

businesses first opened their homes to Hurricane Katrina victims, then to Rita evacuees from other areas of the state. Following their awesome display of compassion and generosity, Hurricane Rita with 150 mph winds, unexpectedly made Woodville a direct target.

In light of the recent Gulf Coast hurricane season, and specifically Hurricane Rita that devastated Tyler County and its surrounding communities, the team's victory has helped keep this tight knit community even stronger.

Casey Beck's performance in the championship game represents the attitude and "get it done" spirit of the people of Tyler County. Regardless of how tired they are they are going to give it one or two more innings down the stretch, face down one hurricane and then another.

The team was coached on to victory by Head Coach Neil Hennigan and Varsity Assistant Coaches Joe Wilroy, Beau Burnett and Reggie Williams. The members of the championship team included: Casey Beck, Braeden Riley, Reese Winters, Jordan O'Neal, Zack Rigby, Daniel Spivey, Jess Conner, Trevor Rainey, Aaron Hicks, Evan Fortenberry, Logan Alec, Justin Kirkpatrick, Allen Mitchum, Jacoby Williams, Josh Kirkpatrick, Chad Prince, Joel Gentz, Brian MacGinnis, Paul Price, Cullen Williams, and Jack Hickman.

These young men and their coaches have together accomplished so much and made a community and region so proud. Mr. Speaker, I hope the House of Representatives will join me in honoring the Fighting Eagles and the community they represent.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MRS. CORETTA SCOTT KING

SPEECH OF

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the start of Black History Month with recognizing the many, many great deeds of African Americans, we also mourn the loss of an icon for people of all races—Mrs. Coretta Scott King. Mrs. King was one of our most influential black woman leaders in the world today.

The "first lady" of the civil rights movement was born Coretta Scott in Heiberger, Alabama. She was raised on the family farm of her parents where she was exposed to the injustices of a segregated society.

Mrs. King excelled at her studies, particularly music, and was valedictorian of her graduating class at Lincoln High School. She graduated in 1945 and received a scholarship to Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio.

As an undergraduate, she took an active interest in the civil rights movement; she joined the Antioch chapter of the NAACP, and the college's Race Relations and Civil Liberties Committees. She graduated from Antioch with a B.A. in music and education and won a scholarship to study concert singing at New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Massachusetts.

In Boston she met a young theology student, Martin Luther King, Jr., and her life was changed forever.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. King has been described as quiet, steady, and courageous and while all of that may be true let it be noted to add steadfast and certainly noble.

Mrs. King was a serious thinker, a committed activist, a talented musician and an outspoken woman whose influence and activism extended well beyond the career of her famous husband.

Mrs. King undoubtedly became a symbol of racial equality for all Americans. For a woman of her stature, rearing four little children when there was civil unrest, and to have suffered the loss of her husband sent a clear message to this Nation that the movement was too powerful to stop and must go on.

Just like the late Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, Mrs. Coretta Scott King showed us how to meet personal crisis with courage, and then how to transcend crisis with victory.

Although, I had never had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. King, I too share her husband's vision of peace and brotherhood as a steady theme that should be heard all across this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, history has a way of placing women like Coretta Scott King in the shadows of their powerful husbands but it is time we remember them as more than civil-rights-movement wives and widows.

I once heard someone say that behind every good man stands a good woman, but I say to you and to this Nation that beside every great man stands an even greater woman.

Mr. Speaker, her's was a remarkable life, and along the way she helped improve the lives of millions. While we mourn her loss, we must celebrate her legacy—now recognized with that of her husband.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GIFT OF LIFE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL ACT OF 2006

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act of 2006." This legislation creates a Congressional commemorative medal for organ donors and their families, recognizing the brave and selfless act of organ donation. I want to thank Senator FRIST, a heart and lung transplant surgeon himself, for introducing companion legislation in the Senate.

There is a serious shortage of available and suitable organs for donation. Over 90,000 people are currently waiting for an organ transplant; over 2,200 of these are children under age 18. Over 30,000 new patients are added to the waiting list each year. Because of low donor rates, in 2004 alone over 6,150 people died for lack of a suitable organ. An estimated 12,000 people die each year that meet the criteria for organ donation. Less than half actually become organ donors. Recognition of these gifts of life would publicize the critical need to increase organ donation.

Physicians can now successfully transplant kidneys, lungs, pancreases, intestine, livers, and hearts with considerable success. But, without expanded efforts to increase organ donation, the supply of suitable organs will continue to lag behind the need. Incentive pro-

grams and public education are critical to maintaining and increasing the number of organs donated each year.

Health and Human Services, HHS, has already implemented initiatives to raise the public awareness of this vital act of giving life. The Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act is a great opportunity for us to work with HHS to draw attention to this life-saving issue. It sends a clear message that donating one's organs is an act that should receive the profound respect of our Nation.

The Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act establishes a nonprofit fund to be used to design, produce, and distribute a Congressional commemorative medal to organ donors or to a surviving family member. Enactment of this legislation would have no cost to the Federal Government. The Treasury Department would provide a small initial loan for start-up purposes, which would be fully repaid. Subsequently, the program would be self-sufficient through charitable donations.

This is non-controversial, non-partisan legislation to increase the rate of organ donation. I ask my colleagues to help bring an end to transplant waiting lists and recognize the enormous faith and courage displayed by organ donors and their families. This bill honors these brave acts, while publicizing the critical need for increased organ donation. I urge swift passage of the Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act.

COMMEMORATION OF THE VISIT OF THE BLACKWATER COMMUNITY SCHOOL DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON, DC, FEBRUARY 14, 2006

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a delegation from my district visiting our Nation's Capital. This delegation represents the Blackwater Community School on the Gila River Indian Reservation, who belong to the Akimel O'otham.

I would like to acknowledge Henry Pino, president of the Blackwater Community School Board; board member Francisco Osife; board secretary Peggy Winchester; and the superintendent and principal of the school, Jacquelyn Power. Through the talent and commitment of these individuals, the students of Blackwater are in great hands. Blackwater Community School has a motto—"Quality Education Begins Here." It was evident in our discussion today that these educators and administrators live up to such an inspiring motto every day.

Blackwater Community School was built in 1939, it was the first operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Arizona, and still educates children and families in its historic, refurbished buildings. The children are in grades kindergarten through second, and a charter expanded the student enrollment to third and fourth grades.

Blackwater has led the way as the highest performing school determined by federal and state officials. Most recently, the National Indian School Board Association honored the school with its coveted 4Cs Award.

The school also has one of the most successful family literacy programs in the nation that educates pre-school children and their parents together. The program is called Family and Child Education (FACE), the FACE program at Blackwater has earned an enviable reputation as a proud member of the National Adult Education Honor Society.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the distinguished delegation from Blackwater Community School for the tremendous job that they are doing on the Gila River Indian Reservation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FATHER
EVAGORAS CONSTANTINIDES

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and admiration that I wish to congratulate Father Evagoras Constantinides on the 50th Anniversary of his ordination into the Holy Priesthood. Father Constantinides will be recognized at a banquet in his honor at the Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral on Sunday, February 26, 2006, which will also be a celebration of the 60th Wedding Anniversary of Father Evagoras and his wife, Presvytera Mary.

Father Constantinides was born in Lapithos, Cyprus in 1918 and was educated in his village through his second year of high school, where he graduated with the Gold Medal Award for academic excellence. He entered Athens College in 1932, where he was accepted on a yearly scholarship with the school's science section. Father Constantinides had no trouble maintaining his scholarship for six years, and he graduated with honors while receiving the Delta Public Speaking Prize and the English Language Prize. This dedication and commitment to his studies exemplifies the hard work on which Father Constantinides prides himself.

After finishing college in Greece, Father Constantinides traveled to the United States to continue his studies and broaden his experiences. In 1938, he enrolled at Fenn College, which is now Cleveland State University, where he studied civil engineering. During his four years at the University, he served as a Greek teacher and as the Hellenic Board of Education Secretary for the Greek Orthodox Community of the Annunciation of Cleveland, Ohio. Although he enjoyed his time in Cleveland, his final year was interrupted by World War II. As a British subject, Father Constantinides entered the Canadian Army as a private in the fall of 1942. After completing his basic training, he was enrolled in the officer training program, from which he graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Engineer Corps with proficiency in explosives, mines, and demolitions. His outstanding ability as a military officer, coupled with his excellent intellect, allowed Father Constantinides the opportunity to work for the United States Central Intelligence Group translating Japanese documents and the Greek Constitution into English.

After being discharged in 1947, Father Constantinides returned to the United States and began extensively studying theology. On March 11, 1956, Father Constantinides was

ordained into the priesthood, and on September 1, 1969, he was appointed pastor of the Saints Constantine and Helen parish in Gary, Indiana. Since arriving in Northwest Indiana, the graciousness and generosity of Father Constantinides has touched many lives. In 1971, Father Constantinides was instrumental in the construction of the Hellenic Cultural Center in Merrillville, Indiana, as well as in the design and construction of the Saints Constantine and Helen Cathedral, one of the ten largest Orthodox churches in the Americas, in 1975. During his years of service, Father Constantinides has also become deeply involved in the work of Hospice of the Calumet Area.

In addition to the many contributions within his own parish, Father Constantinides has committed himself to improving the community, the nation, and the world. To name just a few of the appointments and accolades bestowed upon Father Constantinides throughout his years of service, he was honored with the office of Protosphyter in 1972, and he served as the Treasurer and member of the National Presbyters Council from 1970–1974, and again from 1980–1982. He received the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America Service Award and Gold Cross in 1976 for his struggles and lobbying activities for the liberation of invaded Cyprus. Father Constantinides has shared his immense wisdom and faith in various countries, including Russia, Kenya, Uganda, and India. Remarkably, Father Constantinides has even found time to author four Sunday school books for children and has translated six Orthodox Service books from Greek to English.

Since his retirement in June 1995, Father Constantinides has devoted his time to the Orthodox Christian Mission Center through writing, lecturing, and substituting at churches in the Chicago Diocese, but he has also been able to devote much of his time to his loving wife, Mary, and their four children. Presvytera Mary has stood by her husband's side for the past 60 years. I am sure Father Constantinides would agree that the unwavering support of his loving wife has been a major factor in the many achievements he has reached in his lifetime. Father Evagoras and Presvytera Mary are a shining example of true dedication to their vows and each other.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in thanking Father Evagoras Constantinides for his contributions to the members of his parish, the citizens of Northwest Indiana, and his fifty years of service to people throughout the world. I also ask that you join me in congratulating Father Evagoras and Presvytera Mary Constantinides on their 60th wedding anniversary. Their love for each other and for all mankind is truly an inspiration to us all, and I am proud to be their representative in Congress.

HONORING DR. PAUL LICHTMAN

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Paul Lichtman, a science teacher from Uniondale High School. Teaching is one of the most honorable and important profes-

sions a person could choose. Dr. Lichtman is at the top of his profession, which his students have always known, and others realize as well. He has been honored by the New York State Assembly, the Nassau County Legislature, the Town of Hempstead Supervisor and the Town Board, and recently was named the Siemens Foundation's top mentor among those who helped 1,600 high school students enter its 2005 national competition. In typical Dr. Lichtman style, he has donated the \$15,000 that comes with the award to purchase more equipment for the school's research room.

Dr. Lichtman earned his Pharm.D. in 1990, specializing in toxicology and worked for several years as a manufacturing pharmacist. He was a science research coordinator and teacher at Massapequa High School and Hillcrest High School prior to making his way to Uniondale.

Dr. Lichtman's program is one of only in three in the nation, other than in some magnet schools, where students do most of their research in a school lab rather than at a hospital or university. In just six short years, Dr. Lichtman has increased the number of research students from zero to over 80. His students, mostly minorities, have long credited Dr. Lichtman not just for his encouragement and mentoring in the classroom but also for teaching life lessons that can be used and applied throughout their lives.

The students develop a full research proposal by conducting a complete literature search and designing the methodology, which is then approved by Dr. Lichtman. Students implement the projects in the school's research lab, present their results at science competitions and propose and carry out further studies. The students' projects have resulted in practical applications that have been implemented, such as reduction of storm water runoff contaminants. Many of his students have been nominated for science awards and have placed in various science fairs and competitions, which is a testament to Dr. Lichtman.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Dr. Lichtman, and all of our teachers, for their wonderful work, and their contribution to our leaders of tomorrow.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH STROUD

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Joseph Stroud, a Californian poet that has received the prestigious Witter Bynner fellowship award. The fellowship, funded by the Witter Bynner Foundation for Poetry, was developed in 1972 to promote the art of poetry and encourage grants that illuminate the positive effects that poetry has on society. As part of the fellowship, the two recipients are asked to organize a local poetry event as well as attend a poetry reading at the Library of Congress. Stroud has contributed tremendously to the art, and it is fitting that we mention him today.

He began his distinguished career as a professor of poetry and English at Cabrillo College in 1969 and for 35 years inspired the minds of many young and eager writers. Yet