

South Mountain High School's mission is "to create a community of learners." I am proud to say that SMHS has more than accomplished this mission and continues to produce tomorrow's leaders who proudly represent the home of the Jaguars.

Mr. Speaker, as you can surmise, South Mountain is a landmark in Phoenix with a successful past and a promising future that has served the needs of its diverse, dynamic and growing community. It has improved student achievement as well as effectively used human and fiscal resources. It continues to raise academic achievement and serves as a model high school for the nation. Therefore, I am pleased to pay tribute to South Mountain High School in Phoenix, Arizona, and I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating the student body, faculty, staff, administrators and alumni.

TRIBUTE TO HAZARD BULLDOGS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the players and coaches of the 2004 Hazard Bulldogs basketball team.

On February 8, 2004, the Hazard High School Bulldogs defeated Bishop Brossart High School by a score of 43–38 to win the Kentucky All "A" State Tournament. Under the leadership of Coach Kevin Spurlock, the Bulldogs finished the season with a record of 20–4. This is a remarkable accomplishment that merits recognition.

With 49 years since their last championship title, the Bulldogs' recent victory has been a long time in coming, and one that was attained through hard work and determination. During the entire championship game the Bulldogs fought ferociously, tying at the half and gaining a four-point lead after the third quarter. Smart, calculated plays during the final minutes pushed the Bulldogs over Bishop Brossart and secured a safe five-point win.

In Kentucky, basketball is something of an institution. It embodies a tremendous spirit of teamwork and dedication, and the Bulldogs have shown that they possess both characteristics. The Bluegrass State is widely known for producing great basketball teams, and the Hazard Bulldogs are no exception. Winning the state tournament marks a tremendous milestone in their journey for excellence, and I am proud of their accomplishment.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Bulldogs for their tremendous success, not only in tournament play but also throughout the entire season. Through their hard work, determination, and skill they have made Eastern Kentucky very proud. I ask each of my colleagues to join me in honoring Hazard High School, Coach Kevin Spurlock, all of the assistant coaches, and each and every talented player on the 2004 Championship Bulldog team: Hank Gabbard, Stephen Sizemore, Parker Carter, Eric Mullins, Robert Lyttle, J.J. Hously, Lamar Williams, Jon Francis, Chase Patrick, Durell Olinger, Justin Wallace, Chuckie Osteen, Jon Walker, Tyler Bailey, and Justin Hicks.

REMEMBERING MELINDA MONTGOMERY STRONG

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, Dr. Barbara Montgomery, noted educator, world traveler and lecturer, and leader in the local, State, and national Democratic Party, suffered the loss of her second child, Melinda Montgomery Strong. Melinda passed away in Watsonville, California on February 4th. Melinda's twin, Melody Montgomery Law, and her father, James Kenneth Montgomery, predeceased her.

As a special tribute, and following a traditional Indian farewell, Chief Tecumseh of the Shawnee Nation was quoted at Melinda's final rites. It is a beautiful and appropriate guideline for all of us—and especially for the beautiful Melinda Montgomery Strong:

So live your life that the fear of death can never enter your heart. Trouble no one about their religion; respect others in their view, and demand that they respect yours. Love your life, perfect your life, beautify all things in your life. Seek to make your life long and its purpose in the service of your people. Prepare a noble death song for the day when you go over the great divide. Always give a word or a sign of salute when meeting or passing a friend, even a stranger, when in a lonely place. Show respect to all people and grovel to none. When you arise in the morning give thanks for the food and for the joy of living. Sing your death song and die like a hero going home.

As a longtime friend and admirer of Dr. Montgomery, I ask that Congress adjourn today in memory of this beautiful life—and that we collectively send our condolences and our prayers to Dr. Barbara Montgomery.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MRS. FANNIE BELLE CALLAHAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, Mobile County, Alabama, and indeed the entire First Congressional District recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor her and pay tribute to her memory.

Fannie Belle Callahan was a devoted mother, grandmother, and friend to the Mobile community throughout her entire life. At the time of her passing on March 15, 2004, she had devoted 94 years to the care of her children, her family, and her city.

Raised with her three siblings in the small community of Crichton, Alabama, Mrs. Callahan was required at an early age to go to work to help support her family following the death of her father. By the age of 17, she had already worked as a telephone operator, a cashier at Mobile's Saenger Theater, and a night clerk at the Battle House Hotel. Following her marriage to Herbert Callahan, she moved to East St. Louis, Illinois, but returned to Mobile 3 years later when he obtained a job with the GM&O Railroad.

Widowed at the time of her husband's death in 1950, Mrs. Callahan was once again re-

quired to go to work to support her large family of nine children. Although she retired in 1965 after many years of employment with the Mobile District Office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, she was not one to sit idly by and watch life go on in the world around her. She became actively involved in the political campaigns of her sons Sonny and George, and following Sonny's election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1984 volunteered her time as the receptionist in his Mobile district office. Mrs. Callahan quickly became the center of her son's office "family," and for the remainder of her life was always referred to affectionately as "Mom Callahan."

Throughout her 94 years, Fannie Belle Callahan taught many valuable lessons to her family and friends, and everyone who came in contact with her took away very fond memories of a charming southern lady who could make anyone to whom she was speaking feel they were the most important person at that time. In an article which appeared in the Mobile Register in 2000, Mrs. Callahan reflected on her long and rewarding life and spoke about how her years of hard work were rewarded with the successes her children enjoyed.

Many of her children were also interviewed and offered their perspectives on the lessons they had learned from the matriarch of a family made up of 94 men, women, and children. Perhaps her son, former Rep. Sonny Callahan, best summed up her long life and what she passed on to her children when he said, "She taught us responsibility. With nine kids, there had to be some degree of responsibility. She taught us to respect people and work hard."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a lovely woman who deeply loved, encouraged, and respected her many family and friends and the entire Mobile community. "Mom Callahan" will be deeply missed by her family—her sons, Sonny Callahan, George Callahan, Charles Callahan, and Terrance Callahan; her daughters, Patsy Dempster, Madeline Martin, Margaret Ann Athey, Mary Jane Emick, and Rose Callahan; and her 32 grandchildren, 56 great-grandchildren, and 13 great-great-grandchildren—as well as the countless friends she leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

CONGRATULATING MS. PAULINE MORGAN AND MS. VANESSA DATES

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, is my distinguished honor and privilege to congratulate two residents of Northwest Indiana who have committed their careers to serving the United Steelworkers of America (USWA). Combined, Ms. Pauline Morgan and Ms. Vanessa Dates served the hard-working men and women of Northwest Indiana for over 71 years. Their efforts will be celebrated at a retirement reception on Friday, April 2, 2004.

Pauline Morgan began her career November 1, 1963, as a secretary in the District 31 office in East Chicago, Indiana. In 1973, she

became secretary to the Assistant Director of District 31 and became the Executive Secretary to the former District Director Jack Parton from 1986 to 1989. Pauline ended her career working out of the Gary, Indiana District 7 office from 1998 until the present. She ends her career with over 40 years of service to the USWA membership.

Outside of her duties at work, Pauline remains committed to improving her community through service. She serves the Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church as a greeter and anniversary chairperson, is a member of USWA Local 3657; the Steelworkers of Active Retirees, the Foundation of East Chicago Board and the Twin City Education Foundation Parental subcommittee. She has also served as a public relations representative for the East Chicago National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the United Citizens Organization.

Ventress Dates, who is retiring from the District 7 office after over 31 years of service began her career on June 16, 1972, in the former District 31 office in Harvey, Illinois. From there she worked in the Sub District 3 office in Chicago, Illinois for several years before transferring to the former District 31 office in East Chicago, Indiana. The office later relocated to its present location in Gary, Indiana. Ventress also held the position as the Executive Secretary to the former District 7 Director Jack Parton.

Ventress is affiliated with the Bethlehem Temple Missionary Baptist Church in Harvey, Illinois. She currently serves in the capacity of choir director, member and vocal instructor, a praise and worship team leader and an adult Sunday school instructor. She is a soloist, an evangelist, seminar, and workshop facilitator. Ventress is experienced in nursing home and youth ministry and belongs to the Wayman AME church ministry in Chicago, Illinois. She is affiliated with various women's groups, as well as her local Poet's Society. She is also an author and songwriter.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Pauline Morgan and Ventress Dates for their combined seven decades of service to the USWA. Their commitment to the hard-working men and women of Northwest Indiana helped the steel industry form the backbone of our economy for many years. Their efforts will surely be missed, and I am proud to represent them in Congress.

CONGRATULATING THE BOROUGH OF HUGHESTOWN ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and ask you to join me in congratulating the Borough of Hughestown in Luzerne County, PA on its 125th anniversary. The community will celebrate on Saturday evening with an anniversary celebration at Convention Hall in Pittston Township.

Hughestown was organized as a Borough on April 8, 1879. The Borough became well-known throughout the Commonwealth as part of the Pennsylvania Coal Company's famous

#9 Mines and Breaker, which employed most of the Borough's residents.

Hughestown residents suffered several major tragedies in and around the mines. The Borough also lost its firehouse, elementary school and high school to fire.

Despite the adversity, the Borough flourished. The past 125 years have brought many changes to the Borough community, and today Hughestown is home to about 30 small businesses and is looking forward to the development of new townhouses.

In addition, Hughestown is proud to have its native son State Rep. Thomas N. Tighe residing in the Borough.

Avoca, Dupont, Duryea, Pittston and Pittston Township border Hughestown. The Borough's geographic size—four square miles—makes it one of the smallest municipalities in the county. The population of the Borough is now 1,560. The Borough definitely represents the old adage that "Good things come in small packages."

I would like to congratulate the leadership of the Borough, including Mayor Paul Hindmarsh and Council Members Jerry Chilipko, Barbara Gatto, Vince Mammarella, Paul Murphy, Wayne Quick Jr., Sam Sanguedolce and Ed Strubeck. I would also like to recognize Police Chief Steve Golya, Fire Chief Jamie Merlino and Leonard Copp and Chris Ribaudo of the Street Department.

I would also take this opportunity to pay tribute to the leadership of the very first Borough Officers: Jacob B. Shmaltz, Charles Matthewson, John W. Williams, John B. Clark, George Gill, Cuthbert Snowden, Thomas Snowden, D.D. Moser, John Tishler, Aaron Oliver, John M. Mosier, Ernest Shmaltz and James Delaney.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask you and my esteemed colleagues to please join me in congratulating the Borough on their very special anniversary.

WELCOMING THE ACCESSION OF BULGARIA, ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, ROMANIA, SLO- VAKIA, AND SLOVENIA TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY OR- GANIZATION

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome the accession of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. This is a truly historic occasion which transforms the strategic map of Europe, and strengthens the Atlantic Alliance.

In my first term in Congress, I cosponsored H. R. 4210, the NATO Participation Act of 1994. I believed then, as I continue to believe now, that NATO should be inclusive to all European nations that share our belief in democracy and the rule of law. Therefore, I am delighted to welcome the new member states to NATO.

NATO was established in 1949 for the purpose of countering the threat of Communist expansion. While that threat is now securely in the history books, the world has been forced

to face new, and different dangers. Throughout the myriad of changes in international relations since NATO was first founded, the salience of a strong alliance among friendly nations remains.

As is necessary with all longstanding organizations, NATO is changing with the times. It remains the world's most powerful regional defense alliance precisely because of its ability to adapt to new conditions. NATO continues to safeguard its member states through political and military means. However, over the past 15 years, the Organization has come to play a growing role in peacekeeping and crisis management.

Originally, NATO consisted of 12 member countries. Over the years the Organization has expanded twice. Once in 1952, to include Greece and Turkey, and a second time in 1955 to include West Germany. The simultaneous accession of seven states is the largest expansion in the history of the Organization. I, for one, hope that it will not take another 50 years before we see another round of NATO expansion.

The accession of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia to NATO cements the increasingly strong relationship between the United States and those countries. The strengthening of the Atlantic Alliance is of benefit to all parties. Moreover, Congress looks forward to the opportunity to work closely together with the new countries for shared goals.

As the Vice-President of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Parliamentary Assembly, I have followed closely the progress of the new NATO member states. In the past, I have had the pleasure of visiting Romania and Slovakia. Later this month, I plan to visit the Baltic region and learn more about our newest alliance partners.

In conclusion, let me again state my wholehearted support for H. Res. 558, welcoming the accession of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. I reiterate my hope that we will soon have occasion to celebrate the accession of more states into the Atlantic Alliance.

REGARDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MARCH 15, 2004

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate Women's History Month, it is of critical importance to note that the incidence of violence against women is still too high around the globe. Many women in the United States and in other nations live in terror, are afraid to speak up to protect their health and wellbeing, and are unable to shield their children from the effects of domestic violence.

The impact of violence against women of all social and economic classes worldwide is chilling. According to Amnesty International, 120 million women and girls are subjected to female circumcision annually, and over 700,000 women in the United States are