

based activities to family members who live in the Historic Mount Vernon area. The clubhouse and marina facility are located where Dogue Creek joins the Potomac River. The club hosts many official and unofficial social and service-oriented events throughout the year. In season, it supports an active swim team, a power fleet, and a sail fleet. The club actively contributes to the boating community by serving as the home base of two Coast Guard Auxiliary Power Squadrons. It hosts meetings of local Coast Guard, County Police and Emergency Responders for Homeland Security training and communications drills.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Mount Vernon Yacht Club on its proud history of promoting safe boating, the sport of sailing, and camaraderie among members of the Mount Vernon Yacht Club through its activities of organized club racing. On the occasion of this 50th annual Commissioning Day, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging this outstanding and distinguished organization.

TRIBUTE TO MONROE BASKETBALL PROGRAM

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the undefeated national basketball champion Monroe College Lady Mustangs. On Saturday, March 18, the Lady Mustangs (36–0) beat Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) 100–70 to become 2006 National Junior College Athletic Association, Division III National Champions. Monroe's men's team, led by Coach Jeff Brustad, also had a successful season, compiling a record of 35–5 and finishing 8th in the national tournament.

There is an old saying: "Everyone has the desire to win, but only champions have the desire to prepare." Under the outstanding leadership of Coach Seth Goodman, the Lady Mustangs worked tirelessly in the off-season to prepare themselves physically and mentally for the season ahead. Their dedication and unrivaled work ethic helped to ensure that their third consecutive appearance in the tournament was a charm.

The Lady Mustangs earned Monroe's first ever national championship in athletics with a tenacious defense and potent offense, a combination that worked for them all season long. Although the tournament was played in front of MVCC's hometown fans in Utica, New York, the Lady Mustangs were not intimidated—they promptly quieted the crowd with stifling defense, holding their opponents to only 2 points for the first seven minutes of the game.

Mr. Speaker, the success that these young ladies enjoyed on the court is not only a reflection of their skills with a basketball, but more importantly, a reflection of their character. To reach the level of competition that they have achieved, one must acquire certain qualities that will not only help in sports but in life as well; qualities such as discipline, patience, and perseverance. While I am excited that they have proved to be champions on the court, I am more excited to know that they have developed the skills necessary for them to become champions in life.

I want to compliment everyone associated with Monroe College Women's and Men's Basketball for the courage and class they exhibited throughout the entire season. Athletics is about much more than winning. It is about learning how to work with others to overcome adversity. The men's and women's basketball programs have shown that they have learned this valuable lesson. I am very proud of Monroe Basketball for the great strides it has made in the pursuit of excellence. May these programs continue to serve as an example of what heights can be reached when you combine patience, hard work, and dedication.

For their strong work ethic and mental toughness on and off the court, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Monroe Lady Mustangs for winning the 2006 NJCAA, Division III National Championship and to congratulate the Monroe Men's team for an impressive run at the national title.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY WEILER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Henry Weiler for his many years of public service to Chautauqua County.

Mr. Weiler served two terms as county clerk and has continued to work as a part-time court office assistant in the Supreme and County courts. Mr. Weiler was recently honored at the Chautauqua County's annual Law Day celebration for his many years of service to the courts.

Mr. Weiler, as been very active in his community as well. He is involved with the County Historical Society, the American Legion, the Jamestown Harmony Express Barbershop Singers and the local Masonic Lodges. His involvement in the community has helped maintain organizations that strive to improve the quality of life for the citizens of his community.

Mr. Weiler's public service and community involvement has been an inspiration, that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GERALD BURKIN AND LYNN MAYERS- GERRY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gerald Burkin and Lynn Mayers-Gerry who are American Medical Response "Star of Life" recipients.

The American Medical Response "Star of Life" is a special program. Its sole purpose is to publicly recognize and celebrate the achievements of all people working in the selfless and heroic world of ambulance service providers. The "Star of Life" Program seeks to honor outstanding individuals as a thank you for the service, sacrifice and inspiration they bring to all of us.

Gerald and Lynn are heroes in many ways, they have both served as mentors to new employees and have promoted positive changes

in the local health care community. Gerald and Lynn have also risked their own safety in the line of duty. While Gerald, Lynn, and an intern were setting up some warning devices, another vehicle struck Gerald and Lynn and they both sustained serious injuries. Even pinned between the ambulance and the vehicle, they maintained contact with the dispatch center via radio and cell phone.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Gerald Burkin and Lynn Mayers-Gerry for their being awarded the American Medical Response "Star of Life". Gerald and Lynn are also to be commended for their sense of duty and dedication to improving the local health care community. I wish to congratulate and thank them both.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CAPTAIN BRIAN LETENDRE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Marine Captain Brian Letendre, one of the true heroes of today's ongoing war against terrorism, and to recognize his service to our Nation.

Captain Letendre was born in California at Stanford University Hospital, but was raised all of his life in Woodbridge, VA. In 1996, Captain Letendre graduated from Potomac High School where he was an exceptional student and captain of the varsity soccer team.

Captain Letendre received his degree in Computer Science from Milligan College, where he met his future wife, Autumn Crane. Captain Letendre then attended Basic Officer School and the Infantry Officer's Course in Quantico, VA. After completing these schools, he and Autumn were married. Captain Letendre was then assigned to the First Battalion, Second Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division. He quickly embarked on a six-month deployment to Okinawa, Japan as an infantry platoon commander, and after returning to the United States briefly, was assigned to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to provide security and guard the terrorist prisoners being held there.

Captain Letendre's battalion was then deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His battalion fought their way north into Iraq after crossing the Kuwait border and were heavily engaged in combat, particularly at the infamous battle of An Nasiriyah during the early days of the liberation. Captain Letendre was decorated with the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with a Combat "V" for valor, for his heroic actions during combat operations.

Captain Letendre's wife, Autumn, gave birth to their son Dillon the day before Captain Letendre crossed the line of departure into battle. A year after returning from combat, Captain Letendre was assigned to the Marine Forces Reserve's Inspector and Instructor Staff, 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Plainville, Connecticut. He was promoted to the rank of Captain on January 1, 2005.

After two years serving stateside, Captain Letendre bravely and selflessly volunteered to join a newly formed elite 11-man unit that was

designed to advise and instruct an Iraqi Battalion in combat operations. Tragically, on May 3, 2006, while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in the Al Anbar province of Iraq, Captain Letendre gave his last full measure for our Nation when he was killed in action by a suicide vehicle borne improvised explosive device. His valor and service cost him his life, but his sacrifice will have provided freedom from tyranny and oppression for many around the world.

Captain Letendre's hard work and perseverance contributed greatly to his unit's successes and placed him among many of the great heroes and citizens that have paid the ultimate price for their country. Throughout his career, Captain Letendre earned a series of awards that testify to the dedication and devotion he held for his fellow Marines, the Marine Corps, and his country. These awards include: the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with a Combat "V"; the Purple Heart; the Combat Action Ribbon; the Army Achievement Medal; the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; the Iraqi Campaign Medal; the Presidential Unit Citation (Navy); the Joint Meritorious Unit Award; the National Defense Service Medal; the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (3rd Award); the Navy Unit Commendation as well as the expert pistol badge and sharpshooter rifle badge. He was also a graduate of the Survival, Escape, Resistance, and Evasion (SERE) School and was a Green Belt Martial Arts Instructor.

Several times throughout his life, Captain Letendre could have chosen the easier or more comfortable path, but he didn't. He felt a call to something much greater than himself at an early age and followed his heart to where he felt he could help make this world a better place. Because of men like him, this world is safer and more stable, and that is why he is a true hero.

In an e-mail two days before his death, he wrote that he missed his wife and son dearly, but was proud to be over there serving the country. Captain Letendre was an exceptional Marine officer, but most importantly he was a wonderful and caring father, husband, brother, son, and friend to many. And that is how he will be remembered.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon my colleagues to remember in our minds and in our hearts the bravery and sacrifice of Captain Brian Letendre, as well as that of all the men and women of the armed services who honorably protect the American people.

SENIOR MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, the shortage of mental health professionals in rural areas has contributed to disproportionately high rates of depression and suicide. In my home State of Wyoming, the suicide rate is twice the national average. Wyoming's seniors in particular are seriously underserved, in part because they have limited options under the Medicare program.

Currently, the only mental health providers allowed to be reimbursed by Medicare are

psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and clinical nurse specialists. In some communities, however, there may only be a marriage and family therapist (MFT) or licensed professional counselor (LPC) available.

The bill I am introducing today will give seniors more options for mental health care by allowing MFTs and LPCs to provide Medicare services at the same reimbursement rates as social workers. MFTs and LPCs are as qualified and able as other mental health providers covered by Medicare, and should be treated accordingly.

Under the Senior Mental Health Access Improvement Act, MFTs and LPCs would be able to provide outpatient psychotherapy and inpatient hospital services. It also allows them to provide Medicare services in Skilled Nurses Facilities, rural health clinics and hospice programs.

We still have a long way to go in improving access to medical care in rural areas like Wyoming. Getting our seniors the mental health care they need is an important step in the right direction.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT WILLIAM "BILL" BROWN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant William "Bill" Brown for his over 21 years of dedicated service with the Boulder City police force.

Bill has truly acted in all capacities in the Boulder City Police Department. Having started as a "beat cop" of the street he rose through the ranks to serve as fill-in chief. Greatly respected by the community and his fellow officers, Bill was an asset to the department and performed his duties with skill and professionalism. He was so well respected by his fellow citizens that he was often called while off duty for advice and counsel.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the career of Lieutenant William "Bill" Brown. He epitomized what it is to be a community oriented public servant. Bill's dedication to his fellow officers and the community as a whole truly reflect the best of how First Responders serve. I wish him the best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my fellow Americans and my colleagues in Congress to celebrate one of the most honorable and significant professions. National Teacher Day is an opportunity for us to recognize the extraordinary effort of our Nation's educators and reflect on the profound impact of their work.

As a former teacher and school administrator, I am particularly aware of the challenges that educators face, such as overcrowded and under funded schools. Teachers

are more highly educated than ever and bring a higher level of expertise to their work than their predecessors. The majority of American teachers have at least one advanced degree and 49 percent have at least 15 years of experience in the classroom. Teacher salaries, however, have not increased commensurate with greater teaching experience and higher levels of education.

Low salaries and general discontent with working conditions drive capable, experienced teachers out of the profession, and by 2014, schools nationwide will need another 3.9 million teachers. The numbers of male teachers and teachers of color does not reflect gender and racial trends in the general population. An increase in salaries for all teachers, as well as better recruitment and retention policies for minority and male teachers may help to rectify this problem.

I hope that National Teacher Day will serve as a reminder to Americans of the crucial role that teachers play in our society. It is imperative that we increase funding for education and make teacher's salaries commensurate with their experience, education, and hard work. Teachers help to shape future generations, and they deserve both our respect and our continuing support. Please join me in thanking them on this special day.

RECOGNIZING BOULDER CITY HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY CHEERLEADING SQUAD

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Boulder City High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad for their win at the Inaugural Silver State Spirit Championship this past March.

The championship consisted of four divisions: 1A through 4A, and teams in each division performed a three minute routine judged on originality, appearance, smiling, difficulty, precision and recovery. This event is the only State high school cheerleading championship offered in Nevada.

The members of the Boulder City High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad are to be commended for their success and hard work. Cheerleading is a rather unique athletic event, whereas most high school sports compete in only one season, cheerleading encompasses two. Their time and dedication is reflected in their success.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the Boulder City High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad for their win at the Silver State Spirit Championship. I applaud them for their victory and wish them the best in future seasons.

TRIBUTE TO DR. CHARLIE POWELL ALBURY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Dr. Charlie Powell Albury of Miami, Florida on her installation as the 40th Imperial Commandress