

women's soccer team for winning the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I National Championship. The Pilots completed an undefeated season, capturing the National Championship by scoring four goals in their final game against the University of California, Los Angeles.

Not only is this the University of Portland's second championship in four years, but the 2005 season was the most successful for the team to date. The Pilots set the University's women's soccer record with an undefeated season.

The story of the 2005 season is illustrated with broken records. The loyal fans of the University of Portland set the NCAA season attendance record for both men's and women's soccer teams and led the Nation in average home attendance.

There is no way one could speak to the accomplishments of the University of Portland soccer program without heralding the amazing talent of the coaching staff, both past and present. The program was brought to excellence by the late Clive Charles who was respected by soccer enthusiasts worldwide. In 2002, Charles led the Pilots to their first ever championship in any sport. Sadly, Charles died in 2003 from complications of prostate cancer.

With Head Coach Garrett Smith now at the helm, the Pilots have continued their superiority on the soccer field. Coach Smith has devoted 18 honorable years to the University of Portland soccer program, both as a player and a coach, and his ability to lead his team with creativity and vision has earned him great respect.

I wish warm congratulations to every player, coach, student, alumnus, faculty member, and supporter of the University of Portland. There is much to celebrate up on the "Bluff" and the women's soccer team is a great example of the excellence the University produces and I hope you will join me in supporting this resolution.

STATEMENT ON METHYL BROMIDE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I gave the attached statement, in support of the banning of methyl bromide on February 15, 2006.

STATEMENT OF REP. DENNIS J. KUCINICH, SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND RESOURCES, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM: HEARING ON "METHYL BROMIDE: ARE U.S. INTERESTS BEING SERVED BY THE CRITICAL USE EXEMPTION PROCESS?"

I was dismayed when I learned that today we would be discussing efforts to perpetuate—and possibly increase—the use of methyl bromide. Continuing to allow it to be manufactured and used is bad for the environment, bad for human health, bad for international relations, bad economics, and is simply unnecessary.

Methyl bromide has been responsible for a significant amount of the degradation of our protective ozone layer. In 2005, the size of the resulting hole in that layer over the Antarctic reached 9.4 million square miles, an area almost as big as the combined areas of the U.S. and Canada, according to NASA. Current estimates say that it will take another 50 years for the hole to repair itself.

Too much UV-B, which is filtered by the ozone layer, causes cataracts and suppresses our immune systems, making us more vulnerable to viruses and bacteria. It also contributes to skin cancer. It was this threat to human health that was a major reason that the international community agreed to ban it. It was a display of unprecedented cooperation in the face of an environmental threat.

Methyl bromide puts our own workers and consumers at risk too. When it is injected into the soil, it kills almost every living thing in the soil. It is no wonder that it also causes chronic health problems for the workers who apply it and the nearby communities who are also exposed to it. Exposure has effects on the neurological system including functional impairment, lethargy, twitching, tremors, and paralysis in extreme cases. It has also been linked to prostate cancer and birth defects in some studies.

Continuing the manufacture of methyl bromide is bad economics. Since the international community agreed to phase out methyl bromide, companies who play by the rules have been planning for its phaseout. They have incurred real financial costs by investing in alternatives, anticipating the phase-out required by the Montreal Protocol. Failing to adhere to the U.S. promise to phase out methyl bromide puts these companies who were playing by the rules at an unfair competitive disadvantage. Those who do the right thing and obey the law should be rewarded for their good faith efforts, not punished.

Consider the international relations implications as well. An attempt to let the U.S. allow methyl bromide to be used without going through the specified channels—like other countries are required to do—would further harm our standing in the international community. It sends a signal to other countries that we will only honor our agreements until we change our mind. It harms negotiations on future agreements. It furthers the stereotype of the U.S. as the bull in the proverbial global china shop.

The EPA is currently trying to address the methyl bromide issue by substituting chemicals, like methyl iodide, that aren't as harmful to the ozone layer but are still highly toxic. Instead, we need to look to alternatives for pest control that not only preserve the ozone layer but also protect worker health, community health, consumer health, and ecological health. In fact, that's exactly what Americans want.

One of the biggest growth industries right now is organic food. According to the Congressional Research Service, "The annual rate of market growth since 1990 has remained steady at about 20%." When given a choice between food grown with toxic chemicals or food grown organically, people choose the latter, especially when the price is comparable, which is increasingly the case as economies of scale become more prevalent.

One of methyl bromide's biggest uses is for strawberry crops. Jake Lewin, director of marketing for California Certified Organic Farmers says "... strawberries can be grown without pesticide. We've got 60 growers who don't use (methyl bromide) ... The bottom line is small and large growers have successfully produced strawberries without pesticides."

So we are talking about yielding to the management of chemical producers and agribusiness—who by the way rarely have to apply the toxic pesticide themselves or live in the adjacent communities—at a drastic cost to our health and that of the earth. It speaks to a systematic deference to corporations at the expense of the biological systems on which we intimately depend for life. It is unwise and unnecessary. I call for the immediate and permanent phase-out of methyl bromide.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNSON COUNTY,
KANSAS, AFRICAN-AMERICAN
TRAILBLAZERS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to lend my support and appreciation to the Johnson County, Kansas, chapter of the NAACP, whose Youth Council, along with the Johnson County Library, will be holding a program at the Mount Olive Baptist Church in Merriam, Kansas, on Saturday, February 18th, to honor and reflect upon Johnson County's African-American "trailblazers." Specifically, this program will honor the following six individuals, families and organizations:

JULIUS MCFARLIN

Julius McFarlin, born in Conway, Arkansas, was instrumental in organizing the chartering of the Branch of the NAACP in Johnson County. While waiting for the Branch to be officially chartered, McFarlin served as its President from 1972–1977. In September 1977 the Branch, named the Merriam, Kansas, NAACP, was chartered and Mr. McFarlin continue serving as its President until 1998. McFarlin is still active with the Branch and is a Life-Time Member.

Not only is Mr. McFarlin a "Trailblazer" with his work with the NAACP, in 1973, McFarlin realized a need to become involved in the community and was elected to the Merriam City Council, Precinct One, Ward One—thus becoming the first African-American elected to a political office in Johnson County, Kansas. McFarlin served until 2000.

Believing in giving back to the community in which he so faithfully served, McFarlin's community involvement includes managing baseball teams for youths; prior service on the Board of South Park Neighborhood Council; a current member of the Mt. Olive Baptist Church, in which he serves as the Chairman of the Trustee Board; and prior service on the Johnson County Mental Health Board; Public Works Board and City Finance Committee.

Married to his bride of 60 years, the lovely Marzella (Wilson) McFarlin, Julius McFarlin is truly a Johnson County "Trailblazer".

DR. NORGE W. JEROME

Dr. Norge W. Jerome, a Nutritional Anthropologist, International Health and Nutrition Scientist, and Women in Development Specialist, is currently Professor Emeritus of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. Dr. Jerome has served as Senior Research Fellow at the Center for University Cooperation in Development, Bureau of Science and Technology, U.S. Agency for International Development (A.I.D.), Department of State, in Washington, D.C., and as Director of the Office of Nutrition at A.I.D. Dr. Jerome also served as Interim Associate Dean for Minority Affairs, at the University of Kansas School of Medicine, as well as having published widely, with 2 books and over 100 articles to her credit.

Dr. Jerome was born and raised on the southern Caribbean island of Grenada and came to the United States to

study at Howard University. She became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1973 and went on to earn a B.S. degree (Magna Cum Laude) from Howard University; her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees are from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Dr. Jerome led a pioneering role in launching nutritional anthropology as a discipline within anthropology. Dr. Jerome has received numerous honors, tributes and awards and served on many national and international committees and panels concerned with women's health and development issues.

For her many contributions, not only to this community, but worldwide, Dr. Jerome is being recognized as a Johnson County "Trailblazer".

MAYOR CARL WILKES

Carl Wilkes and his wife of 42 years, Wanda, have been residents of Merriam, Kansas, for 40 years. Carl has a 31-year career in public service for local and federal governments and currently serves as a Field Supervisor for the Housing Services Division of Johnson County's Human Services and Aging Department.

Carl Wilkes was instrumental in the development and receipt of funds for the first transportation program for the elderly in Johnson County, "Dial-A-Ride". Carl also established—in conjunction with United Community Services—the Multi-Service Center, served as its Executive Director and developed and secured funding for the City of Kansas City, Kansas, Section 8 Housing Program and served as its Director.

Carl Wilkes has received numerous awards and recognition for his service, such as Certificates of Commendation; the Meritorious Public Service Award and the Distinguished Service Award, to name a few. Nevertheless, Carl Wilkes will always be remembered in Johnson County as the first African-American to be elected as Mayor of a local community. On April 23, 2001, Carl Wilkes was sworn in as the 10th Mayor of Merriam, Kansas. On recount, his election was determined by two votes. Carl Wilkes is currently serving his second term as Mayor of the City of Merriam, Kansas.

Carl Wilkes is truly a "Trailblazer" and deserving of such recognition.

MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH—MERRIAM, KANSAS

In 1922, the members of Shiloh Baptist and First Baptist in Merriam, Kansas, combined their two churches to form Mount Olive Baptist Church.

Mt. Olive members were, and still are, active in church, community and political affairs. During the 1940s Mt. Olive played an important role in helping the parents who were involved in the seminal 1949 decision involving school desegregation—Webb vs. Merriam Board of Education. Mt. Olive, during this litigation, which lasted for approximately two years, opened up its doors for school to be set up and receive instruction. The support of Mt. Olive members helped them to achieve this wonderful victory.

It was also during the late 1940s and early 1950s that the Mt. Olive Baptist Church, allowed the NAACP to utilize its basement for its meetings and continue to be a voice in the community for civil rights and equality advocating. To this day, the Mt. Olive Baptist Church is still committed to the spiritual growth of all and concerned about matters that impact the community.

For its contributions to the development of Johnson County, Kansas, the Mt. Olive Baptist Church is truly a "Trailblazer".

ALFONSO AND MARV WEBB

In 1947, parents of 39 school children attempted but failed to enroll their children in the new South Park Grade School, which was less than a mile from their homes. The parents did not want to send their children to the Madame C.J. Walker School, which did not have running water, electricity or up-to-date textbooks. Instead, the parents elected, with the permission of the pastor of the Mt. Olive Baptist Church, to set up school at the church and in homes. Two of these parents were Alfonso and Mary Webb.

Preceding the Brown vs. The Topeka Board of Education decision, Mr. and Mrs. Alfonso Webb, on behalf of their minor children, Harvey and Eugene Webb, the plaintiffs, filed suit in the 1948 desegregation case, Webb vs. School District #90. Included in this litigation were Shirley Ann Turner and Herbert Turner, minor children of Thelma and Earnest Turner, and Delores Gay and Patricia Black, minor children of Thomas Black.

The Kansas Supreme Court ruled that the black students would attend the previously all white South Park Elementary School. In September 1949 the black students were admitted without incident.

Alfonso and Mary Webb were truly "Trailblazers."

THE MCCALLOP FAMILY

Robert L. McCallop was born in Wilder, Kansas, in 1894. Robert reflected the success of African-Americans all across the country. He took something that many of us take for granted and turned it into an achievement based upon business and education.

In 1934 Robert turned the back of a truck into a bus to provide transportation for African-American children so that they could attend school in Wyandotte County, Kansas. The McCallop Company was the first black-owned bus company in Johnson County.

Thanks to the McCallop family, black children in Johnson County in the 1930s through the 1950s were able to get an education. Because of segregated times, African-American Johnson County children were unable to attend secondary school within the county. Instead, they were forced to cross over to Wyandotte County to attend Sumner High School.

Oscar Johnson, former educator and President of the Johnson County Branch of the NAACP, states: "the McCallops were a family so intact, so committed to stay the course in a community that wasn't always welcoming. Yet, they thrived and flourished despite the odds they faced".

William, sibling of Robert McCallop, and his wife Ruth, will appear at Saturday's event to accept this award for the contributions the McCallops has given to this county and the McCallops are truly "Trailblazers".

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to pay tribute to these distinguished Johnson Countians and to Mt. Olive Baptist Church, and I know that all members of the United States House of Representatives join with me in saluting these "trailblazers."

TRIBUTE TO EARL FOWLER

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Chief Earl Fowler of Raleigh, North Carolina. Chief Fowler recently retired, ending 54 years of service to the Raleigh Fire Department by the Fowler family.

B.T. Fowler, the chief's father, joined the Raleigh fire department in 1956 and served with distinction until 1986, when he retired as a fire inspector and became the department's historian.

After serving in the U.S. Navy, Earl Fowler followed his father's footsteps and joined the Raleigh department in 1971, where he rose through the ranks as a firefighter, district chief, fire marshal and assistant chief. He became chief in 1999.

I have had the pleasure to work with Chief Fowler over the years, and he has served with humility, honor and professionalism. His fellow chiefs have recognized him as "a leader and a visionary," as well as "a creative thinker and motivator."

Today, I am honored to recognize Chief Fowler and to thank him for his many years of dedication and service to the people of Raleigh and of the Second Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH BIRT

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and former member of my staff, Ms. Elizabeth Ann Birt, who died following an auto accident while on vacation in Colorado late last year. Liz is survived by her three children: Sarah, Matthew, and Andrew.

In 1996, Liz's son Matthew was diagnosed with autism, a devastating neurological disorder that, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, now afflicts approximately 1 in 166 American children. My own grandson is autistic so I know first-hand how traumatic this news can be for parents of newly diagnosed autistic children. All too often, parents give up on the search for answers because raising a child with autism requires so much more time and energy than raising a so-called average child.

Liz, however, did not back away from the fight. No matter how tired and discouraged she might have been, Liz was determined to show the world that one person can make a difference just by asking questions. Her courageous and infectious enthusiasm ignited a quest for truth and justice for the autistic children of this country. There can be no doubt that Liz fought hard for what she believed in and in the end, her brilliant mind, strong spirit, and passion for the truth made her a hero to the autism community.

In fact, it is through her work on autism that I first came to know Liz; and not long after I became Chairman of the Government Reform Committee in 1997, I invited her to join my