

smiled and waved and signed autographs and said thank you a million times. The spotlight agrees with them. Lord knows, they earned it. They played hard, had fun, and won 'em all.

Stop and think. When was the last time you did anything successfully 39 times in a row? I'm not sure if I could count from one to 39 successfully 39 straight times. I'm bound to skip, say, a 23.

The first thing Auriemma did, it's worth remembering, was thank his staff. Because of his position and the power of his personality, he is the main character in all of this, but couldn't be who he is or do what he does without a strong supporting cast. Associate head coach Chris Dailey has worked alongside him for 17 years. She is as demanding as he is, and sometimes, even more so. A diligent sentry who stands guard on the whole concept of "Connecticut basketball," Dailey is part-coach, part-educator, and part-den mother. Problems, big or small, go through her. Tonya Cardoza, in her eighth year, and Jamelle Elliott, in her fifth, are bright and tireless.

The closer one gets to the women's program, he is struck by two revelations: how good they are at playing the game of basketball and how much fun they seem to have together both on and off the court. The team's signature is a smile.

Auriemma hinted that Hartford's fourth parade in eight years—three for women's national champions and one for UConn's men—may not be the last.

"My guess is we might be here again down the road," he said.

If there is another shindig at the Capitol, organizers would be wise to get a smaller podium or a taller coach. The only people who could see Auriemma were behind him. Those in the bleacher seats probably thought they were listening to the voice of God, although chants of "Geno, Geno" indicated otherwise.

This year, he was Cortez in Mexico. Upon landing there, the 16th-century Spanish conqueror burned all ships to send a message to his troops that there was no turning back. In a town built, in large part, on remembering the Alamo, Auriemma instructed his team to remember St. Louis and last year's loss to Notre Dame in a national semifinal game. After eliminating Tennessee and reaching the national championship game, Auriemma delivered a Cortez-like message to his team in San Antonio.

"I told them about Mt. Everest," he said. "in the last 500 yards, everybody dies."

The thought made him roll his eyes.

"Man, you've got to keep coming up with things," he said.

Auriemma was guilty of coaches-speak when he said there was no pressure on UConn to win. Part of a coach's job is to absorb as much pressure as he can and prevent it from seeping into his team's locker room. Auriemma is good at it. Before the Tennessee game, he said, "I'm the most nervous man in America." Before meeting Oklahoma in the national title game, he openly worried that fate and the elements might be conspiring against UConn. He understood that there was only one way out for this senior-laden group. They had to win them all.

Knockers were everywhere, ready to pounce. Kelli Anderson wrote, "UConn is a perennial favorite that has won just one title in the last six years," in the March 18th edition of Sports Illustrated. How's that for revisionist history? Presumably, a half-dozen or more editors read the copy without bothering to change it. UConn had won two titles in seven years and now has won three titles in eight, finishing undefeated twice. The Huskies sure went from 1-of-6 to 3-of-8 in an awful hurry, didn't they?

Like most of his players, Auriemma enjoys his time on a national stage.

"We're ready, that's all I can tell you," he said upon arrival in San Antonio.

"Players decide games" and "I'm always amazed when players do what I tell them" were a couple of his other nuggets. He relishes his time with media and rarely holds anything back.

"My biggest strength is I give you guys a lot to write about and my biggest weakness is I give you guys a lot to write about," he said. "Like a lot of people, my greatest strength is my greatest weakness."

Connecticut state troopers shaded the rules by getting autographs at a third-floor press conference in the Capitol after the parade. Players signed the inside brims of their hats. If a chief back at the barracks asked the troopers to remove their hats to show him how they had spent their day, there would have been a whole of pump-faking going on.

Hartford police, meanwhile, walked the women's team from the capitol, underneath the Soldiers' and Sailors' Arch to the P-3 level of the Civic Center to watch the Phoenix WBCA All-America High School Game. Try as they did to sneak in the back door, the women were greeted by a standing ovation from more than 10,000 fans.

Applause wanes. Appreciation of a 39-0 national champion team never will. And neither will those jabs that seem to keep everybody in place and everything in its proper order.

"I've been around Geno for 17 years," Dailey said. "I don't think he's funny, charming, or good-looking. And you can quote me."

Nothing is sacred except the game.

44TH ANNUAL LOYALTY DAY

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our 44th annual Loyalty Day, which is celebrated on May 1. On this day, let us reflect with pride on our great country and remember with gratitude the contributions of the many loyal and courageous Americans; such as fire fighters, law enforcement officers, community service leaders, and military personnel who have given so much of themselves both at home and around the world to preserve our freedom.

Although we don't know the exact start of Loyalty Day, it did start in the 1930s as a counteractant of the May Day Communist exhibition. The Public Law 85-529 was signed by President Eisenhower in 1958 to officially commemorate this special day. Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars thought that these "disruptive forces of the communism" needed to see that the loyalty of Americans could not be uprooted so easily. They decided that they would organize parades and ceremonies, with other patriotic organizations joining in. With an extensive letter-writing campaign, and the help of the speaker's bureaus the theme of loyalty of Americans began to mold into something. Plays and tours of our national shrines aided this. The motto is to instill the ideals of our founding fathers to "remain loyal to America". Indeed, it is a day; meant for making all of us in America feel proud of our country. The country to which we belong.

Join me and the members of The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, George

O. Breece Post 401 in recognition of Loyalty Day 2002.

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN PROTECTION ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Protection Act. This legislation takes a common sense approach to reduce nutrient and sediment loss in the Upper Mississippi watershed by coordinating existing public and private water monitoring initiatives. I believe that such a partnership promotes the river's health and is beneficial the communities and people of eastern Iowa.

Most of the farm families I represent live and make their living either along the Mississippi, or its many tributaries. Soil erosion is a problem for farmers by reducing long-term sustainability and income potential of their acres. It is my understanding that farmers in the Upper Mississippi River Basin lose more than \$300 million annually in applied nitrogen to soil erosion. In addition, sediment fills the main shipping channel of the Mississippi that family farmers depend on to get their commodities to markets.

Farmers live close to the land, and are committed to being good stewards. This legislation helps farmers and local conservation groups assess where problems are occurring in their watershed, and how to efficiently and effectively solve the problem.

I believe this legislation is beneficial in mending our environment along the river, and better protecting it in the future. Sediment is a threat to the Mississippi's fish, birds, and other wildlife by filling wetlands. Sediment reduces wetlands' ability to be an adequate water filter and provide habitat to the creatures that live all along the Mississippi River. It is estimated that the Upper Mississippi contributes 31 percent of the nitrogen that impairs the water quality of the Lower Mississippi basin.

Part of the Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge is in my district. I believe this refuge is an important treasure for Iowa. What makes this area special is, of course, the unique wildlife that lives there. This legislation helps promote wildlife by monitoring and computer modeling data to ensure scientifically sound and cost-effective decisions in promoting water quality.

Additionally, a healthy Mississippi River is very important to the communities of eastern Iowa. The Mississippi is recognized throughout the United States and abroad as "America's River". The Quad Cities area is a popular destination of international travelers who want to see and touch the water. For the residents of the Quad Cities area, the riverfront is the center of social life, with a historic district, baseball diamond, and several annually held festivals.

The city of Dubuque boasts over one million visitors thanks to the Mississippi. This community has chosen to make its story of the river the cornerstone of its urban renewal with a million dollar investment in the revitalization of the riverfront. The America's River project and historic Port of Dubuque represent the community's dedication to growing its tourism industry.

Mr. Speaker, the Upper Mississippi's health and water quality essential to growing the economies of the larger river cities of Bettendorf, Davenport, Clinton, and Dubuque, and the picturesque river towns of Guttenberg, LeClair, Bellevue, and Marquette. All of these communities, along with farmers and conservationists, have invested much time and effort in promoting a clean river. I believe this legislation helps to insure these investments by coordinating the many interests of those living in the Upper Mississippi River Basin. Accordingly, I am a proud sponsor of this bill, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

HONORING SERGEANT WAYNE
SEITA

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Wayne Seita for receiving the 2002 Police Personnel of the Year Award from the Sanger District Chamber of Commerce.

Sergeant Seita joined the Sanger Police Department on January 27, 1975, and was named permanent sergeant on July 1, 1990. Sergeant Seita's colleagues refer to him as a professional, moral, ethical and nonbiased person. His ability to maintain the work schedule for patrol, without any complaints, is enough to deserve a commendation alone. In May of 2000, Wayne was wounded while responding to a call of a wanted suspect with a firearm. Thankfully, Sergeant Seita was able to recuperate and return to work after a short time. Nothing could stand in the way of him protecting the citizens of Sanger and discharging his duties as a public servant.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sergeant Wayne Seita for his dedication and contributions to the Sanger Police Department. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Wayne for his exceptional service to the community of Sanger and wishing him many more years of continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OPENING
OF THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
CONSULATE OF THE SLOVAK RE-
PUBLIC

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the official opening of the Northern California Consulate of the Slovak Republic in Walnut Creek, CA.

The Slovak Republic became a free and independent Republic in January 1993, and in June 2001, opened their new embassy in Washington, DC. The Slovak people are determined in their quest for liberty, dignity, and cultural and economic independence.

The United States continues to be the beneficiary of the work, sacrifice, and patriotism of citizens of Slovak heritage, who have earned recognition and respect throughout our land,

including the agricultural fields and the technological and academic centers in California.

Barbara Pivnicka, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic in northern California, was appointed in June 2001 by Eduard Kukan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, with approval by the U.S. State Department, to establish a Consulate of the Slovak Republic in California.

I am pleased that the Honorable Martin Butora, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic to the United States, and his wife, Dr. Zora Butorova, are visiting the San Francisco Bay Area this month for the purpose of officially opening the Consulate of the Slovak Republic in San Francisco.

A number of activities and celebratory events are taking place in recognition of the opening of the Consulate and the visit by the Slovak Ambassador, including a reception at the Fairmont Hotel on the day of the official opening.

It is an honor for me to welcome Ambassador Butora and Dr. Butorova to northern California, and to congratulate and welcome the Consulate of the Slovak Republic to northern California.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the efforts of the many Slovak and American citizens in making this opening possible. This Consulate will be a tremendous asset to people of the Slovak Republic and the United States.

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN
PROTECTION ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3480, the Upper Mississippi River Basin Protection Act. I'd like to thank Mr. KIND, my colleague on the Upper Mississippi River Task Force for all his hard work on this legislation.

The Upper Mississippi River Basin has a significant problem with sediment, which has a variety of harmful effects. Sediment is directly linked to soil erosion, which is harmful to the family farmer. It creates a need for over \$100 million each year in dredging of the main shipping channel of the Mississippi River. Sediment fills wetlands and impacts recreation and tourism on the Mississippi. While the problems of sedimentation are documented, there is inadequate scientific data on the amounts and sources of sediment and nutrients flowing into the River basin because local, state and federal efforts are not coordinated.

This legislation develops a coordinated public-private approach to reducing nutrient and sediment losses in the Upper Mississippi River basin. The bill establishes a water quality monitoring network and an integrated computer-modeling program using information gathered from existing federal, state and local programs. This data will provide the baseline numbers needed to make scientifically sound and cost-effective decisions.

Mr. Speaker, this is good legislation which will help alleviate the problems of sedimentation and nutrient loss that are common in the

Upper Mississippi River Basin. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

TRIBUTE TO GIRL SCOUTS' 90TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th anniversary of Girl Scouts USA. For ninety years, Girl Scouts has inspired girls with the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism and service that they may become happy and resourceful citizens. It helps both young girls and adults develop qualities that will serve them all their lives—like strong values, a social conscience and conviction about their own potential and self-worth.

Girl Scouts strengthen our country by developing future female leaders. They offer a broad range of activities that address today's interests and tomorrow's role as women. Girl Scouts learn a wide range of real life skills—first aid, resume writing, and managing money—as well as reap the benefits that are less quantifiable, including enhanced self esteem, greater confidence in their abilities, and the strength and conviction to lead and excel in their endeavors. All of this is accomplished while constantly striving to reach their three goals: values, leadership and diversity.

Girl Scouts USA serves over 2.7 million girls across the country. They are a shining example of what society can be if we focus on teaching values to future generations. I congratulate Girl Scouts on their 90th anniversary, thank them for developing solid citizens, and wish them well in the future.

TRIBUTE TO CORRINE GUNTHER

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a truly outstanding individual, my constituent, Corrine Gunther of Morristown. On April 16, Corrine's friends and family will honor her contributions and accomplishments as The Zonta Club of Morristown presents her with the "Woman of the Year" award.

Corrine Gunther was born in Baltimore, Maryland. She went on to attend Oberlin College and obtained a degree in English and Anthropology. She used her education to become a teacher and taught first grade at a school in Long Island, where she also coached field hockey, lacrosse and basketball. Later, Corrine served as a Research Associate for a Federal grant at Fairleigh Dickinson University on a volunteerism in government project, and changed careers again to become Executive Director of the Visiting Health Service of Morris County where she served for fourteen years.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Corrine has served her communities as a volunteer in a multitude of ways. Throughout her years of service she has served as the