

PHU would need in the 35th minute. Josh Roberts played a cross in from the right flank that Starikov and Miller both went up for. Starikov just got a piece of the ball and it deflected right to a waiting Eby.

"I'd barely scored all year and to get the first goal of the state championship is just crazy," Eby said. "This feels amazing."

Harrington put PHU up 2-0 in the 38th minute with his sixth strike of the season. Kamara got his head on a strong throw in from Max Venker, sending it toward the middle of the box. The ball fell into a scramble of legs and squirted free right to Harrington, who was running full speed from midfield and the senior defender squarely drilled it into upper left corner.

"The ball kind of fumbled out while I was running up," Harrington said. "And it was just right there."

Hileman was brilliant in goal, making eight saves. The senior got tremendous help from fullbacks Nate Wysk, Levi Curnutte, Jamison Sweat and Harrington, shutting out an offense that featured 49-goal scorer Pascal Milien.

"Can't end a season any better than two goose eggs," Hileman said.

And what PHU win would be complete without a strike from Starikov? The junior transfer from California banged home his 43rd goal of the season in the 70th minute.

"Eugene wouldn't let the game end without getting one," Mannino said. "He wanted to be the last straw that broke their back and he did it."

ASSURED FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for assured funding for the veterans' health care. For too long, funding for the critical services needed by our veterans has been subject to the political whims of Congress and the Administration and budgetary schemes intended to hide inefficiencies and misplaced priorities. With a new generation of veterans returning home from their duty overseas, we must ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs has the resources necessary to honor the promises we have made to our veterans.

Last year, the Administration admitted that it had underestimated the number of servicemen and women requiring medical treatment upon return from their missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. Within one week, the Administration begrudgingly reported that the Department of Veterans Affairs was \$1 billion short of being able to fulfill its obligations to veterans for Fiscal Year 2005, and would be \$2.6 billion short of fulfilling its obligations for Fiscal Year 2006 without Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bills.

Efforts to fully restore funding were initially stymied by denial and vain attempts to save face by those who had condemned attempts to provide adequate funding to the VA during the traditional appropriations process. What should have been a quick fix to an embarrassing problem turned into a drawn out negotiation battle between those who argued that the VA needed only the barest minimum sum of money to carry out its mission and those

who demanded additional funding to guarantee veterans' health care would not be interrupted. Once again, veterans' healthcare was left in limbo while the Congressional Leadership played politics.

In the face of growing public outrage, the funding shortfall was eventually restored. But, it appears that we have learned nothing from the preventable incident. Yet again, veterans' health care will be subject to the lengthy, political appropriations process and the Administration's request again shortchanges veterans.

Mr. Speaker, our veterans dutifully and courageously honored their commitment to our Nation. Now, it is our turn to keep our promises. American veterans deserve better than to have their healthcare in constant jeopardy. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting assured funding for veterans healthcare so that those who have served will always have the care they need when they need it. We can, and must, do better for our nation's veterans. With the most sincere gratitude for all that American veterans have done to protect our freedom.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this first day of National Kidney Month to recognize the efforts of numerous dedicated individuals, many in this body, who work not only to increase awareness about the devastating effects of kidney disease, but who also look for ways to eradicate this debilitating disease once and for all.

Today, more than 400,000 Americans are living with the wretched pain and horrible inconvenience of kidney failure, leaving them dependent upon life-saving dialysis three to four times each week. Twenty million more have Chronic Kidney Disease, where patients experience a gradual deterioration of kidney function, the end result of which is kidney failure.

The leading causes of these diseases are diabetes and high blood pressure, which disproportionately affect African Americans and Latinos. Diabetes occurs at twice the rate in the African American community as it does in white Americans. As of 2002, two million Latino adults had been diagnosed with diabetes. High blood pressure is also more prevalent in these communities. In fact, one in three African American adults are affected by high blood pressure. According to the American Heart Association, the prevalence of hypertension in African Americans in the United States is among the highest in the world.

Both Chronic Kidney Disease and kidney failure disproportionately affect African Americans and Latinos. African Americans make up about 13 percent of the U.S. population but comprise 32 percent of patients treated for kidney failure, giving them a kidney failure rate that is 4.2 times greater than that of white Americans. Among patients with diabetes, Latinos are between 4.5 and 6.6 times more likely to develop kidney disease than non-Hispanic white Americans.

Given that early kidney disease has no symptoms, most people do not realize that

they are in danger of kidney failure. Therefore, it is critically important for all of us, whether it be members of Congress, health organizations or our extended families, to do our best to increase awareness of the dangers of kidney disease and encourage our family members, our friends and our neighbors who have high blood pressure and diabetes to ask their doctors to run simple blood and urine tests that can detect potential problems.

The good news is that once diagnosed, patients can receive high quality care. Individuals with kidney disease who are able to obtain treatment early experience a higher quality of life and are able to maintain more of their day-to-day activities, including keeping their jobs. This is a situation to which an ounce of prevention results in a gallon of future savings, both in quality of life and in hard dollars for individuals and for the government.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the goals set forth in observance of National Kidney Month, for we must continue to raise awareness about this important issue and to show support for Americans living with kidney disease. But, I am concerned that in an environment in which our budgetary priorities include cutting funding for the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease to the tune of \$20 million in fiscal year 2006 and '07, we are not doing enough to thwart the increase in kidney failure and the conditions from which it results. We cannot ignore the human suffering and financial consequences of kidney failure. Our failure to make this disease a major legislative priority will cost us greatly in the future.

BUCK O'NEILL SHOULD BE ADMITTED TO THE BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I was sorely disappointed recently to learn that the Baseball Hall of Fame failed to vote to induct John Jordan "Buck" O'Neill into its ranks.

Born the grandson of slaves, Buck joined the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro League in 1938. He remained in Kansas City with the Monarchs for 17 spectacular years, 10 as a player and 7 as manager. During this time he was named an all-star three times as a player, served 2 years with the United States Navy, and led the Monarchs to four league titles as a manager, all the while facing the harshness of separation and discrimination in a country that was still segregated. In 1962, Buck broke an important barrier, by being named the first African-American coach in the Major Leagues by the Chicago Cubs. After 33 years with the Cubs, Buck returned home in 1988 to scout for the Kansas City Royals. He currently serves as chairman of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, a continuing demonstration of his love for the game of baseball and for his commitment to the essential role that the Negro Leagues played in the integration of both American sport and American society.

During his time in Kansas City, Buck has taught the citizens of the Kansas City metropolitan region about the importance of determination and resolve in the face of hostility, in

addition to showing us the importance of family, friendship, happiness and history. Buck taught us about baseball. But more importantly, Buck taught us about life. He is a wonderful role model, and I thank him for his contributions to the Kansas City metropolitan region and to our United States of America. As Kansas City, Missouri, Mayor Kay Barnes was quoted as saying in this morning's Kansas City Star, "I'm terribly disappointed. I think it was a mistake that he has not been chosen. However, we all love him in Kansas City, and I believe that all around the country people recognize the contribution he has made to baseball in general and to the Negro Baseball League history."

Buck O'Neill, you will always be a charter member of the Kansas City Hall of Fame.

**AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO
AWARD A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD
MEDAL TO THE TUSKEGEE AIR-
MEN**

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1259, a resolution to honor the Tuskegee Airmen. I would also like to express my appreciation for their heroism and bravery. These men deserve the Nation's highest honor for their courage and patriotism.

In July 1941, 13 young Americans began military flight training at the Tuskegee Army Air Field in Tuskegee, AL. Five of those 13 young men completed training and received their Army Air Corps silver pilot wings, becoming our Nation's first African-American military fighter pilots. They would later be known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

Between 1941 and 1946, 1992 pilots graduated at Tuskegee Army Air Field, with 450 of those serving during World War II in either the famed 99th Fighter Squadron or the 332nd Fighter Group. Both units, heralded for their bravery and tenacity, received more than one Presidential Unit Citation for exemplary tactical air support and aerial combat. The group also felt the price of war, losing 150 pilots while in training or on combat flights.

It has been said that the Tuskegee Airmen faced two wars—one against a military force overseas and the other against racism and bigotry at home and abroad. Yet, in the face of these challenges, they accepted their country's call to service and fought heroically in great battles for freedom.

I am honored to represent 3 of these courageous individuals: Mr. O. Oliver Goodall of Alhambra, CA; Mr. Andrew Jack Simon of South Pasadena, CA; and Mr. LeRoy Criss of Pasadena, CA. They received their training and joined the ranks of Tuskegee Airmen in 1942 and 1943. Today, I honor Mr. Goodall, Mr. Simon, Mr. Criss, and all other Tuskegee Airmen who served our country with valor and distinction.

**HONORING THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES,
FRANK MCKENNA**

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the outgoing Canadian Ambassador to the United States, Frank McKenna. After a successful tenure in office, the Ambassador is returning home to New Brunswick.

Due to his commitment to solving problems and his indefatigable energy, Ambassador McKenna has presided over a number of important achievements during his time in Washington. I have had the opportunity to work closely with Ambassador McKenna in the last year on issues important to both our countries. We have agreed that the longest undefended border in the world must remain strong and secure, but not become a barrier to travelers, businesses, and border communities in both of our great nations.

Mr. Speaker, Canada is our Nation's largest trading partner, with some \$1.2 billion worth of goods and services crossing the border between our two countries each day. Ambassador McKenna and I have worked together to strengthen this relationship, and to advocate for commonsense solutions that both improve border security while also facilitating trade and travel.

Indeed, through his successful careers in public life, law, business, and in diplomacy, Ambassador McKenna has understood the depth and breadth of relations between Canadians and Americans. He has employed his experience, tact and plain-spoken pragmatism to ensure that the occasional difference in priorities of our two governments does not get in the way of this friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Ambassador McKenna for his friendship, and his service to Canada and the U.S. I wish him well on his future endeavors, and hope that we will get together again soon over a meal of fried chicken and rice pudding.

**CONGRATULATING MY FRIEND
RAUL VARGAS ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM OVER 30 YEARS OF
SERVICE TO OUR NATION'S
LATINO STUDENTS**

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor an old friend and fellow educator, Mr. Raul Vargas, on the occasion of his retirement. For over three decades, Raul has guided young men and women in realizing their academic goals through his pioneering efforts in higher education accessibility for Latino students in southern California and across the country.

Born in Lordsburg, New Mexico, Raul moved with his family to Miami, Arizona after his father's death. It was in this small mining town that I first met Raul, and can recall many fond memories growing up with Raul and his siblings, Felipa, Alfredo, Alfonso, Elvia, and

Elisa. At Miami High I learned of Raul's ability as a basketball player and a student.

During the summer of 1964, I was again reacquainted with Raul at Arizona State University. We decided to become roommates and moved in with Leo Gutierrez and Bob Venegas to Contempo West, a.k.a., sin city. It was during this time that I assisted Raul with his study habits and he assisted me with my social life. During this time he met a young lady from Wickenburg, Arizona who would later become his wife. We remained roommates until December 1965 when I left to marry Verma.

In 1972, Raul accepted a position at the University of Southern California (USC) as Executive Director of the Office for Mexican American Programs, marking the beginning of over thirty years as a leading administrator as part of the USC family. It was there that Raul and eight other USC alumni founded the USC Mexican American Alumni Association (MAAA) in 1974. The MAAA was established to be a vehicle of support for higher Latino enrollment at USC, providing tuition assistance to undergraduate, graduate, medical, dental, and law school students. The overwhelming success of the program under Raul's leadership, is evident not only in its more than 5800 scholarships awarded totaling \$11.1 million, but also in its program being replicated in institutes of higher learning across the country, including ASU.

When ASU joined the PAC-10, the ASU Hispanic Alumni began a rivalry with USC's MAAA. We commissioned a "menu pot" that would go to the winning alumni association after the ASU/USC football game. As the ASU Hispanics learned of the USC MAAA program, they invited Raul to meet with Dr. Russell Nelson, the ASU President, to assist in organizing a Hispanic scholarship program similar to USC MAAA. With Dr. Nelson's agreement, the Los Diablos, an ASU Hispanic scholarship program, was born. To date, the ASU Los Diablos Scholarship continues to assist Latino students at ASU. After seeing the USC Hispanic Convocation organized by USC MAAA during a visit to USC, the ASU Hispanic students also organized a similar Hispanic Convocation honoring ASU Hispanic graduates.

Mr. Speaker, it is with immense admiration and privilege that I ask my colleagues to join Raul's many friends and family in recognizing my dear friend in his lifetime of unwavering service to our nation's Latino students. We hope that Raul will enjoy this well-deserved retirement, to play golf and travel with his wife Marcia. He will also be able to spend more time with his son Cesar, daughter Tracey, and granddaughter Alexis. Raul, thank you and congratulations my friend!

DEDICATION OF THE ST. PETERSBURG PARKWAY/WILLIAM C. CRAMER MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, today the St. Petersburg Parkway/William C. Cramer Memorial Highway will be dedicated in St. Petersburg, Florida. Bill became a trusted friend to many