

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### CONGRATULATING COURTNEY RAFES

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Courtney Rafes of Justin, TX, on her commitment, contribution and success in this year's Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Phoenix. Courtney is the youngest daughter of Richard and Tommye Rafes of Denton, TX. Dr. Richard Rafes is the senior vice president for administrative affairs for the University of North Texas. Tommye Rafes is a science teacher at Gene Pike Middle School in Justin, TX.

As part of a science project, Ms. Rafes devised a railroad warning system that uses ultrasonic sound to detect broken rails and to warn two trains before a collision. Working over a period of several weeks, Ms. Rafes collected data from eight experiments and more than 2,000 tests run on a model train track system constructed in her living room.

She was selected for the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Phoenix after earning a top honor with her railway project at a regional competition at the University of North Texas in Denton. At the national competition, Ms. Rafes earned a \$20,000 scholarship from the Department of Homeland Security for her project and was offered an internship with an engineer for the department. Her project has been featured on the Today Show, CNN, ABC and the Discovery Channel.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Ms. Courtney Rafes for her research and for receiving this commendable award. Her commitment to science and to helping others serves as an inspiration to all.

### THANKING CATHERINE (CATHY) BRICKMAN FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

#### HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement on January 16, 2006, we rise to thank Ms. Cathy Brickman for 25 years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives. Cathy has served this great institution as a valuable employee of House Information Resources, in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Cathy began her tenure with the United States House of Representatives in November of 1980 as an applications analyst in the House Information Systems group. Cathy's potential and drive were recognized early in her career, resulting in her steady progression to positions of increasing responsibility. During the first 15 years of her career she developed

the requirements for the House's first Correspondence Management System and led the development of the House's first local area network. She was also detailed to the Speaker's Special Task Force on the Development of Parliamentary Institutions in Eastern and Central Europe. On this detail she worked in country in the Parliaments of 11 Eastern, Central European and Baltic countries and Russia to implement information technology systems.

Her last 10 years were spent as team leader, Network Configuration Management for House Information Resources and she continued to be a key member of many important information technology projects in the House. During this time she supervised a team of 17 network communications specialists responsible for configuration and support of the House's large, enterprise data communications network consisting of 20,000 network devices. She was the Contracting Officer's representative for all of the House's Wide Area Network—Internet—communications services and in this capacity she authored multi-year, multi-million dollar contracts. Cathy also managed the expansion of the House's Flagship Frame Relay service and started the implementation of Gigabit Ethernet replacement for the legacy ATM campus data network.

Cathy's leadership while serving the United States House of Representatives has been superior. During the October 2001 anthrax incident, as House Members and staff were forced off-site, Cathy was a key contributor to the efforts to ensure alternate site data networks were rapidly set up. Her standard of excellence, dedication to passionate customer service, organizational skills, professionalism and ability to get the job done earned Cathy the Distinguished Service Award, the Chief Administrative Officer's highest honor, in September 2003. Cathy is admired by the people she led and appreciated by those she served.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Cathy for many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the United States House of Representatives. We wish Cathy many wonderful years in fulfilling her retirement dreams.

### RECOGNITION OF THE SACRED HEART-GRIFFIN CYCLONES FOOTBALL TEAM

#### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2005*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding group of young men from central Illinois. The Sacred Heart-Griffin Cyclones football team from Springfield, IL, last week won the championship game of the Illinois High School Association Class 5A football playoffs, defeating Rock Island Alleman 28–21. The win was the first State championship in SHG's history. The Cyclones went 14–0 this season, and won the Central

State Eight conference championship, along with the State title.

My congratulations go out to Head Coach Ken Leonard and his coaching staff on this magnificent achievement. Most of all, I want to congratulate all the members of the 2005 Sacred Heart-Griffin Cyclones football team, who represented their school, their community and all of Central Illinois so well. I congratulate them on their achievement, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

### HONORING THE PRIDE OF ACADIANA MARCHING BAND

#### HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2005*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great achievement of the Pride of Acadiana Marching Band from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in the Seventh District of Louisiana.

The Pride of Acadiana Marching Band participated in the 79th Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City on November 24, 2005. One of only ten bands selected, the Acadiana Marching Band was the first Louisiana band to be invited to perform in the parade. The band followed the Big Apple Float, which featured the New Orleans' Krewe of Orpheus along with NYPD officers and FDNY rescue workers in a musical salute to New Orleans.

Playing several Cajun tunes, the Pride of Acadiana Marching Band excited the crowds with songs including "Big Chief," "Money-maker," and "Winter Wonderful." For the NBC exclusive area, the band performed a combination of "When the Saints Go Marching In," "On the Sunny Side of the Street," and "South Rampart Street Parade." "Sleigh Ride" was the holiday tune performed while exiting the NBC area.

In addition to their participation in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the ULL Marching Band performed on the USS *Intrepid*, an aircraft carrier museum.

Today I want to recognize and congratulate the Pride of Acadiana Marching Band and Director Brian Taylor from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, for their achievement and thank them for representing Louisiana at such an extraordinary event.

### CONGRATULATING DANIEL FUNDERBURK

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Daniel Funderburk of Ft. Worth, Texas for being selected as a finalist in

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the fourth annual TCU Texas Youth Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

The TCU Texas Youth Entrepreneur of the Year Award recognizes high-school entrepreneurs for their successes in business. To be eligible, a high school student must run a business for at least a year. These students are the best of the applicants who applied and their talent, leadership, time management and commitment are remarkable. Finalists are eligible for a series of scholarships valued up to \$20,000.

One of those finalists was Daniel Funderburk, a senior at Grace Preparatory Academy. Mr. Funderburk started X-Press Cuts Lawn Service with his brother in the summer of 2002 at the age of 15. The business grew over the years from mowing local neighborhood lawns to expanding into new neighborhoods to eventually adding a commercial customer. Mr. Funderburk's focus has always been on doing quality work and being reliable. His target market has been those who are not able to take care of their own lawn, either by old age and disabilities, lack of proper equipment, or simply not enough time. In most cases this means he serves the elderly and occasional business person. He plans to continue to grow his business through targeted advertising. So far in 2005 X-Press Cuts Lawn Service has earned \$15,000 in revenue.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Daniel Funderburk for his efforts and for his success in business at such a young age. His dedication and commitment to helping others serve as an inspiration to all.

THANKING MRS. SHERRI  
SAVERCOOL FOR HER SERVICE  
TO THE HOUSE

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement in October 2005, we rise to thank Mrs. Sherri Savercool for 25 years of outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Sherri began her career at the House working as an Administrative Specialist and shortly afterwards she was promoted to a Technical Support Specialist. For the past 25 years Sherri has served this great institution as a valuable employee of House Information Resources (HIR) within the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

During her career Sherri held many positions of increasing responsibility, requiring her to learn new and evolving computer technologies. She worked in the Customer Services Group providing technical customer support and training to Members of Congress and their staffs.

In the early 1980s when the House began using personal computers, Sherri was there helping both Member and Committee offices with the integration of their office automation requirements and procedures. She continuously expanded her technical expertise to help House staff in their use of personal computers and a wide range of desktop software. Over time she began supporting more complex hardware and software technology projects as well as managing the Office Management

Demonstration and Training Center. There she was responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Center that provided equipment demonstrations and consulting services for all House staff. Sherri participated in past Congressional transitions for many years, playing an important role ensuring that Members made a seamless transition.

Since 1995, Sherri has been a valuable member of HIR's Client Services Group where she has provided direct technical support and training to all House Staff. Sherri has been very customer oriented, displaying great passion for her work and maintaining excellent relationships with her customers. As a result of this dedication, each of her customers received the best available and most cost-effective office automation services and training.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Sherri for her many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Sherri many wonderful years in fulfilling her retirement dreams.

RECOGNITION OF THE NEWTON  
EAGLES FOOTBALL TEAM

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2005*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding group of young men from southeastern Illinois. The Newton Eagles football team last week reached the championship game of the Illinois High School Association Class 4A football playoffs for the first time in school history. The Eagles went 12–2 this season, outscoring opponents by a total of 438–191, and winning the Apollo Conference.

My congratulations go out to Head Coach Bob Horst and his coaching staff on this magnificent achievement. Most of all, I want to congratulate all the members of the 2005 Newton Eagles football team, who represented their school, their community and all of southeastern Illinois so well. I congratulate them on their achievement, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO NORTHERN CAMBRIA  
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS  
VOLLEYBALL TEAM

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2005*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Northern Cambria High School Girls Volleyball team on their PIAA Class A volleyball State championship.

The Colts have demonstrated that strong dedication and teamwork will produce unexpected results. After narrowly missing the championship last year, the girls united behind their strong coach, Mike Hogan, and handily defeated their opponents in the State competition. Posting an undefeated season, the Colts also captured the Heritage Conference and District VI championships.

This is Northern Cambria Girls Volleyball first State championship title in the school's

history, which is a great testimony to the unique character of this team. They fought through obstacles and their unwillingness to quit led to their success. The teamwork and the leadership skills the team developed will enrich their lives and serve them well beyond their high school years. I congratulate the Northern Cambria Colts on their State championship and I look forward to hearing of their continued success in next year's season.

Led by head coach Mike Hogan and assistant coach Jennifer Dumm, the 27 members of this championship team include Seniors Ashley Hogan (co-captain), Jaci Jones (co-captain), Sara Hoover, Jess Valeria, Jen Hassen, Shayna Butterworth, Christie Rocco; Juniors Becky Butterworth, Julie Paronish, Lexy Pawlowski, Jenny Eagler, Jacque Link, Carrie Shevock, Lisa McCombie, Tajia Stephens, Megan Long; Sophomores Briana Butterworth, Britteny Daisley, Stephanie Paronish, Courtney Zernick, Brittany Sedlock, Nikole Sherry, and Jennifer Valeria; and Freshmen Cassandra Kollar, Becky Petrisko, Samantha Rodgers, and Deanna Maurer. Congratulations one and all.

CONGRATULATING VIRGINIA  
MCNEILL

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Virginia McNeill for receiving her bachelors in applied arts and sciences from the University of North Texas.

Ms. McNeill has owned McNeill's Furniture and Appliance in downtown Denton since 1962. She began pursuing a degree in business in 1951 but left college a year later with only 40 credit hours completed to help with the family business. After a brief return to school for a semester in 1984, Ms. McNeill made the decision to return to the University of North Texas in 2002 and not to quit until she had her college degree.

Ms. McNeill's determination and dedication has been an inspiration to her professors and fellow students alike. Fifty-five years after she began working towards her degree, Ms. McNeill will graduate on December 17, 2005, at the age of 77.

It is with great honor I stand here today to recognize Ms. Virginia McNeill for her commitment to fulfilling her lifelong dream.

THANKING MR. BILL FOULOIS FOR  
HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement in December 2005, we rise to thank Mr. Bill Foulois for 6 years of outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives. His service to the House culminates a career of more than 37 years of service to our country.

Over the past 6 years, Bill has made significant contributions to the improvement of the