plants, Cal participated in the global efforts of the UAW to bring fair wages, human rights, and a new approach to international trade to workers in the United States and worldwide. In 1988 Cal was promoted to Coordinator of Active Training Programs at the UAW–GM Human Resources Center. He went on to serve in the UAW GM Department as Administrative Assistant to then UAW Vice-President Stephen Yokich from 1989 to 1995.

Following up his appointment as Assistant Director of Region 1–C in 1995, Cal was named the region's director in 1998. With these two positions Cal came back to his early roots. His service to the Flint community reflects Cal's vision of a better life for workers and their families. He serves on the board of many community organizations including Healthplus of Michigan and the Greater Flint Health Coalition.

A huge Spartan fan, Cal attended Michigan State University. Realizing the importance of education and history Cal now works with Michigan State University, Mott Community College and Lansing Community College to preserve the history of the labor movement and to foster better relations between labor and educational institutions.

Cal Rapson has a deep and abiding respect for the workers in Region 1–C. Having come up through the ranks with most of the workers in this area Cal stated in his director's report, ''I have never been prouder to be from this region than after the events of September 11.'' Under his leadership the local unions raised over $500,000 to benefit the victims of that tragedy. UAW Region 1–C workers donated their time and labor to build vehicles for the New York City recovery operation, replacing those destroyed in the collapse of the World Trade Towers.

Mr. Speaker, I consider Cal Rapson a dear friend and superior advisor. I appreciate his expertise, his common sense, his judgment, his guidance, and discernment. The UAW will miss his contributions to the labor movement. I ask the House of Representatives join me in wishing him the best as he begins his well-deserved retirement.

COMMEMORATIVE BUCKS OF MICHIGAN SCORES BIG FOR HUNTERS

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Commemorative Bucks of Michigan on the occasion of its 20th anniversary. I am proud to have written during my years as a state lawmaker the resolution that established Commemorative Bucks as the official record-keeping organization for big game hunters in my home state or Michigan. I am prouder still to be a member of such an outstanding organization and to have one of my hunting achievements included it its record book.

As a non-profit organization, Commemorative Bucks of Michigan collects and maintains records on trophy class Whitetail deer, black bear, elk and turkey taken by legal hunting means in the state of Michigan. Under the strong leadership of President Richard Wilt and previous top officials, Commemorative Bucks has become a premier organization in the state for the promotion and advancement of big game hunting. In addition to its record books, the organization's official publication, ''Buck Fax,'' has become an excellent resource for hunters throughout the state.

The magazine provides a top-notch forum for successful hunters to pass on their personal hunting strategies and display their trophies with their own pictures. It also provides a guide for young novice hunters through information and articles included in ''Buck Tail Basics.'' Moreover, in the interest of community service, ''Buck Fax'' is mailed free of charge to every high school library in the state and to veterans hospitals.

In addition, both through the magazine and through informational events held across the state, Commemorative Bucks plays a vital role as an advocate for deer management and the cultivation of wildlife as a renewable resource. As all outdoors enthusiasts understand, hunting greatly benefits our efforts to sustain wildlife populations and foster an environment that will protect our resources for future generations. Commemorative Bucks also takes an active role in promoting hunters' rights to ensure that the ability to hunt is not infringed upon by those who fail to understand the importance of hunting.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Commemorative Bucks of Michigan, President Richard Wilt and the entire membership for the significant contributions to hunting made by the organization during the past 20 years. I am confident Commemorative Bucks will continue to honor the achievements of Michigan Hunters and act as an advocate for responsible hunting and wildlife management for many years to come.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN—MADISON MALE BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the University of Wisconsin—Madison male basketball team who through a season of intense hard work made the 2002 NCAA basketball tournament. After being picked to finish ninth in their league by most pre-season publications, the UW Badgers ended the season with a share of the Big Ten Championship, and a number one seed in the Big Ten Tournament. This championship title was the first the school has seen since the 1946–'47 season.

The team began the season with a new coach, Bo Ryan, and had graduated four out of its five starters from last season, and before the season even got underway, lost two of its star freshmen. Under the motivating leadership of Ryan, however, the team finished its regular season with an impressive six-game winning streak to finish the Big Ten season with an 11–5 record and an 18–11 mark overall.

Ending Michigan State's, fifty-three home game winning streak in January, and their one-point victory over Indiana, providing the first UW victory over Indiana at Indiana in twenty-five years, were just a couple of the highlights of this exciting Badger season. Their last game, in which the team beat Michigan by twenty points, ended with a sold-out crowd chanting ''Big Ten Champs. Big Ten Champs.'' These Big Ten Champs ended up with an eight seed in the NCAA tournament and will be playing their first game against St. John's University on the evening of Friday, March 15, at the MCI Center in Washington, DC.

I wholeheartedly congratulate the University of Wisconsin Males Basketball Team on their successful season and wish them the best of luck in the NCAA tournament.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GERTRUDE L. BENZEL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today to recognize the life and contributions of Gertrude L. Benzel of Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Gert peacefully left us on a Saturday morning, March 9, 2002. Gert was a popular member and patriarch of the community and was often sought by many for her listening ear, advice, and warm smile.

Gert was a native of her state, born in 1911 in Delta, Colorado and resided in Grand Junction. In 1942, Gert, along with her late husband Alex, moved to Glenwood Springs and purchased a sheep ranch. Gert soon thereafter found herself desiring to improve the lives of her fellow community members. She was often found spending her time as President of the State Woolgrowers Association, as a charter member of the Glenwood Springs Golf Club, or at various charitable and volunteer organizations throughout the area. What I find truly amazing is how Gert was able to stay completely involved in her pursuits and still be able to raise a family that appreciated and valued the importance of hard work, honor, and perseverance. She raised her children John and Joanne to be respectful and hardworking individuals determined to succeed in their own pursuits. Gert's influence touched many lives outside of her immediate family and she was a well-revered and loving mother, grandmother, wife, sister, and friend to many.

Gert's passing is especially hard for me as she was like a second mother to our family. I have such warm memories of those days of my youth that I spent visiting our neighbors, the Benzels. Whether it was hunting with John, handling sheep up Storm King with Shep (Alex), talking with JoAnne, or watching Jeannie with baby Julie, they were all wonderful times. But truly, I will miss that special time with Gert. The ranch, the golf course, the kitchen (baking cakes for my parents birthday), the kittens, all of it was good living and we will miss her very much.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Gertrude L. Benzel for the great strides she took in establishing herself as a valuable leader and patriarch of the Glenwood Springs community. Her dedication to family, friends, work, and the community certainly deserves the recognition of this body of Congress, and this nation. Although Gert has left us, her good-natured spirit lives on through the lives of those she has touched. I would like to extend my regrets and deepest sympathies to Gert's family and friends during this sad and difficult time. We're going to miss you Gert.