

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND WOMEN'S FIELD HOCKEY TEAM ON WINNING THE 2005 NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 3, 2006

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the outstanding 2005 National Championship Women's Field Hockey team at the University of Maryland. On Sunday, November 20 in Louisville, Kentucky, the Terrapins defeated Duke University 1–0 to capture the 2005 National Collegiate Athletic Association Championship crown. This year marks the Terrapins' fourth NCAA title overall and their first NCAA title in 6 years.

The University of Maryland Women's Field Hockey Program has achieved several significant honors this year. The Terps earned a No. 1 final ranking by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association. Five Terrapins were named All-Americans, while three were also named All-ACC. Nine team members were named to the Mid-Atlantic All-Region team. The Terrapin defense was ranked second in the Nation and the offense was among the top 15. Finally, the University of Maryland ended the season with a 23–2 record, the most wins since 1999, and recorded its fifth 20-win season in program history.

The coaches who have led the Field Hockey team to victory are Head Coach Missy Meharg, Assistant Coach Tjerk (T.J.) van Herwaarden, Assistant Coach Marybeth Freeman, Assistant Coach Clemens Arnold, Trainer Sandy Worth, Assistant Trainer Joey Sierzega, and Strength & Conditioning Coach Barry Kagan. Also deserving recognition are Jim Knight with Equipment, Natalia Ciccone with Media, and Supervisor Troy Tucker.

These talented young athletes include the following University of Maryland students: Emily Beach, Kendall Beveridge, Jackie Ciconte, Kristina Edmonds, Megan Fox, Alica Grater, Paula Infante, Linzi Jones, Danielle Keeley, Meredith Long, Tiffany Marsh, Kathryn Masson, Katie Mockus, Ellen Ott, Louisa Powell, Lauren Powley, Christina Restivo, Susie Rowe, Sarah Scholl, Emily Trycinski, Janneke van Leeuwen, and Kim Ziegler. University of Maryland Athletics Director Debbie Yow was also essential to their success.

Mr. Speaker, collegiate athletics promote camaraderie, leadership, responsibility, and good health. They are a vibrant and essential component of American culture. I commend the University of Maryland's 2005 Field Hockey team and wish each of its members great success.

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
SUGAR BOWL VICTORY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 3, 2006

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this time to personally congratulate West Virginia University on their victory last night in the 2006 Sugar Bowl. All of us in West Virginia

are proud of the players and the coaches for their tremendous effort put forth on behalf of the Mountain State. I would like to personally congratulate Coach Rodriguez, his players and his coaching team on such a "sweet" victory. Thanks for making us proud to be Mountaineers.

HONORING THE CITY OF MIDDLETON, WI ON ITS SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 3, 2006

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the sesquicentennial of the city of Middleton, WI.

While first inhabited by Native Americans, then home to French fur traders and, later, English and German settlers, the area we now call Middleton marks its official birth with the arrival of the railroad there in 1856.

The history of this vibrant community is well-documented. We know of the fur-trading post opened in 1832 by the area's first carpenter, Michael St. Cyr. Records tell us of Orson Cook, the first permanent settler in the East Middleton area in 1841. The name, Middleton, we are told, was chosen by the first postmaster, Harry Barnes, after a town in Vermont.

The settlements of Pheasant Branch, East Middleton, Middleton Station and others coalesced when the train depot became a hub around which local businesses prospered.

One hundred fifty years after the first trains arrived, Middleton's downtown is thriving. New businesses are rising in the footprints of the old. The people of this 21st century community are still guided by the "good neighbor" practices of those who came before.

The current residents of Middleton treasure historic structures of the past: the Old Stamm House, once a station on the "underground railroad"; the Blacksmith Shop on Branch Street; Arneson's Café on Parmenter Street where folks could collect mail on one side and buy stationery and sweets on the other, to name just a few.

But they are also looking to the future, supporting a superb public library, a dynamic senior center, a community pool, and a performing arts center. Though barely miles from the State capital, the people of Middleton cede no civic pride or responsibility. Volunteers sustain and support emergency services and community functions.

On its sesquicentennial, I salute the city of Middleton and its people and wish them many more years of prosperity.

IN MEMORY OF SGT REGINA REALI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 3, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the memory of SGT Regina Reali who lost her life defending our nation in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sergeant Reali, 25, was born in Denair, California, then relocated to the central San Joaquin Valley. She was a 1999 graduate of Fresno High School and enlisted to serve in the U.S. Army in 2000. Ms. Reali's military career includes graduation from basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina and advanced individual training as a civil affairs specialist at the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare School and Center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Ms. Reali's dedication led her to receive various awards, including the: National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device, Army Service Ribbon and the Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge. Upon completion of training, Ms. Reali reported to her first assignment as a civil affairs specialist with the Army Reserve's 351st Civil Affairs Command, based at Mountain View. Shortly after her deployment to protect our country, Ms. Reali's leadership efforts were recognized and she was promoted to sergeant.

Unfortunately, Regina Reali's tour in Baghdad, Iraq ended when an improvised explosive device detonated near her military vehicle on the 23rd day of December 2005. In recognition of Sergeant Reali's dedication and sacrifice, she has been recommended to posthumously receive several awards that portray her strength of character, such as the: Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal and the Combat Action Badge. Finally, Sergeant Reali was recommended to receive the Purple Heart, the oldest military decoration in the world, awarded to members of the Armed Forces who are wounded in the line of action.

Regina Reali is survived by her father Richard of Atwater and her brother and his wife Paul and Pricilla of San Diego.

I would like to extend my heartfelt sympathy and most sincere condolences to Sergeant Reali's family.

It is my belief that SGT Regina Reali's loss symbolizes the ultimate sacrifice one can make for her country. Her humble service to our Nation demonstrates her valor, strength, courage and pride. Americans all across the Nation are indebted to Sergeant Reali for her sacrifice and her efforts to uphold the principals of democracy, which will serve as an example to all of us for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO TODD PATKIN, YOUNG LEADER AND PHILANTHROPIST

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 3, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a young man who is part of the new generation of philanthropic leaders—Todd Patkin of Massachusetts. Todd is an impressive young man, and although he has just turned 40, he has been remarkably successful in the business world and is now devoting his life to helping others.

Todd grew up in the Boston area, where he graduated from Tufts University. He married, had a family, and worked in the family auto parts business for the next 18 years. Using his amazing organizational and business talents, the company became remarkably successful,

expanding from 18 to 62 stores in the New England and New York area. His business acumen was recognized in 2004 by Auto International Associate when he was named "Young Executive of the Year."

Mr. Speaker, Todd recently sold his regional business operations to the second largest retailer in the country, giving him the financial freedom to pursue his passion to help others.

One of his major philanthropic initiatives has been to assist his friend, Gary Marino, to help Americans children and adults with problems of obesity and poor nutrition. Todd is funding the making of a major motion picture which focuses on Gary's life story and on his "Million Calorie March" from Florida to Boston in which took place in 2005.

Working with opera star Andrea Delgadice, Todd also founded the Todd G. Patkin Opportunity Performing Art Center. It brings the highest quality vocal, dance and acting in-

struction to its students, many of whom are from the less-advantaged areas of Brockton, Massachusetts, and are receiving full scholarships because of their economic need.

Todd recently made a substantial contribution to the Boston Medical Center for its Todd and Yadira Patkin Sickle Cell Anemia Clinic. He has also provided significant financial support to the Boston chapter of the Anti-Defamation League, where he and Andrew Tarsy will be managing a new initiative to combat bigotry and intolerance in greater Boston.

Todd has had a positive impact internationally as well, Mr. Speaker. He supports two charities in the State of Israel—the Jewish National Fund, which is chaired by Ronald Lauder, and the Yemin Orde Youth Village headed by Chaim Peri. The village is perhaps the most advanced orphanage in Israel and the world. It focuses on helping children, who frequently have been orphaned under dev-

astating circumstances, to become happy and productive members of society. Today over two-thirds of the 300 children in the village are Jews of Ethiopian descent.

Todd was the first philanthropist in September of this year to provide one million dollars to the Jewish National Fund to help it deal with some 2,500 displaced people who left the Gaza when the Israeli government left that area. The Israeli government was unable to assist them since these families failed to provide information to the government about their assistance needs.

Mr. Speaker, Todd Patkin is a remarkable man, whose philanthropic efforts give me great hope for the next generation of leaders in our country who are now emerging. I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to him. Todd has set a remarkable example that I hope many other young leaders will follow.