

at the turn of the century, turns 85 on April 18th. We honor Mr. Aschermann for having been a great football star at Ossining High School in Ossining, New York, earning him a full scholarship to Syracuse University. Upon graduation, Aschermann returned to his alma mater to teach, coach, and be a mentor to many over 37 years. Aschermann still holds the distinction for having the only undefeated baseball team in Ossining history.

He was the husband of Vivian Bernice Ottaviano and the father to Ernest and Kurt. At a celebration in Ossining on April 9th, over 40 family members will travel from across the country to celebrate this great American's birthday.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to Mr. Aschermann as he achieves this momentous milestone, and I invite my colleagues to join me in extending our most sincere best wishes for many more to come.

IN MEMORY OF SPECIALIST
FRANCISCO G. MARTINEZ

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give remembrance to Specialist Francisco G. Martinez, from the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for serving our country during Iraqi Freedom. Spec. Martinez suffered a fatal wound to the hip when his unit made contact with small arms fire from the insurgents. Spec. Martinez was assigned to 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Hovey, Korea. He was 20 years old.

I would like to recognize and celebrate Spec. Martinez's life today. SPC Martinez grew up with a military background. His father, Francisco Thomas Martinez, served in the United States military from 1981–1991. SPC Martinez swore off the military in high school believing he had enough during his up bringing, but his father later explained to SPC Martinez how the military could help him through college and reach his dream of becoming a graphics designer.

Although SPC Martinez did not always agree with political philosophies surrounding Iraqi Freedom, he did believe that what he and his fellow soldiers were doing in Iraq was the right thing to do. SPC Martinez worked to keep in touch with his father as much as possible while stationed in Korea. Even though the e-mails became more sporadic after leaving for Iraq, SPC Martinez's father said that his son was clear on his sense of duty, wanted to protect his fellow soldiers and help rebuild Iraq.

It was my honor to represent Specialist Francisco G. Martinez. I extend my deepest sympathies to his family and friends. He will be deeply missed and his service was greatly appreciated.

HONORING THE LIVES OF WARREN
AND FERN WOLAVER

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of Warren and Fern Wolaver. They are literally a walking history book of Larimer County, Colorado, and I would like to share with my colleagues a little about their lives in my district.

October 4, 2004 marked the 65-year wedding anniversary of Fern and Warren Wolaver. Their lives together have been spent in service to their community and family. They have lived for 35 years in their present home, located in a dry lakebed, with the road leading to their home being the dry streambed. Warren was born on the bluff that overlooks their current home.

Warren's great great grandfather traveled on a covered wagon and settled on Milner Mountain, close to the current Wolaver home. His grandfather was a sheriff and a State Representative.

Big Thompson School has played a large role in the lives of Fern and Warren since they attended as children. Four generations of Wolavers have attended this school including their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. They have gone to Big Thompson School for many chili suppers, Parent Teacher Organization meetings, Christmas concerts and other programs. There was only one year that Fern and Warren missed a function at the Big Thompson School and that was in 1984 when there was four feet of snow on the ground.

Fern and Warren have had some interesting careers as farmers and ranchers. Through their farm, Wolaver Cherry Company, they have grown massive amounts of cherries including one year in 1960 when they were able to harvest 100 tons of cherries. They've also grown wheat, barley and corn, and raised turkeys and steers.

Fern worked in the family factory, Wolaver Packing, and served as a trustee. Fern was also a congressional aide to former Colorado Senator Hank Brown for ten years, and worked for Congressman Wayne Allard for five years. She worked as the clerk at their church, Buckhorn Presbyterian, for twelve years.

In addition to farming their cherry orchard and other crops, Warren has an extensive history in public policy. He was appointed to the "100 Man Committee on Local Government" in 1963 and starting in 1970, he spent eight years on the state board of Social Services. In 1976 he served as vice chair of the Big Thompson Flood Recovery Committee, as well as serving two terms on the Big Thompson School Board. He was also a Larimer County Commissioner from 1960 to 1976.

Looking at the lives of Fern and Warren, one cannot help but be amazed at their experiences. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the Wolaver's and to wish them the best in health and prosperity for years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND
WILLIAM F. WRIGHT, JR.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Reverend William F. Wright, Jr. who has been a leader in his community and is celebrating his 25th Pastoral Anniversary at New Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

Reverend Wright was born in Aiken, South Carolina to William Frank Wright and Willie Weaver Wright. He was reared in Nash County, North Carolina and graduated from Nash Central High School and North AT&T State University, where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree. In 1979, he received a Master of Divinity Degree from Shaw Divinity School in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Rev. Wright was called to the gospel ministry in 1975 and was licensed to preach by the East White Oak Baptist Church that same year. In 1977, Rev. Wright was ordained by the Guilford Association. His pastorate was at West End Baptist Church in Reidsville, North Carolina. Under his leadership, West End extensively renovated the sanctuary. After nineteen years with Lorillard Corporation, Rev. Wright retired as a manager to become the full-time pastor of New Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Greensboro, North Carolina. He is a past member of the Board of Directors of the Lorillard Credit Union.

As a gospel preacher and community servant, Rev. Wright has served with and led many community and interfaith coalitions and groups. Under his leadership, the Greensboro Pulpit Forum undertook some of its most challenging work, including the community buying and stewardship program, which led to a decent labor contract between the K-Mart workers and Unite, their labor union. From the helm of the Pulpit Forum, he has served his fellow preachers as motivator, leader, and confidant. Rev. Wright has served on the Board of Directors for Greensboro Urban Ministries, the Greensboro Housing Resource Board, the Greensboro Fair Housing Board, the Greensboro Human Relations Commission, the Greensboro 100, and the NAACP.

His honors and awards are many. Under his leadership, New Zion has been named "Church of the Year" by the NAACP more than five times. Rev. Wright, himself, has been named "NAACP Man of the Year" for 1995. He was recently honored at the NAACP National Meeting with a community service award for his role in the K-Mart struggle.

Rev. Wright's leadership in the church is matched by his leadership in the community. Five years before it became fashionable, Wright had the Pulpit Forum release a thirty-two (32) page position paper in which the church was challenged to enter into the business of confronting the problem of youth and drugs in the community. This work included workshops, direct contact actions, and visits into the communities where our youth suffer. In the spring of 1993, there was a daylong event where thirty young men admitted to gang involvement and being members of rival gangs. Everyone joined together in a joint statement declaring an end to his gang rivalries.

On a personal level, this Pastor is known in the Greensboro community as a "Pastor's

Pastor," a mentor, and a friend to all. His ready demeanor makes him readily available to pastors for counseling and friendship. He is often called upon for advice by struggling congregations and has more than once been called upon to present leadership training to churches and deacons.

Rev. Wright is married to Narcissus Hargrove Wright of Henderson, North Carolina and the proud father of four children: Billy, Wendi, Nicole and Ashley. The Wrights presently make their home in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend William F. Wright, Jr. has used his position as a spiritual and community leader to improve the lives of those around him, and his 25th Pastoral Anniversary is yet another reminder of all of the good work he has accomplished. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today. Thus, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

HONORING PALMYRA MACEDON
BOYS' BASKETBALL CLASS B
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Palmyra Macedon Red Raiders, the varsity boys' basketball team that won their first Class B State Title. The 57-47 victory was well earned after trailing to the Carle Place Frogs for the majority of the game.

Junior shooting guard Anthony Hall scored a game-high 26 points, and helped the Red Raiders get back into the lead in the final quarter. Coach Chip Tatro and the rest of this outstanding team deserve congratulations after their third attempt, and consequent victory, in winning the championship.

Coach Chip Tatro, Christopher Milke, Jared Boisvert, Mike Beck, Anthony Hall, Todd Piccola, Dan Gorman, Tim Patchett, Jonathon Denniston, Adam Husk, Andy Weaver, Jason Clair, Sean McGinn, Chris Timbs are all equal contributors to the outstanding 2005 season.

I commend the Palmyra Macedon Red Raiders for their enthusiasm and hard work in reaching their goal. Congratulations and good luck on future seasons.

HONORING THE VAN VANDALS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the Van Vandals boys' basketball team who won the Texas 3A championship on March 11, 2005. In their first trip to the state finals in sixty-three years, the Vandals beat Graham High School to return home with the state championship trophy. This is an accomplishment that the young men on the team will remember for the rest of their lives. As the congressional representative of the members, coaches, and supporters of the Van Vandals, it is my pleasure to recognize their outstanding accomplishment today on the floor

of the United States House of Representatives.

SUN CHRONICLE HAILS APPOINTMENT OF ATTLEBORO NATIVE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, since 1982, my Congressional activities have been covered by the Sun Chronicle, which provides news for the Greater Attleboro, Massachusetts area. It is a newspaper which understands the importance of solid and thoughtful coverage of events that happen within its area. At the same time, it pays due attention to national issues, and it has also been an important advocate for fair treatment for that part of Massachusetts in which it circulates.

Its interest in all three of these elements came together on March 18 when the Sun Chronicle published a gracious and thoughtful editorial about the appointment of an Attleboro native, Joe Solmonese, to be the head of the Human Rights Campaign. The Human Rights Campaign is a major voice for fair treatment for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people, and I am among those who was very pleased that Mr. Solmonese was selected, given the combination of skill and talent that he brings to the job.

As the Sun Chronicle noted, "Attleboro is honored by the appointment of a city native to head the Human Rights Campaign" and it is also honored and fortunate to have a newspaper with the generosity of spirit to editorialize as well as it did on this subject. I ask that this editorial be printed here.

[From the Sun Chronicle, March 18, 2005]

ACTIVIST EYES TOUGH FIGHT

(By David Crary)

NEW YORK.—After 12 years advocating for abortion rights, Attleboro native Joe Solmonese might have opted for a less divisive field of work. Instead, he is taking over leadership of the largest national gay-rights group at a time when the same-sex marriage debate rivals abortion for volatility and virulence.

"My challenge is to talk about why the equality we seek is not just important to our community, but should be important to everyone," Solmonese said. "I have to believe in the optimism and fair-mindedness of the American people."

Solmonese was named last week as the new president of the Washington-based Human Rights Campaign and will formally assume the post April 11.

He plans to start his tenure by traveling around the country, meeting with state and local activists.

Since 1993, Solmonese has been a strategist for EMILY's List, a political action committee supporting state and federal candidacies of Democratic women who favor abortion rights. He was its chief executive for the past 2½ years, helping break fundraising records but also seeing candidates his group endorsed lose 2004 Senate races in Florida, South Carolina and Missouri.

Solmonese, 40, graduated from Boston University with a degree in communications after growing up in Attleboro. One of his role models was the local congressman, BARNEY FRANK—who disclosed his homosexuality in 1987 when openly gay politicians were almost unheard of.

"Barney Frank is an incredibly heroic person, but also someone who is absolutely in touch with his constituency," Solmonese said in a telephone interview. "He's a man who values family more than anyone I know."

Solmonese came out as gay in his early 20s; he recalls attending a Human Rights Campaign dinner when he was 22. Before joining EMILY's List, he was an aide to former Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis and a fund-raiser for Frank.

He credits his parents, both school-teachers, with inspiring him to pursue a career of political activism. Solmonese Elementary School in Norton is named after his father, Joseph.

"After a decade in the reproductive rights movement, I see myself having been in the fight for a progressive America," he said. "Groups like the HRC are very much at the forefront of that fight."

Another common denominator for the abortion-rights and gay rights movements is their determined and politically well-connected opposition. Conservative leaders who focus on those two issues have claimed credit for the Republicans' strong showing in the 2004 election.

"The American people fear a whole range of things right now, from terrorism to their economic future," Solmonese said. "Our opposition has been pretty crafty at capitalizing on that fear, using whatever means necessary to make political gains."

Many conservative groups are now waging a two-pronged fight against gay marriage. They are lobbying Congress to approve a federal constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman; they also hope many more states will join the 17 that already have amended their constitutions to ban gay marriage.

The Human Rights Campaign was among numerous gay-rights organizations participating earlier this month in a strategy session aimed at competing effectively in upcoming state ballot campaigns regarding gay marriage.

Solmonese says he hopes Massachusetts will demonstrate to Americans nationwide that its pioneering legalization of same-sex marriage has positive, not negative, results. "Massachusetts is still there, with loving, committed families going on with their lives and experiencing the same rights and responsibilities that all Americans do," he said. "We want to shine a light on what happened in Massachusetts, and tell the American people who we truly are."

He replaces another Massachusetts political activist, former state Sen. Cheryl Jacques, who stepped down as HRC president late last year, citing differences with its board.

Her departure coincided with speculation in the gay media, and elsewhere, about discord among the HRC and some other major gay-rights groups. Solmonese said he has detected no serious rifts since his hiring was announced.

[From the Sun Chronicle, Mar. 18, 2005]

ATTLEBORO HONORED BY ANOTHER ACTIVIST

Attleboro is honored by the appointment of a city native to head the Human Rights Campaign—the nation's largest gay civil rights group—and just days prior to a welcome loosening on the West Coast of the bans on same-sex marriage.

Joe Solmonese, 40, who is gay, brings to his new role a history of activism that began when he became student council vice president while a junior at Attleboro High School in the early 1980s.