

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE TO CHARLEVOIX HIGH SCHOOL RAYDERS GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the players, coaches, and manager of the 2004 Charlevoix High School Rayders Girls Basketball team in recognition of their outstanding season. After an undefeated regular season, the Rayders continued their success in the playoffs, making it to the Class C state finals, and winning district and regional titles along the way.

While their 20-0 regular season, and seven post season wins, are impressive in their own right, the spirit of teamwork and unselfish play that the Rayders brought to the court this year was a shining example of what athletics should be about. All year, these young women, including the team's best players, were willing to play their role and do whatever it took to win.

One of the best examples of this was the team's performance in the state semi-finals and finals. After a year in which every game was a double-digit victory, the Charlevoix Rayders traveled to the Breslin Center in East Lansing, Michigan for the final two rounds of the playoffs where they would face their first stiff competition.

Charlevoix led Flint Hamady for almost all of the semi-final game on December 2, going into the 4th quarter up by ten points. Their opponent was not about to lose without a fight though, and with just under four minutes to go, Flint took a three-point lead. After two free throws by guard Laura Nitchman, All-State center Grace Farrell made a lay up to put the Rayders ahead for the win. The final score was 70-67 sending Charlevoix on to the state finals.

Though they lost to Detroit St. Martin dePorres two days later in the finals, the Rayders knew they had an incredible season. They appreciated the experience of playing in the Breslin Center and competing for the state championship. Just like they had all season, they showed character, class, and heart.

The commitment to success displayed by this team is no surprise to anyone familiar with the city of Charlevoix, which is a warm, close-knit community on Lake Michigan. As always, the "Rayder Nation" was right behind these young women who gave them a season to remember.

Mr. Speaker, each member of this team deserves to be recognized and I want to take a moment to share their names with my colleagues.

Team Members: Madison McKenzie, Madison Ramsey, Jaime Pettis, Laura Nitchman, Liz Jadwin, Stevie Murray, Shannon Dibble, Kari Way, Sara Cross, Genevieve Kochanny, Grace Farrell, Betsy Dennis, Caitlyn Cole, Sally Haselschwardt, and Bethany Pearson.

Head Coach Keith Haske; Assistant Coaches Bret Erskine, Jim Gels, and Liz Grunch; Trainer Joelle Beaudoin; and Manager Chelsey Haske.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Charlevoix Rayders girls basketball team, their

classmates, parents, and community on their success in the 2004 season and in wishing them well when they hit the court again in the fall.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DOLLY SEELMEYER

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dolly Seelmeyer on the occasion of her recent retirement from the United States House of Representatives after 34 years of distinguished Service.

Shortly after she began to work for this august institution, Dolly became the first female photographer in the Office of Photography. To understand the length and breadth of the times she witnessed, one only has to know that when she began her tenure, Richard Nixon was President of the United States and Carl Albert was Speaker of the House. My friend, colleague and fellow Michigander Gerald Ford was Minority Leader of this body. She not only observed, but was able to record for posterity many significant events in the history of this body.

In addition to her expertise as a photographer, Dolly was of tremendous assistance to our offices as she helped us to obtain and preserve visual records of bygone times. Her professionalism and courtesy were always present as she helped us to document the history of the Congress. In addition to her official photos, her office was decorated with wonderful photographs of plants and flowers that she took in her own time.

We thank Dolly for her ongoing assistance in helping us to keep a record of the last quarter of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Dolly Seelmeyer for her 34 years of commitment and devotion to the House of Representatives and also to join me in wishing her the very best that life has to offer in the future.

COMMENDING AMERICORPS AND THE WEST SENECA YOUTH BUREAU FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Americorps program in the town of West Seneca, New York, for its outstanding contributions to our Western New York and to recognize the West Seneca Youth Bureau for its exemplary service to the residents of Erie County and Western New York.

Through its network of more than 2,100 service programs, AmeriCorps has assisted millions of Americans through tutoring, running after school programs, building affordable housing, cleaning parks, and assisting with disaster relief.

A shining example of the significance of AmeriCorps' service to our Nation's commu-

nities is the West Seneca Youth Bureau of the town of West Seneca, in Erie County, New York. The West Seneca Youth Bureau hosts seven different AmeriCorps programs, and through these programs, volunteers have provided a broad range of needed services to Western New Yorkers.

West Seneca's Service Action Corps is one of the major donors of food in Western New York, delivering 15,000 pounds of food to local pantries every day. Through Standard Bearer's of America's Promise, AmeriCorps tutors provide young students in Buffalo and Erie County with the tools needed to help them become independent readers. Their Erie County Youth Conservation Corps program teaches marketable skills to at-risk youth so they can use these skills in the professional world. Through YouthBuild, at-risk youth learn basic construction and carpentry skills and gain college credits while building low cost housing for Western New Yorkers in need.

Since its inception, West Seneca AmeriCorps volunteers have shoveled more than one-half million pounds of snow for local residents and businesses, provided area food banks with over 6 million pounds of food, tutored more than 18,000 students, cleaned 150 nature trails, countless parks and playgrounds and cleared hundreds of vacant lots.

AmeriCorps' commitment to education, public safety, the environment and health has made it an incredibly successful organization that I am proud to recognize today. Thanks to the dedicated volunteers of AmeriCorps and the West Seneca Youth Bureau, thousands of my constituents have received much needed education and support. I congratulate the organization for 10 years of service, and look forward to working with them for years to come, and I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to recognize their achievements here today.

HONORING BG WILLIAM TERPELUK, DEPUTY COMMANDER, 77TH REGIONAL READINESS COMMAND, FORT TOTTEN, NEW YORK

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor BG William Terpeluk. BG William Terpeluk will complete his term as Deputy Commander for the 77th Regional Readiness Command this month. He served from 31 March 2001-30 March 2005, which included valuable service during the events of September 11, 2001, and throughout the War on Terror.

The 77th Regional Readiness Command is the Army Reserve headquarters for over 11,000 Army Reserve soldiers. Approximately 6,500 Army Reserve soldiers have been mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Their service to our Nation is to be commended.

Throughout his career Brigadier General Terpeluk has served with honor and distinction. His military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement

Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with Silver Oak Leaf Cluster. He has also received the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Silver Hourglass, the Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Service Ribbons.

Brigadier General Terpeluk is an Infantry Officer who received his commission as a Second Lieutenant through the Reserve Officer Training Corps Program in 1974 from the Virginia Military Institute. After completing the Infantry Course at Fort Benning, Georgia, he served on Active Duty as the Executive Officer, Company E, 3d Battalion, 3d Basic Combat Training Brigade, Fort Dix, NJ.

Throughout his career Brigadier General Terpeluk has served at 79th United States Army Reserve Command, Willow Grove, PA, and in Camp Casey and Camp Howze, Korea.

Today, we honor his service to our city and to our Nation and wish him well in all his future endeavors.

CARNEY-NADEAU HIGH SCHOOL
GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the players, coaches and managers of the 2004 Carney-Nadeau High School Wolves girls basketball team in recognition of their outstanding season. The 24–2 Wolves went to the Michigan Class D semifinals this year, winning Conference, District and Regional titles along the way.

Carney-Nadeau may be one of the smallest schools in their division, and in my district, but they have been a force to be reckoned with in the Upper Peninsula and statewide. Their trip to the state semi-finals on December 2nd at the Breslin Center in East Lansing continued their streak of post season success that started with a State Championship in 2001. In 2002, they went to the state semi-finals, and to the regional finals in 2003.

This tradition of excellence motivated the team all season long. But it is a tradition that has deep roots in this small but close-knit Upper Peninsula community. The basketball program is supported by fundraisers run by the players, and the community turns out to demonstrate that the team is important to them, and that they share the young women's pride in their on-court and off-court successes. It also gives them a real sense of ownership of the team and their community.

This support is not surprising when you know that Carney-Nadeau Public Schools is a district with grades K–12 in one building, giving it a family atmosphere where the older students, and especially the athletes, provide strong role-models for the younger ones. This sense of family is perhaps best represented by the team meals that the players' families take turns preparing before each game.

It is hard to talk about the Carney-Nadeau Wolves success this year without mentioning All-State senior Carly Benson. The 6-foot-2 center averaged 22.4 points, 11.1 rebounds, 5.1 blocks, 5.1 steals and 4.8 assists and shot 62 percent this year on her way to being named the Class D Player of the Year. But on

this team, all the players are leaders, and the team captain role rotated each game.

Mr. Speaker, each of these players deserves to be recognized, along with the coaches, managers, and school officials that were instrumental to their success, and I want to take a moment to share their names with my colleagues.

Team members: Katee Retaskie, Amanda Poupore, Lacey Retaskie, Meghan Schetter, Carly Benson, Jenny Grabowski, Rachel Kuntze, Roseann Schetter, Laurie Tuinstra, Ashley Folcik, Tarra Moran, and Meghan Marsicek.

Head Coach Paul Polfus, who is 482–120 in 25 years of coaching at Carney-Nadeau; Assistant Coaches Randy Severinsen, and Jon Ray; Trainer Marty Laurila; Managers Matt Polfus, Cory Thiry, Pete Adams, and Jared Benson; Athletic Director Ron Solberg; and Superintendent/Principal Ken Linder.

While their loss to Portland St. Patrick High School was disappointing, I know the Carney-Nadeau Wolves are rightly proud of their outstanding season, and all of the hard work, love, determination, perseverance, optimism, and skill they put in to it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Carney-Nadeau girls basketball team, their classmates, parents, and community on their success in the 2004 season and in wishing them well when they hit the court again in the fall.

ARTICLE ON ATROCITIES IN
DARFUR, SUDAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention an excellent op-ed article written in today's New York Times by Nicolas D. Kristof titled "The American Witness." I ask that this article be inserted into the record. The op-ed article highlights the atrocities that are now occurring in Darfur, Sudan and the continuing level of indifference that the West has towards the people of Africa. In light of all of the rhetoric we hear from the United States regarding its strong commitment to liberate people from tyrant dictators, spread democracy around the world, and fight terrorism, I am left to wonder if these same principles do not apply to the people of Africa.

Without a doubt, genocide is occurring in Darfur, Sudan, and its government bears responsibility for the mass killings. Last summer, Congress declared the atrocities occurring in Darfur to be genocide, and the Bush Administration reached the same conclusion in September 2004. Nonetheless, the Bush Administration has done little, beyond acknowledging the crime, to engage the international community in stopping the slaughters of tens of thousands of innocent people. While there are no reliable estimates on the number of people killed as a result of the humanitarian crisis, observers estimate that 300,000 people have been killed since the beginning of the recent conflict in 2003. Meanwhile, an estimated 1.6 million people have been displaced from their homes and more than 213,000 people have been forced to seek refuge in neighboring Chad.

Last month, the United Nations released the Report of the International Commission on Inquiry on Darfur which stated that, "[g]overnment forces and militias conducted indiscriminate attacks, including killing of civilians, torture, enforced disappearances, destruction of villages, rape and other forms of sexual violence, pillaging and forced displacement throughout Darfur" and that such acts "were conducted on a widespread and systematic basis, and therefore may amount to crimes against humanity."

Now that the United Nations have substantiated what many of us have known for awhile, it is time that the West to take deliberative action to force the perpetrators of the genocide in Darfur to end the slaughter of innocent civilians. At the behest of the United States, the United Nations Security Council must pass a resolution condemning the crimes against humanity that are occurring in Darfur and impose sanctions against the Government of Sudan if they do not stop the killings. The Security Council should also act to freeze the assets of and deny entry visas to perpetrators of genocide, and extend the arms embargo to the Government of Sudan.

In addition to these actions, the Bush Administration should work with its NATO allies to provide the African Union forces with concrete assistance and peace keeping troops on the ground in Darfur. I encourage the Bush Administration to continue to provide critical logistical and equipment support to the African Union forces. Finally, I also encourage that Administration to reappoint a Special Envoy to Sudan as quickly as possible to ensure that the United States has a visible role in resolving this horrific crisis.

The plight of the people of Darfur should garner great sympathy from the Bush Administration. Now that we know Iraq had no Weapons of Mass Destruction and no connection to the 9–11 attacks, the President claims a mandate to engage in war to liberate oppressed people from tyrannical governments. Should not his so-called God-given mandate compel him to take the lead in getting our friends on the United Nation's Security Council to impose sanctions on the government of Sudan and, if necessary, institute other deliberative measures to stop the killing? After all, if the Bush Administration can send young men and women from poor communities and National Guard and reservists into Iraq to liberate its people from the tyrant forces of Saddam Hussein, then surely we can take steps to get the international community to stop the killing in Sudan and bring the perpetrators to justice.

If we can learn any lessons from history, we should commit ourselves to ensuring that we do not fail the people of Sudan in the manner in which we failed the people of Rwanda where an estimated one million people who were slaughtered in the early 1990's while the world community sat on the sidelines. Only now are Americans learning through the movie Hotel Rwanda how we as a Nation failed a people. The crisis that is occurring in Darfur presents the Bush Administration with an opportunity to resuscitate its reputation in the international community.

[From the New York Times, March 2, 2005.]

THE AMERICAN WITNESS

(By Nicholas D. Kristof)

American soldiers are trained to shoot at the enemy. They're prepared to be shot at. But what young men like Brian Steidle are