

DISTRICT OF MARYLAND, HOME OF CHAMPIONS: KUDOS TO SUITLAND, POTOMAC, SHERWOOD, DEMATHA, SENECA VALLEY AND MAGRUDER HIGH SCHOOLS

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate several of our great high school sports teams in the 4th Congressional District of Maryland for their outstanding seasons. Congratulations to Suitland and Potomac High Schools who both recently won state football championships.

Potomac High School located in Oxon Hill, Maryland rose to victory beating Hereford High School 19 to 12 to win the 2A title championship. Led by Coach Eric Knight, Potomac was finally able to achieve the title that had slipped through their fingers the previous season. In winning the state championship Potomac also became the first team in Maryland history to end the season with a 14-0 record.

Suitland High School located in Suitland, Maryland, led by Coach Nick Lynch and standout junior linebacker Navorro Bowman, beat Damascus High School 14 to 7 to win the 4A title championship. Although Bowman had been pinpointed as the obvious star of the team, the humble young player still managed to praise his fellow teammates including his aggressive offensive line, which did an excellent job to help seal the victory. Navorro Bowman who has already been offered a scholarship at the University of Maryland appears to be a young man on the move who has a bright and promising future ahead of him.

Congratulations are also in order for DeMatha High School in Hyattsville, Maryland, which ended the season as the number one boys soccer team in the region. Sherwood High School in Sandy Spring, Maryland should also be recognized for ending a great soccer season with their boys' team ranked number three and their girls' team number seven in the area.

In addition Seneca Valley High School in Germantown Maryland ranked number four in the top ten for volleyball, while Magruder High School in Rockville ranked number six.

I am extremely proud of the achievements of these young people from my Congressional District. I am sure that all the citizens of Maryland's 4th Congressional District share my enthusiastic admiration for their hard work, sportsmanship and teamwork. Athletics plays an important role in the development of our youth, and teaches valuable life lessons in co-operation, camaraderie, and valor. The famed football coach Vince Lombardi once said that individual commitment to a group effort—is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, and a civilization work.

ON THIS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE: AMERICA'S VETERANS DESERVE BETTER

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on December 7, 1941, over 2,200 brave servicemen and women sacrificed their lives protecting the freedoms we have come to cherish. Now, sixty-three years after the devastating attack on Pearl Harbor, America has over 26 million veterans who have selflessly dedicated themselves in service to our great country and sacrificed to guarantee Americans the freedoms we enjoy today.

Unfortunately, rather than receiving the full respect they deserve, our nation's veterans are now faced with a recently released Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) directive (VHA Directive 2004-045) that exposes them to tremendous risk. The directive grants optometrists—non-Medical Doctors (MDs)—in the VA system privileges to perform laser eye procedures under the supervision of an ophthalmologist—a fully trained and certified MD. While I fully understand that the Directive mandates the procedure will be supervised, I am also aware of the fact that supervising a procedure is not the same as actually performing the procedure. As a result, allowing an operation to be performed by a non-surgeon could potentially jeopardize patient safety, and ultimately the quality of care provided to our veterans.

As eye health deteriorates with age, more and more older Americans are faced with the need for eye surgery. And just when our aging veterans need this care the most, they are now faced with the prospect of having their surgery performed by someone who hasn't been through intensive surgical education or training. This new policy blatantly imposes a substandard level of health care on our veterans.

Currently, only one state—Oklahoma—permits optometrists (non-MDs) to perform laser eye surgery, while 35 other states have outright prohibited this type of procedure. In fact, 14 states, including Indiana, have debated and soundly rejected similar measures—seven states in this calendar year alone. But regardless of individual state restrictions, the DVA directive allows an eye care professional to practice anywhere in the VHA system, “up to the limits” of their license. As a result, optometrists with no formal surgical education or training will be able to go to Oklahoma, take a 16 hour course, pass the Oklahoma optometry certification exam, and then go anywhere in the country and practice laser eye surgery on any veteran in any VHA facility. Thus, in states that have prohibited this type of threat or rejected Oklahoma-like legislation, optometrists will be practicing surgery on veterans against the wishes of state lawmakers.

As a proud veteran of the U.S. Army, I find it shocking that this practice has been allowed to come this far. And I'm not alone in my belief that medical doctors who are specifically trained to reduce surgery-related risks should be the only ones legally permitted to carry out these delicate laser eye procedures. In fact, in a national poll of U.S. veterans, 95 percent said it was important for a licensed medical

doctor, specializing in eye care, to conduct eye surgery.

Any medical operation has the potential to cause adverse affects. In older populations—such as those served by VHA facilities—the rate of adverse events tends to increase for any surgical procedure. Therefore, it makes no sense that this very population—those most in need of a medical doctor's training and education to determine the safest surgery for their overall health—be needlessly exposed to the very real threat of having a non-MD operate on them. It should be our highest priority as American citizens to help ensure the safety of those who have so proudly and bravely defended our great country. All U.S. veterans deserve to have quality health care performed by medical doctors with the proper education and training.

IN HONOR OF YOLANDA FERNANDEZ-QUINCOCES

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Yolanda Fernandez-Quincoces for her remarkable accomplishments in dance and music and her exceptional artistic contributions to the community over the past few decades.

Ms. Fernandez-Quincoces's extensive career includes teaching, choreographing, and producing. In 1974, she founded Yolanda's Academy of Music and Dance, which has developed young talent in New Jersey for 30 years. In addition to managing the school, she has taught classes in the gifted and talented program in Union City and in the Woodrow Wilson School for the Integrated Arts. Under her dedicated instruction, more than 38 students have won recognition in statewide talent search competitions and many have continued their dance training at prestigious institutes such as the New York City Ballet's School of American Ballet, the Joffrey Ballet, and established universities.

Her professional credits include a position as a teaching liaison between the New York City Ballet and New York City Opera and the Woodrow Wilson School. Ms. Fernandez-Quincoces was also involved with hosting and producing a television arts program on Cablevision, and has made several guest appearances on other shows. In addition to her current projects, she is a member of the National Education Association, the Dance Educators of America, and the National Guild of Piano Teachers.

For her exceptional work, Ms. Fernandez-Quincoces has received numerous awards, including “Teacher of the Year” for Union City, Hudson County, and the State of New Jersey, and “Outstanding Choreographer” for three different productions from the Dance Educators of America in New York City. Most notably, she was also honored at the Statue of Liberty Centennial Celebration with other well-known artists, performers, and political figures.

Ms. Fernandez-Quincoces emigrated from Cuba to the United States when she was three years old. She began studying ballet at the age of five, training at the New Jersey Ballet, Oneida's Dance Studio, and the American Ballet Theatre. Ms. Fernandez-Quincoces also

received a bachelor's degree in music education from New York University and, in addition to her dance training, is also an established pianist.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Yolanda Fernandez-Quincoces for her years of outstanding teaching and choreographing. She has demonstrated remarkable passion for the arts and has influenced the lives of many with her instruction and creative works.

TRIBUTE TO SHEILA PETERSON

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sheila Peterson, who was recently honored with the highest award of Sacred Heart Schools, the St. Madeleine Sophie Medal by the Schools of the Sacred Heart in Atherton, California.

Sheila and her family have had a long connection to the Sacred Heart Schools. First, she had a great aunt who was part of the convent in St. Charles, Missouri. Next, her mother, Winifred Carreras Sullivan went to Jackson Street and Lone Mountain, where she made great lifelong friends. Winnie married Raymond Sullivan, later a distinguished Justice of the California Supreme Court, and Sheila, the eldest of their five children, "met" the Sacred Heart at Broadway in the 7th grade.

Ever since, Sheila has found a connection and a place with Sacred Heart. To quote Sheila, "Sacred Heart/Menlo/Atherton is our place: The first generation was my great aunt; the second was my mother; the third, my sisters and I; the fourth, the Peterson and Sullivan cousins. And at present, my son is on the English faculty and our cousin, Elizabeth is the new Alumni Director. I hope that someday, at some Sacred Heart School, they will find the same satisfaction that I received from helping here".

Over the years, Sheila's involvement with Sacred Heart has taken many forms. She has served as a Room Mother (sometimes for all three of her children), Parent Club Head, substitute teacher, soccer coach, and Auction worker in the Main Building Basement. She has had a hand in sports activities, field trips, drama, the Booster Club, the school's Annual Fund, two Capital Campaigns, and ultimately helped to plan the Centennial Celebration for Sacred Heart. Sheila has recently been working as the Events Coordinator, and as always, doing an extraordinary job.

In 1987, Sheila served on the Board of Trustees. With the support of her husband, Ron, and three children, Molly, Katie, and Michael, she guided the school through the Loma Prieta earthquake, subsequent discussions and contentions about repair or razing, tight finances, a small endowment, and the co-ed Prep in the early stages. All these weighty issues took time and great commitment. Sheila served with distinction and her prudent, wise leadership has benefited Sacred Heart Schools immensely.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great and inspiring member of our community, Sheila Peterson, as she is honored with the St. Madeleine Sophie Medal.

TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVES
AMORY HOUGHTON AND JACK
QUINN

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, as the 108th Congress comes to a close, I would like to honor two of New York's greatest legislators—Rep. AMORY HOUGHTON (NY-29) and Rep. JACK QUINN (NY-27), for their outstanding careers in Congress. Unfortunately, Mr. QUINN and Mr. HOUGHTON have decided to retire at the end of the 108th Congress. As Dean of the New York Republican Congressional Delegation, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation for their dedication and commitment to their constituencies.

Mr. HOUGHTON, a nine-term Member of Congress and founder of the influential Republican Main Street Partnership, has a legacy of supporting moderate social programs, while encouraging fiscal responsibility and much needed tax relief for hard-working Americans. HOUGHTON is also the founder of the John Quincy Adams Society, an issues forum that brings together moderate officeholders with top business leaders, which has been instrumental in strengthening the moderate movement.

I have had the distinct pleasure of working alongside Mr. HOUGHTON for the past 18 years, and his vision for a less partisan and more effective Congress is truly inspiring. Mr. HOUGHTON worked diligently on more equitable tax and health politics, in his role on the Ways and Means Committee. His counsel and fair-minded manner were always so valuable to myself, and all Members of Congress.

As a senior member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I have had the distinct pleasure of working closely with Mr. QUINN. Mr. QUINN, a six-term Member of Congress and Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Subcommittee on Railroads, has worked tirelessly on a variety of transportation issues, the largest of these being Amtrak and its preservation as part of our Nation's infrastructure.

Mr. QUINN also served as co-chair of the House Labor Working Group, advocating on behalf of organized labor with the Republican Leadership. Possibly the most important task to Mr. QUINN was ensuring a fair wage for all workers, as a leader and supporter of sensible labor policy. As a fellow New Yorker, I see the invaluable contribution of organized labor's representation of working men and women, and commend Mr. QUINN for his unwavering leadership on this issue.

As Members of Congress, we are judged on our records, and I can say with great enthusiasm that Mr. HOUGHTON and Mr. QUINN are men of honesty and integrity. Their work ethic and inspiring ideas, as well as their leadership, will be sorely missed. I am proud to not only call them colleagues, but also friends.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4818,
CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring my colleagues attention to a provision included in the Fiscal Year 2005 Appropriations Omnibus bill, H.R. 4818, titled, "Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Salaries and Expenses." The language included in this section declares that it is the intent of Congress for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to have exclusive jurisdiction over the siting and approval of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminals. This language seems to target a pending lawsuit by the State of California challenging the placement of a LNG facility. Although the language is non-binding, I am concerned with the possible repercussions of this provision, as well as the method in which it was added to the bill.

My home state of Rhode Island is currently examining a proposal regarding a LNG terminal in Providence. Members of the Rhode Island Congressional delegation and state officials have been in active discussions with all federal and local agencies that would be affected by this terminal to ensure that the region is properly informed of the hazards of a potentially expanded or new LNG facility. Rhode Island's unique geography and narrow waterways would force the LNG tanker ships to travel through densely populated areas to reach the terminal. The citizens of Rhode Island and our Congressional delegation have justly requested that all safety concerns are addressed before the facility is considered due to the ships close proximity to residential and businesses areas. There is also an increased potential for environmental damage due to dredging, as well as concerns for how increased tanker traffic will affect the commercial fishing industry, which is already under tremendous stress. Further, the U.S. Coast Guard recently responded in a letter to my office that the security of the LNG ships would be a shared Federal, State, local, and industry responsibility.

I understand the FERC's assessment that the shipment of LNG is engaged in foreign commerce, however, this statement severely limits the process and dangers involved with shipping LNG. The delivery of LNG, especially in populated areas such as Rhode Island, greatly impacts the lives of those who live near the transport route. Also, the state and local law enforcement agencies that will be called upon to ensure the public's safety will continue to be stretched thin. Excluding the involvement of the state from the consideration of a LNG terminal is inconsistent with all the information my office has received from various inquiries that unequivocally proves that state and local agencies would be greatly impacted by the construction of a large facility. The federal government is also ignoring the critical expertise and knowledge that can be gained by including state and local experts in this process.

I am also extremely disappointed with the closed-door method that was used to add this