

CONGRATULATING THE ST. JOSEPH-OGDEN GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE CLASS A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the St. Joseph-Ogden Spartans, the 2006 Class A State Softball Champions. The Spartans concluded their season on June 3, 2006 with a 1-0 victory in the girls' softball State Championship in East Peoria.

It had been an arduous season for the Spartans, defeating number two-ranked Beecher and number one ranked Taylor Ridge en route to a 31-6 season. The victory was the 665th in just 839 games for their head coach, Randy Wolken; a perfect finish for a team that had overcome so many challenges throughout the season.

Though they had reached the final four last year, the Spartans entered these playoffs huge underdogs. But strong defense and leadership helped the team to far exceed expectations, even for many of its players, culminating in its surprise State Championship.

The citizens of this district and I are very proud of the St. Joseph-Ogden Spartan softball team, and we look forward to continued success in the future. Let us honor the Spartans' tremendous accomplishments this season.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the St. Joseph-Ogden Spartans, the 2006 Class A Softball State Champions.

RECOGNIZING STEVE LYNCH FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Steve Lynch, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Steve has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Steve has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Steve Lynch for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO THE SISTERS OF MERCY

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring the Sisters of Mercy in my hometown, St. Louis, Missouri on the 150th anniversary of their arrival to the United States. Throughout their long years of service the Sisters have tirelessly devoted themselves to sacrificial living—assisting the poor, the sick, and the uneducated throughout Missouri communities.

This tradition of service began on June 27, 1856, when the Sisters of Mercy arrived in St. Louis to open St. Francis Xavier Parish School at the request of then Archbishop Peter J. Kenrick. The Sisters later expanded their ministry beyond the school walls, establishing an orphanage, instituting an industrial school for single-parent children, beginning a Sunday school course for African American women, and continuously visiting the poor, sick, and imprisoned. The Sisters in these ministries frequently incurred personal sacrifices, but this did not deter them from their good works.

In spite of their worthy efforts, the Sisters of Mercy frequently encountered obstacles throughout their service including shortages of food and clothing, as well as insufficient funding. With undying faith and dedication, however, the Sisters were able to overcome these challenges. In their many years of service, the Sisters of Mercy have worked at five high schools and more than 20 parish elementary schools. Additionally, the Sisters have been active in healthcare since 1871, when they converted their original school into a hospital that continues to provide medical care today. After 150 years of service to students, families, the sick, and the underprivileged, the Sisters of Mercy have demonstrated their great commitment to the St. Louis community. Today we recognize their efforts with the best of our admiration and gratitude.

TRIBUTE TO HUNGARIAN VICTIMS OF COMMUNIST TERROR

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago, President Bush traveled to Hungary to participate in events marking the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Uprising. I commend the President for making this trip and for recognizing the sacrifices made on the streets of Budapest in the name of liberty and justice.

Fifty years ago, at the height of the Cold War, Central Europe, was a prisoner, and Moscow was its jailer. Confronted with overwhelming Soviet domination, the Hungarian response was to reaffirm the core values of democracy: individual freedom and national independence.

On October 23, 1956, these two powerful forces—tyrannical communism and the principles of democracy—met and clashed in the middle of Europe. Within the Soviet Empire, the 1956 Hungarian Revolution presented an

alternative to a deceptively dangerous idea, the idea that the best solution to a war-ravaged world is to eliminate political, cultural, religious, economic and national differences by imposing a single, universal "truth." This idea represented the incontestable dogma of communism.

At the heart of the clash was Imre Nagy who assumed the post of Prime Minister even announced Hungary's intention to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact. But, when the Soviet Union crushed Hungary's bid for freedom during those day in October, Imre Nagy and his colleagues were arrested, convicted in secret trials, and eventually executed as "traitors" on June 16, 1958. To prevent the inevitable expressions of support for Nagy and what he stood for, he and the others executed with him were buried by the Moscow-backed regime in Budapest in unmarked graves.

The significance of his and countless other Hungarians' sacrifice is etched onto the political map of the 21st century and echoed in the recent developments throughout the world. As President Bush observed, "The lesson of the Hungarian experience is clear: liberty can be delayed, but it cannot be denied." That is the real moral of the events of 1956 and the subsequent human sacrifices of Imre Nagy and his fellow freedom fighters.

As we remember and mourn those who gave their lives defending freedom those fifty years ago, I would like especially to remember the towering courage of a reluctant hero and a great Hungarian patriot, Imre Nagy.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL R. WYN ELDER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel R. Wyn Elder as he assumes command of the 4th Airlift Squadron based out of McChord Air Force Base.

Lieutenant Colonel Elder graduated from the University of Virginia in 1990 and soon thereafter began a distinguished military career. After completing the Aircraft Maintenance & Munitions Officer Course as a Distinguished Graduate, he was assigned to Nellis AFB in Nevada. He served in several different capacities at the squadron and group levels, including Officer-in-Charge, and Munitions Flight and Assistant Officer-in-Charge of the F-16 and A-10 Aircraft Maintenance Units belonging to the United States Air Force Fighter Weapons School, 422d Operational Test and Evaluation Squadron. In April 1994, Lieutenant Colonel Elder was selected for Undergraduate Pilot Training at Vance AFB. After completing his training as a Distinguished Graduate, he served as the Executive Officer, 17th Airlift Squadron, Charleston AFB, South Carolina. During this period, Lieutenant Colonel Elder commanded missions as part of Operations Allied Force, Southern Watch, Joint Guardian and Joint Endeavor. Thereafter, Lieutenant Colonel Elder spent two years attached to the White House Military Office as a Presidential Advance Agent. In this capacity, he served as the point man for Air Force One flights throughout the world, including the first U.S. presidential trip to Slovenia. Most recently,

Lieutenant Colonel Elder was selected for admission to the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies (SAASS). He graduated from SAASS in June of 2004 and was assigned to the position of Special Assistant to the Commander, U.S. Joint Forces Command, in Norfolk, Virginia. Lieutenant Colonel Elder is a senior pilot with over 2200 hours of flight time in the T-38, C-17, and T-1 aircraft.

In addition to his varied professional and academic experiences, Lieutenant Colonel Elder has earned numerous accolades, including: the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the Kosovo Campaign Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Lieutenant Colonel R. Wyn Elder. I thank him for his years of exemplary service and congratulate him on his new command. I wish him the best in this new endeavor.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM CHRISTOPHER VILLAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you the story of a remarkable young man from Milton, Florida. William Christopher Villar, by all surface accounts, was your typical 22 year old. He was attending community college with the hopes of one day obtaining a degree in business. He was working at a job that he loved and he had recently gotten engaged to his long time sweetheart, Heather Dieterich. His life was unfolding the way we hope that all of our children's lives will eventually unfold.

Certainly, it was not these things, or even the fact that, as a young man, he was actively involved with his church that made him atypical. And it was not the fact that he was a star on the basketball court—making the All-Conference and All-State teams his senior year at Central High School in Santa Rosa County—a high school he entered after being home schooled for a number of years. Quite simply, it was his selflessness and his unyielding love for his family that set him apart.

Chris was the oldest of three boys. As such, he was fiercely protective of his younger brothers. There is a story the family tells about an accident that happened 12 years ago that illustrates this best: Chris and Jacob, his youngest brother, were riding in the back seat of their father's car when the driver of an RV, coming over the peak of the 1-10 bridge between Santa Rosa and Escambia counties, failed to slow down for a disabled vehicle. The RV slammed into the Villars' car with enough force to peel the roof back. While we, thankfully, will never have to learn what could have happened that day—we do know that Chris, in an instinctive moment, grabbed his two year old brother Jacob—perched high in his car seat—and threw his own 10 year old body over him to save him. He didn't think of himself.

By and large, the people who knew him all said the same things about him: He was a good boy and he had been raised right. That

is a compliment we hear far too infrequently these days, but it is a testament to his parents. It should make them proud.

I wish I could tell you that the story ends there—that this exceptional boy will one day become an exceptional man, an exceptional husband and an exceptional dad. Unfortunately, on the evening of Thursday, June 15th, Christopher Villar's life came to a tragic end when a car driven by a drunk driver crashed through the roof of his family's home. I am not going to talk about the details of the accident, other than to say that it was an avoidable tragedy and a sickening reminder of the dangers of driving while under the influence. But I will talk about something that happened in the moments before. Chris, like so many of us, had been enjoying the NBA playoffs with his family. He was a New York Knicks fan but pulled for the Heat in this series to pick at his younger brother, Matt. They were ribbing about it, as brothers are wont to do, when a loud noise was heard in the front yard. Whether it was the sheer instinct of a protective older brother, the hand of God, or both, Chris pushed Matt away from himself and toward the middle of his room just as the car crashed through the ceiling. In an instant, it was over. If any good can be found in this tragedy, it is that one life was lost instead of two. Once again, Chris hadn't thought of himself.

Mr. Speaker, these words do nothing to ease the pain the friends and family of William Christopher Villar are feeling today. Their void is a void that no words can fill. I share them with you because this remarkable young man deserves to be remembered, not for the tragic accident that took his life, but for the positive impact he had on the lives of others.

RECOGNIZING THE LIBERTY TRIBUNE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Liberty Tribune and their staff on the monumental accomplishment of 160 years of journalistic excellence in the community of Liberty, Missouri. I am proud to celebrate this accomplishment today, and prouder still to note the Liberty Tribune is the second-oldest weekly newspaper west of the Mississippi River still in continuous publication.

From their modest beginnings, founded by 19-year-old Robert H. Miller, the Liberty Tribune has always called the town square their home. Mr. Miller founded the Tribune through the financial contributions of Dr. William Jewell, namesake of the nationally recognized William Jewell College.

The Liberty Tribune has covered and been a part of historically significant news in their community from the very beginning. The Tribune boasts the only embedded reporter during Alexander Doniphan's march to the Mexican-American War. They covered the persecution of Mormon founder Joseph Smith and the first crime committed by legendary outlaw Jesse James. The Liberty Tribune has been bringing all the news of the day to the citizens of Liberty since 1846 and they show no signs of stopping. Today the Bradley family of St. Joseph, proud owners of the Tribune's parent

company the News-Press Gazette, carry on the tradition of dedicated news coverage for the citizens of Liberty, Missouri.

I am proud to represent the Liberty Tribune and their excellent contributions to the people of Northwest Missouri. I have no doubt this tradition of excellence will continue for another 160 years.

HONORING MARTIN FAGA IN RETIREMENT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Martin Faga, who is retiring from his post at the MITRE Corporation. I have known Marty Faga since my days in the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, when he was a congressional staffer and civic activist in Lee Boulevard Heights.

President and Chief Executive Officer of MITRE Corporation, Mr. Faga received his master and bachelor of science degrees in electrical engineering from Lehigh University in 1964 and 1963.

Before joining MITRE, Mr. Faga served from 1989 until 1993 as Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space, where he was responsible for overall supervision of Air Force space matters. At the same time, he served as Director of the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), responsible to the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence for the development, acquisition and operation of all U.S. satellite reconnaissance programs.

Mr. Faga joined MITRE in 1993 as Vice President of MITRE's Center for Integrated Intelligence Systems, one of the three units operating under the Department of Defense Federally Funded Research and Development Centers. He later served as Senior Vice President, General Manager, and Executive Vice President. Since 2000 he has been MITRE Corporation's President and Chief Executive Officer.

Mr. Faga's career has included distinguished service as a staff member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives, where he headed the program and budget staff; as an engineer at the Central Intelligence Agency; and as an R&D officer in the Air Force. He has served on the Commission for the Protection and Reduction of Government Secrecy, the Jeremiah Panel to review the mission and organization of the NRO, several Defense Science Board Task Forces, and the National Commission for the Review of the NRO. Additionally, he has been appointed by President Bush to the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and to the Public Interest Declassification Board.

Awards and honors bestowed upon Mr. Faga include the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal, the Department of Defense Distinguished Public Service Medal, the Air Force Exceptional Civilian Service Medal, the NASA Distinguished Service Medal, and in 2004, he was awarded the Intelligence Community Seal Medallion.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Martin Faga and congratulating him on his retirement after a distinguished career dedicated to ensuring the national security of the United States of America.