouri and Kansas National Guard, to note just some of them.

Medical teams dealt with cases of carbon monoxide poisoning, exposure, and injuries due to falling tree limbs and falls on ice. Homeless shelters opened their doors to neighbors left without heat and electricity and church groups, the Salvation Army, the Red Cross and municipal emergency services worked overtime and went the extra mile to help those in need during this time of crisis. Countless community volunteers including AmeriCorps, the Boy Scouts, and United Way gave their time to assist in the recovery process. Whether you were in Rosedale or Brookside, Independence or Overland Park, the "Kansas City Spirit" was prevalent with neighbors helping neighbors to cope with the devastation.

Most notably, hundreds of repair crews from area utilities—including Kansas City Power and Light, Missouri Public Service, the Kansas City, Kansas, Board of Public Utilities, Independence Power and Light, Westar Energy, and SBC—worked around the clock, along with 400 out-of-state repair crews and 350 out-of-state tree trimming crews, to replace lines, repair blown fuses and clear ice-laden trees that had cut off power lines and created fire and injury hazards. In fact, it is estimated that of the 450,000 trees that line Kansas City's streets, 10 percent of them will be gone when the cleanup is complete and over 10 percent of the city's privately owned trees also will have perished. To these utility workers, the people of the Kansas City area owe a special debt of gratitude.

We also applaud the leadership of our Governors Bill Graves of Kansas and Bob Holden of Missouri along with the countless local elected officials who worked in tandem with state and federal emergency management officials in compiling the damage assessments to that our Governors could request the Federal Emergency Disaster Declaration. The President and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) acted quickly to start the process of bringing federal relief to our community so that now the full recovery can occur.

Mr. Speaker, we have proven once again Kansas City truly is the heartland of America—when our friends and neighbors are in trouble, our community comes together to address the crisis and to get the necessary job

done—quickly, efficiently and effectively. We have never been prouder to represent the Kansas City metropolitan area.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. EUNICE MERRILL OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a very special lady in the 5th District of Alabama as she celebrates a remarkable anniversary.

Mrs. Eunice Merrill has been serving her home cooking to the people of north Alabama for fifty years. In January of 1952, a time when very few women in Alabama owned their own businesses, she opened "Eunice's Country Kitchen" in Huntsville, Alabama. Over the years, Eunice's Country Kitchen has become a local favorite.

People from all around don't just come to Eunice's for the food. "Aunt" Eunice, as her many patrons know her, is a local celebrity. She is never caught without a smile and shows kindness and warmth to every person who enters her restaurant.

Eunice Merrill shows that same love and affection to her community as well. She is an extremely active member of the Huntsville community, spending much of her time volunteering and raising money for the Arthritis Foundation.

Eunice's Country Kitchen is a place where politicians, business leaders, and other locals can gather to eat, drink coffee, and tell stories. Whether it's at the "Liar's Table" reserved for "Politishins and Fisherfolk" or refilling coffee cups throughout the restaurant, everyone feels right at home at Aunt Eunice's. For fifty years, people from all over the world have visited Eunice's Country Kitchen and have concluded that it truly is the finest place for country ham & biscuits.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely congratulate Aunt Eunice for fifty years of friendly service and great food. And I want to thank here for making me a part of her Alabama family.

DR. BOB ALBIN OF TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY RETIRES

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to the tireless dedication and tremendous effort of Dr. Bob Albin, the Associate Dean of Research for the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at Texas Tech University. For more than 40 years, Bob has shaped the minds of agriculture students, initiated cutting-edge research throughout the agricultural college, served as a committed faculty member and student advisor, and been a unswerving friend to all of agriculture. As he retires, Bob can look back on his time at Texas Tech with great pride on his many accomplishments.

As the Representative of Lubbock, TX and of Texas Tech University, I have personally

witnessed Bob's work to bring collaborative quality research to Texas Tech through his determined efforts to establish the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Plant Stress and Water Conservation Laboratory in Lubbock. Bob traveled to Washington on a regular basis to testify before the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee and to explain the need for an ARS laboratory in Lubbock that would focus on the plant and crop needs in semiarid production environments such as in West Texas. I am pleased that after all of his hard work, funding was provided for this important facility, which is now nearly constructed and that houses research initiatives between ARS and the University. Thanks to Bob's efforts, scientists have used this facility for research critical to plant science which will keep our farmers the most efficient producers of food and fiber in the world.

I know Bob will be missed by faculty and students alike, but his support and enthusiasm for Texas Tech and agriculture will endure. Bob has always been a Red Raider, and he always will be in the future.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and pleasure today to express in this public forum my thanks to Dr. Bob Albin for his outstanding service to Texas Tech University and American agriculture and wish him all the best in his retirement.

ANOTHER CHURCH ATTACKED IN INDIA

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, recently another Christian church was attacked in India. The Associated Press reported on February 17 that about 50 militant, extremist Hindu fundamentalists attacked a Catholic church on the outskirts of Bangalore. Unfortunately, this is just the latest incident in a long-standing campaign of repression against Christians and other religious minorities in India, which appears to be tacitly supported by the government. Last year, a cabinet member was quoted as saying that everyone who lives in India must either be a Hindu or be subservient to Hindus. This is part of the Hindutva ideology of the ruling BJP and its parent organization, the RSS, which was founded in support of the Fascists.

This latest incident seems to mirror with so many other actions perpetrated by Hindu militants under the umbrella of the RSS. They have murdered priests, raped nuns, and burned churches. They have attacked Christian schools and prayer halls. It was Hindu militants under the RSS umbrella who burned missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons to death while they slept in their jeep, all the while chanting "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. India subsequently threw Mr. Staines's widow out of the country rather than let her continue his work providing health services for the downtrodden. The RSS itself published a booklet on how to file fake criminal cases against Christians and other religious minorities. Indian police used gunfire to break up a Christian religious festival. More than

200,000 Christians in Nagaland have been murdered by Indian forces. In the face of this pattern of repression, abuse, and tyranny, Prime Minister Vajpayee told an audience in New York, "I will always be a Swayamsewak," invoking the self-designation of RSS members.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the Indian government has done little to stop or prevent these acts of violence. If the abuse and repression of Christians were the only story, it would be bad enough, but it is not. Sikhs, Muslims, and other minorities have faced repression also. The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs, over 75,000 Kashmiri Muslims, and many thousands of other minorities, including Tamils, Dalit "untouchables," Bodos, Assamese, Manipuris and others. According to the Movement Against State Repression, India admitted to holding 52,268 Sikhs as political prisoners, and we know the numbers the government admits to are generally low. Amnesty International reports that tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners.

To make it worse, Mr. Speaker, it was reported in the January 2 issue of the Washington Times that India is sponsoring cross-border terrorism in the province of Sindh to destabilize Pakistan, which has been a solid, strong ally in the war on terrorism. In addition, India's aggressive military maneuvers have forced Pakistan to shift troops away from the border with Afghanistan to the Indian border, possibly creating an escape for Taliban and Al Qaeda terrorists. In effect, India's actions are abetting the Al Qaeda terrorists.

In light of all this repression and terrorism America must make a strong stand. We must make it clear that such practices are unacceptable for countries that proclaim democratic principles and for countries that seek U.S. support. To do so, we should stop U.S. aid to India until these abuses are ended and we should publicly support the freedom movements within India's borders by calling for a free and fair plebiscite on the issue of Independence for Kashmir, Khalistan, predominantly Christian Nagaland, and the other nations seeking their freedom from India. These measures will help shine the light of freedom on everyone in South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Associated Press article into the RECORD at this time.

[From the Associated Press, Feb. 17, 2002]

POLICE: HINDU EXTREMISTS HIT CHURCH

BANGALORE, INDIA.—About 50 Hindu hardliners attacked a Roman Catholic church in southern India on Sunday and injured several worshippers, police said.

V.V. Bhaskar, the police chief in the city of Mysore, declined to say how many people were hurt in the attack, which happened on the outskirts of the city.

The assailants threw stones at the church before forcing their way inside, breaking furniture, smashing windows and attacking worshippers.

The men demanded the priest end what they said were efforts to convert local villagers, who are mainly Hindu, Bhaskar said.

Christians make up only a tiny fraction of India's 1 billion-plus population. About 80 percent are Hindus.

Some Hindu extremist groups have accused church officials of trying to attract poor Hindus with promises of money and jobs.

The worst attack against Christians in India took place in 1999, when an Australian missionary and his two children were burned alive by a mob.

TRIBUTE TO COACH JOE DASARO AND THE GRISSOM HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Coach Joe Dasaro and the Grissom High School Wrestling team from Huntsville, AL. Earlier this month, they took home the 6A State Wrestling Championship, a title they haven't held since 1997. The Tigers won their sixth state championship title in the 19 years that Coach Dasaro has been leading the team. Grissom High School has always upheld the highest standards of excellence in all its endeavors, and this team of outstanding athletes is no exception.

The Grissom team scored 140 points—26 points above any other team in the tournament. Coach Dasaro has called the team solid and consistent, and I am proud of this group of athletes who have maintained an attitude of distinction in all that they do. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Coach Dasaro for his leadership and each member of the Grissom High School wrestling team for their commitment to achieving the championship title.

MIDLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM WINS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join Midland and Permian Basin in congratulating the Midland Christian School football team in their great victory in the Class 4A state championship title in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools. Their November victory over Denton Liberty Christian is an accomplishment that is truly deserving of recognition and praise.

The Midland Christian School football program has been built upon a solid foundation of hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship. The Mustangs have shown what today's youth can accomplish when teamwork and determination are applied. They will forever hold a place of honor in the pages of Texas athletics.

It is with great pride that I recognize the members of the Midland Christian School football team and their coach Greg McClendon for this accomplishment. I would also like to recognize the administration and fans that carried them through to victory. Thanks to their tremendous efforts, Midland, TX, is now home to the 2001–2002 Class 4A State Champions for the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools. I congratulate the Midland Christian Mustangs for bringing home a state football title.