

TRIBUTE TO THE CENTAURI HIGH
SCHOOL FALCONS GIRLS

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and applaud the Centauri High School Falcons Girls Basketball team for their thrilling victory over the Denver Christian High Crusaders in the Colorado State Championship this past March. This riveting victory marks Centauri High School's second girls state championship, one undoubtedly deserved by this group of hard-working and devoted players.

Displaying their tenacious defense, the Falcons forced 31 turnovers against the Crusaders. Even though they were down by 8 points at the end of the first half, Centauri High proved its maturity and experience, regrouping and coming back in the second half to win the game 62 to 57.

The Falcons are soaring high today not only because they are great individuals, but because they are great athletes who work together. Led by coach Dave Forster, teammates Janette McCarroll, Amanda Gylling, Marcie Cooley, Wynona Miller, Lucia Muniz, Jeree Booth, Krystina George, Raina Gylling, Venessa Jaramillo, Lisa McCarroll, Lindy Norton, Amanda Ruybal, and Lacey Smith all displayed the determination, focus, and teamwork needed to defeat their challenging opponent. The Falcons' victory was based on a combination of accurate shooting, powerful defense, and masterful passing. Throughout the intense second half, the team never lost its focus or concentration, sinking pivotal free throws and continually executing plays with perfection.

The Falcons' ability to work together is a true inspiration to any person who has ever been on a team or worked with others. Once again, congratulations to these amazing student athletes and all of Centauri High School on their great victory!

TRIBUTE TO DR. DON MICHAEL
RANDEL

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer recognition to Dr. Don Michael Randel, the outgoing president of the University of Chicago. Dr. Randel has presided over the University of Chicago since 2000, and he has been instrumental in strengthening the humanities and the arts on the campus. Dr. Randel has also been active in overseeing a broad range of interactions with the city of Chicago and further strengthening the University's programs in the physical and biomedical sciences and its relationship with the Argonne National Laboratory. He also led the Chicago Initiative, an ongoing campaign for \$2 billion, the largest in the University's history, which has raised more than \$1.3 billion toward this goal.

Dr. Randel came to Chicago after 32 years at Cornell University, where he served as a faculty member in the department of music and in many administrative posts, including

department chair, vice-provost, and associate dean and then dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He became provost of Cornell University in 1995.

Dr. Randel is one of the nation's leading musicologists and served as the editor of the *Journal of the American Musicology Society*. He also is editor of the *Harvard Dictionary of Music* 4th ed., published in 2003, the *Harvard Biographical Dictionary of Music*, published in 1996, and the *Harvard Concise Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, published in 1999.

During Dr. Randel's presidency, substantial improvements to the University of Chicago's facilities were completed, including the Palevsky residence halls, the Ratner Athletic Center, the new Graduate School of Business and the \$200 million Center for Integrative Sciences, the largest building in the University's history. The University also completed several joint programs with the city along the Midway, including opening a highly successful charter school, which has now been joined by another, under the auspices of the University's Center for Urban School Improvement. The University also has launched the Collegiate Scholars Program, a College bridge program aimed at preparing Chicago public school students for elite academic institutions.

Dr. Randel will leave a long-lasting impact on the First Congressional District by encouraging a greater awareness of the value of diversity. Speaking on the importance of combating prejudice, Dr. Randel noted the related virtue of diversity, both of ideas and of experience when he commented, "No part of the University community can think of itself as immune from this concern for diversity. An unprecedented number of programs are in place to increase diversity in the functioning of our academic programs and in the ways in which we carry on our business affairs and our relations with the neighborhood and city of which we are a part. Each of us must believe that embracing—not merely tolerating—diversity is a personal obligation."

Mr. Speaker, the University of Chicago, as well as the city itself, will be losing an exceptional, first-class leader, but we want to wish Dr. Randel well on all of his future endeavors, as well as thank him for his many contributions to the school and to the great city of Chicago.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4297,
TAX INCREASE PREVENTION
AND RECONCILIATION ACT OF
2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my opposition to the conference report on H.R. 4297, the FY06 tax reconciliation bill.

As I stated in December 2005, when I voted against the House tax reconciliation bill, I do not oppose tax cuts, and in a more stable fiscal climate I would support reduced tax rates for capital gains and dividend income. What I do oppose is borrowing money to pay for tax cuts, particularly for tax cuts that do not expire for another 3 years. According to the Joint

Committee on Taxation, the conference report before us today would cost approximately \$91 billion over the next 10 years, and would raise taxes by approximately \$22 billion over the same period. Considering the state of our current fiscal situation, this conference report would do more harm than good at this time.

In 2001, I was one of only 28 House Democrats to vote for President Bush's 2001 tax cuts that reduced marginal income tax rates. Since 2001, however, our country's fiscal condition has dramatically reversed course. In 2001, the Congressional Budget Office [CBO] predicted that the 10-year budget surplus would be \$5.6 trillion. That projected 10-year surplus of \$5.6 trillion has deteriorated into a projected \$3.9 trillion deficit during the same period. In FY 2005, the Federal Government ran a budget deficit of \$319 billion, the third largest deficit in our Nation's history.

Further, on February 17, 2004, the national debt of the United States exceeded \$7 trillion for the first time in our Nation's history. On October 21, 2005, the national debt of the United States exceeded \$8 trillion for the first time in our Nation's history. That is an increase of \$1 trillion in our national debt over the last 2 years. It took our country 193 years, from 1787 to 1980, to accumulate an additional \$1 trillion in debt.

Unfortunately, our national debt is only getting worse. When I voted against the House tax reconciliation bill in December, our national debt was \$8.1 trillion. Today, our national debt is \$8.4 trillion, an increase of \$300 billion in only 5 months. An \$8.4 trillion national debt comes down to approximately \$28,000 per person in our country. That is simply unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, the conference report on H.R. 4297 extends several tax cut measures, including reduced rates for capital gains and dividend income and relief from the alternative minimum tax, that I support and would vote for in a balanced, revenue neutral measure. I would also support several provisions, including the above-the-line deduction for higher education and classroom expenses and the research and development credit, that were included in the House tax reconciliation bill and are not included in this conference report. I hope that extensions of these provisions in the tax code will be included in a future tax measure this year.

Further, while the conference report includes multiyear extensions of lowered capital gains and dividend tax rates, it includes only a one-year extension of relief from the alternative minimum tax [AMT]. I strongly support AMT relief, and voted for H.R. 4096, the Stealth Tax Relief Act, on December 7, 2005, which extended AMT relief and indexed it for inflation. The AMT is the most significant looming tax concern for middle-class American families; if AMT relief is allowed to lapse, the number of taxpayers subject to the AMT will increase from 3 million in 2004 to 21 million this year. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that extending AMT relief and indexing it for inflation would reduce Federal revenue by \$191 billion over the next 5 years. This is an immediate problem that Congress and the administration need to work together to fix in a responsible, bipartisan, and long-term manner, before millions of Americans are hit with large, unexpected tax increases.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to work with my colleagues in both parties to advance commonsense, bipartisan approaches to solving

our country's fiscal problems. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to act as soon as possible, in a fiscally sound way, to prevent serious consequences for current and future generations.

**FREEDOM FOR EMILIO LEYVA
PÉREZ**

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Emilio Leyva Pérez, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Leyva Pérez is a pro-democracy activist, President of the opposition group Hard Front Line and a delegate of the pro-freedom coalition Assembly to Promote Civil Society. Because of Mr. Leyva Pérez's steadfast conviction in human liberty and his constant work to bring freedom to an island enslaved by the nightmare that is the Castro regime, he has been a constant target of the dictatorship.

Amnesty International classified him as a prisoner of conscience after he was arrested by the terrorist regime on February 22, 2002. He was locked in the totalitarian gulag for over 2 years, without ever being convicted of a supposed "crime."

The U.S. Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices—2005, describes the deplorable conditions in the totalitarian gulag, "Prison conditions continued to be harsh and life threatening. Conditions in detention facilities also were harsh. Prison authorities frequently beat, neglected, isolated, and denied medical treatment to detainees and prisoners, particularly those convicted of political crimes or those who persisted in expressing their views . . . Prisoners sometimes were held in "punishment cells," which usually were located in the basement of a prison, with continuous semi-dark conditions, no available water, and only a hole for a toilet."

Despite over 2 years in this hellish gulag, Mr. Leyva Pérez never wavered in his commitment to freedom for all Cubans. As part of the tyrant's heinous July 2005 crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy opponents, on July 13, 2005, Mr. Leyva Pérez and other opposition activists were detained whilst commemorating the "13 de Marzo" tugboat sinking of 1994, when the dictatorship murdered dozens of unarmed men, women and children. Once again, the tyranny has locked Mr. Leyva Pérez in the totalitarian gulag awaiting "trial."

Mr. Leyva Pérez is one of the many heroes of the peaceful Cuban democratic movement who are locked in the dungeons of the dictatorship for their beliefs. They are symbols of freedom and democracy who will always be remembered when freedom reigns again in Cuba. His bravery and courage in defiance of tyranny serve as a tragic reminder that the totalitarian gulags are full of men and women of all backgrounds and ages who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Leyva Pérez is suffering in a grotesque gulag because he believes in freedom, democracy and human rights. My colleagues, it is categorically unacceptable that peaceful pro-democracy activists are languishing in the depraved prisons of tyrants.

**TRIBUTE TO FATHER BRENDAN
NALLY**

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Father Brendan Nally. I am proud to join with the members of Our Lady of the Rosary in Clinton, Massachusetts in saluting him with a special celebration of his retirement as well as the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination to the priesthood in the Catholic Church.

Since 1989, Father Nally has served as Pastor of "Holy Rosary," as the Church located in the Acre District of Clinton is known. As the one priest assigned to the Parish during the past 17 years, Father Nally has singularly ministered to the spiritual needs of all the parishioners—saying all the daily and weekly Masses, performing all the religious sacraments and ceremonies including baptisms, weddings and funerals, visiting the sick and elderly, as well as performing all the administrative tasks and duties required for the operation of the Church. Throughout this period, Father Nally has endeared himself not only to the many families and members of his Parish but to countless citizens of the Town of Clinton.

As a recognized community leader, Father Nally has been a strong supporter of the local youth of the town. In addition to coordinating and overseeing a strong religious education program for the children of Holy Rosary, he has ensured that a program of other youth activities be maintained. He has also been a loyal fan and booster of the local school athletic teams, attending and cheering on the town's athletes to victory. When the Clinton Public Schools needed a clergy member to participate in the Baccalaureate Exercises for graduating seniors, Father Nally was there. Whenever other organizations needed help, Father Nally was only too glad to be of assistance—as, for example, when a local Alcoholics Anonymous chapter or an Irish step-dancing group needed a meeting place and the parish hall was made available to them.

As if he didn't already have enough duties and obligations to fulfill during his busy days, Father Nally also answered the call and served for a number of years as Chaplain to the Massachusetts Department of Corrections Pre-Release Center in the nearby town of Lancaster.

Prior to his most recent assignment as Pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary, Father Nally had served as a Pastor and Associate Pastor at a number of other Parishes throughout the Diocese of Worcester in Central Massachusetts. Additionally, his priestly service included periods as a faculty member and Headmaster at several Catholic High Schools in the region.

A native of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, Father Nally attended LaSalette Preparatory Seminary and LaSalette Major Seminary in Ipswich, Massachusetts and was ordained a Priest on May 5, 1956.

The 50th Anniversary of Father Nally's Ordination as a Priest, and his remarkable record of outstanding service to the Church, certainly deserves to be applauded and celebrated. His rich legacy of religious ministry and service has touched and improved the lives of so

many people, and I am truly honored to offer my personal thanks and congratulations. I know that my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to this wonderful man of God and in extending very best wishes for a retirement blessed with continued health and happiness to Father Brendan Nally.

**NATIONAL CHILDCARE PROVIDER
APPRECIATION**

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize May 12th, 2006 as National Childcare Provider Appreciation Day. Child care providers are all too often unsung heroes. Yet early childhood is a critical developmental period for children and it takes a special person to work in this field. The contribution of childcare providers to the quality of family life is certainly deserving of recognition by this body.

Started in 1996 by a group of volunteers, National Childcare Provider Appreciation Day is appropriately celebrated each year on the Friday before Mother's Day. This recognition takes many forms, including state and municipal government proclamations, local media coverage, business and community events, and the personal acknowledgment of providers by parents.

The childcare profession not only plays a critical role in supporting healthy families and children, but is also a key part of the economy. A recent National Child Care Association study shows that there are at least 2.8 million people who earn their living by teaching or caring for young children. It is also estimated that of the 21 million children under age 6 in America, 13 million are in child care at least part-time. An additional 24 million school-age children are in some form of child care outside of school-time.

I am proud to recognize Wyoming childcare providers and their efforts to make Wyoming's bright future even brighter through their dedicated care. In a state with wide open spaces, Wyoming's daycare providers have wide open arms with which they embrace our children to help them grow and prosper.

With that, I commend our nation's childcare providers and invite my colleagues to do the same on National Childcare Provider Appreciation Day.

**STATEMENT HONORING THE TOWN
OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT ON
THE OCCASION OF ITS 200TH AN-
NIVERSARY**

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Town of Canton, Connecticut, on the occasion of its 200th Anniversary on May 20, 2006.

While the Town of Canton officially celebrates its bicentennial on this date, the community that became Canton actually traces its roots as far back as 1737, when it was known