

years and I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY BEAVERS AS 2006 NCAA MEN'S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the baseball team of my alma mater, the Beavers of Oregon State University, for their victory over the storied Tar Heels of the University of North Carolina in a best-of-three series at the NCAA College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska.

The Beavers, with their 3–2 win over UNC, capped a storied season with 50 wins to only 16 losses and became only the second team in any sport in OSU history to win a national title. It was a title for the College World Series record books as well, as the Beavers became the first team in tournament history to win six elimination games at the College World Series.

In the title game, just like during the regular season, great pitching combined with stellar defense, timely hitting and just a bit of luck carried the day for OSU. Five pitchers, including stalwarts Jonah Nickerson, Dallas Buck, and Kevin Gunderson, combined to allow only two unearned runs and just eight hits in the championship game.

Mr. Speaker, never in my life have I witnessed a team with more heart, grit, and guts than our OSU Beaver baseball team. The team showed outstanding dedication, resilience, character and sportsmanship throughout the season in achieving the highest honor in collegiate baseball.

The Beavers have brought pride to the Oregon State University, the Corvallis community, the State of Oregon and Beaver Nation. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating both teams on a hard-fought exciting series and the Beavers of Oregon State University on being the 2006 NCAA College World Series champions.

TRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY OF MCFARLAND, WISCONSIN

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce that on July 2, 2006, the community of McFarland, Wisconsin, will celebrate its 150th anniversary. Since its founding in 1856, this lakeside community has seen tremendous growth, but has maintained the beauty and hospitality characterized by the village founders.

Located just a few minutes southeast of Madison, the Village of McFarland boasts a thriving business community and commerce park, numerous service clubs and organizations, and excellent recreational facilities. The sizable volunteer fire and EMS departments and the outstanding new library demonstrate

the residents' dedication to service and development of their community.

This community bond stretches from generation to generation. McFarland High School has a tradition of excellence and the community regularly comes together to cheer for the McFarland Spartans.

Lake Waubesa, McFarland's most famous natural landmark, serves as a center to many outdoor activities. As the symbolic heart of the village, shops and restaurants surround it, providing a picturesque backdrop of McFarland daily life since the time of its founder, William McFarland.

In genuine McFarland fashion, the residents will be celebrating the community's sesquicentennial on Sunday, July 2 with a festival featuring an array of local foods, train rides, and the singing of the village anthem, "On, McFarland!" A ceremonial cutting of the village birthday cake to honor William McFarland and his descendants and to celebrate the community's 150-year milestone will also mark this landmark achievement in McFarland's history.

It is with great pride that I serve and represent the people of McFarland, Wisconsin, and I extend my deepest congratulations to them.

CONGRATULATING REVEREND KARL EASTLACK FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WESTERN NEW YORK COMMUNITY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in high praise of Reverend Karl Eastlack. Reverend Eastlack is the Senior Pastor of Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church in Williamsville, New York. Today, the Reverend graciously delivered the opening prayer invocation on the House of Representatives floor.

Reverend Eastlack has played an important role as a promoter of spirituality and healthy living in the Western New York community. For nearly twenty years, the Reverend has worked tirelessly to expand and enrich Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church. He first began in 1987 with a congregation of nineteen and a small worship center. Today, thousands of devout parishioners gather in a modern, technologically advanced sanctuary campus for weekly worship.

Under Reverend Eastlack's leadership, the Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church has become an epicenter of spiritual growth in my district. The Church features special programs for youth aimed at promoting religion and spirituality from an early age. Pre-school children attend Sunday morning care programs designed to teach them basic tenants of their faith. Middle and high school students enjoy summer youth camps that simultaneously entertain and educate. Plenty of quality programming serves adults as well. Parishioners attend workshops addressing a handful of topics, ranging from Biblical knowledge to personal financial management.

Reverend Eastlack is perhaps most widely known for "Today's Encouraging Word," a daily radio spot broadcast throughout Western New York on WBEN News Radio 930 AM.

Monday through Friday, the Reverend uses his many years of experience as a leader and religious counselor to give listeners insight into life, relationships and God.

Speaking on behalf of myself and those in my district, I would like to thank Reverend Eastlack for his selfless service to the Western New York community. We were all truly privileged this morning to be in the company of such a noble individual.

THE CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2006

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, a terrorist attack takes three components: a weapon, a target, and a terrorist. Usually these three items are separate, as we saw in the 9/11 attack, the terrorist bombings in London, Madrid, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Israel, and countless other places around the world faced with terrorist attacks. In special cases, however, the weapon and the target are combined. Such is the case with a facility that produces or maintains large amounts of toxic or otherwise dangerous chemicals. If such chemicals can be released and cause harm, the target itself becomes a weapon.

While the protection of all national critical infrastructure is important, chemical plants represent a special subset of those assets which should be given the highest priority in protecting. As a country, we recognized such a danger when it came to nuclear power plants. The Department of Energy made the connection and put in place rigorous security measures. The same has not been true for chemical plants, even though they are much more vulnerable, and can have much higher consequences if successfully attacked.

Recently, however, this problem has been given the attention it deserves. Successful improvements in securing chemical facilities will take the cooperation of the administration, the Congress, and the facility owner-operators. We find ourselves in a unique situation where all three of these parties are in agreement that there is a security gap that needs to be closed, and that it will require regulation to do it.

Since the formation of the Department of Homeland Security, one of its missions has been the protection of critical infrastructure. Some 85 percent of the critical infrastructure in the country is privately owned. Neither the private sector nor the government was eager to promulgate security regulations. The hope was that in a post-9/11 world, private industry would voluntarily make necessary security improvements, aided by guidance from the Department in the form of recommendations and publication of "best practices."

This worked to some degree. Many members of the chemical industry stepped up their security practices voluntarily. However, many did not, and the economic disadvantage suffered by those who made investments in security practices prompted them to ask Congress and the Administration for some regulatory mechanism that would level the economic playing field by requiring all members of the chemical sector to ensure that their facilities are secure.

The Department of Homeland Security also noticed that there was a big disparity in the level of participation and cooperation to increase security across the chemical sector. Both Secretary Michael Chertoff and former Secretary Tom Ridge recognized this problem. In October 2002, then-DHS Secretary Ridge and then-EPA administrator Christie Whitman declared in a joint statement: "Voluntary efforts alone are not sufficient to provide the level of assurance Americans deserve."

Two and a half years later, during his appearance before the House Committee on Homeland Security in April 2005, Secretary Chertoff stated, "In the area of chemical plants, the President has indicated that if we could not get what we need in terms of security using these various kinds of market-based incentives and best practices, that we would look to the possibility of some kind of regulation." He reiterated this stance in March during a forum on chemical plant security that "free riders," meaning smaller plants that have not implemented voluntary security standards, need to be brought under a regulatory scheme to ensure security.

Finally, Congress, in both houses and in both parties, is ready to act. Recently, bipartisan legislation introduced by Senators COLLINS and LIEBERMAN has been marked up in the Senate. Mr. LUNGREN, myself and (whoever else) will soon mark up a bill which is quite similar and I am proud to be a part of this effort.

The Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006 will make our country more secure by giving the authority to the Secretary of Homeland Security to regulate security practices at chemical plants. However, the bill does not take a heavy-handed, overly proscriptive approach. The bill directs the Secretary to place the country's chemical plants into tiers based on risk, and to set security performance standards which increase in rigor for higher risk tiers. By setting performance standards rather than proscribing specific actions, the scheme would seek to form a partnership between the Department of Homeland Security and the chemical plants to come up with their own creative ideas to reach the desired level of security.

The tiered structure will also provide incentives to chemical manufacturers to make their plants inherently safer and therefore lower their risk tier. By lowering the inherent risk of the plant, they would not be required to have as high a level of security if the plant moves from high risk to low risk. Obviously, a plant that makes extremely toxic chemicals needs tighter security than one that makes less dangerous ones. I believe that acquiring the use of inherently safer technology where feasible would be more effective, but I am hopeful that the incentive approach will be successful. We also ensure that chemical plant workers will be our partners in securing their facilities, by directing the Secretary to set up a method that will allow workers to report security gaps that they find to the Department, and ensuring that such workers are not retaliated against.

The time for action is now. We have an opportunity to ensure this vital industry, and the population that lives around these facilities, are safe and secure. We must seize the opportunity to work together to secure our infrastructure, our economy and the lives of our citizens.

RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITY OF BARNES, KANSAS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the citizens of Barnes, KS, for continuing efforts to sustain and revitalize their community.

Deb Kruse, local bank manager and active civic volunteer, wants to see her hometown raise another generation of Kansans. "We are very fortunate and blessed to have a community that pulls together to support our businesses and projects that need volunteer or financial assistance," Kruse said. "We have a lot to offer—not always a large salary—but caring friends and neighbors."

Despite its small size—144 people—Barnes is bustling with activity.

More than a year ago, the city council started a successful initiative to rehabilitate and demolish old houses. To date, eight homes have been rehabilitated and five old structures have been demolished.

The volunteer fire department is made up of 20 dedicated members. With the assistance of local and Federal funding, the department has successfully upgraded its pumper truck, safety equipment, information system and continuing education requirements.

More than 20 years ago, the Barnes Community Development Corporation was formed to help sponsor important community services and events. In 1995, the corporation purchased and still operates the Hometown Cafe. The corporation is also working to preserve the Barnes Gym which hosts Bingo every Thursday night and is utilized for wedding receptions, programs, plays and other community events. Through the years, the corporation has organized many community activities and celebrations: Barnes Old Home Days, Water Garden Tours, Washington County Junior Miss Scholarship Program and the Annual Barnes Lighted Horse Parade.

Close to four years ago, residents came together to open a faith-based youth center called The Refuge. Thanks to generous personal donations of time and money, The Refuge is currently located in a renovated one room school house. Adult mentors, otherwise known as "Servants of the Refuge," provide area youth opportunities to gather and grow through meaningful community service projects.

Rehabilitation of the Barnes I.O.O.F. Park was initiated by Ms. Marilyn Laflin, a Master Gardener, who donated her time and expertise to the project. Community members have donated lamps, benches and various other items to the park in memory of loved ones. The local Lion's Club has been instrumental in maintaining the beauty of all community parks. In addition, the club provides assistance to the Hometown Cafe, makes improvements to the local ball field and band shell, and erected the town's welcome signs.

Our Daily Bread Family Bake Shoppe and Bistro is a family owned business that started out of a two car garage in December of 2002. Since October of 2003, people have come from all over to dine on delicious homemade meals in a beautiful, historic 100-year-old downtown building. The success of Our Daily

Bread is testament to what is possible, with creativity and hard work, in rural America.

The newest community entity is the Barnes Trust for Historic Preservation. The trust is in the formation stage and is charged with preserving and restoring the historical identity of the community. The trust's first priority will be to help restore the Barnes State Bank.

The city maintains an extensive Web site that includes a list of 26 entities on its business and organization directory. That list includes three antique shops, three churches, two bed and breakfasts, two automobile repair shops, two building contractors and a plumber.

Gloria Moore, city treasurer, knows it is no accident that so much is taking place in such a small town. "The individuals that have started businesses in Barnes have invested their money and talents to keep our community alive," Moore said. "We could live anywhere in the world but choose to live in a small community, because we're sold on rural Kansas."

For rural communities to survive and prosper into the future, citizens must be willing to create their own opportunities for success. Ongoing efforts to revitalize Barnes are an example of how hard work, vision and community support can create just such an opportunity.

Citizens throughout Kansas are working together to enhance the quality of life in their communities. Barnes is a success story that demonstrates how teamwork and creative thinking can make a positive difference in rural America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unavoidably delayed and unable to vote on final passage of H.R. 4973, the Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act. I fully support this bill, which makes significant reforms to the National Flood Insurance Program, further updating flood maps and increasing the phase-in of actuarial rates on vacation homes, second homes, and nonresidential properties that have been subsidized by the program since its inception. This bill also includes an amendment that I offered that would require purchasers of primary residential homes to pay actuarially-based flood insurance prices through the same phase-in structure used in the bill for nonresidential properties and non-primary homes. I look forward to seeing this act signed into law and seeing the many improvements contained in this bill enacted. Had I been able, I would have voted "yes" for this bill.

MAKING SAFE BLOOD AVAILABLE IN AFRICA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I chaired a hearing to examine the important issue of the availability of safe blood