

The United States is spending billions of dollars trying to turn Afghanistan and Iraq—both deep in the throes of civil war—into democratic nations while all but abandoning their peaceful post-Soviet neighbors to the north. Turkmenistan is ready for a new beginning, and the West must finally step up to the plate. To do otherwise would waste a historic opportunity and allow yet another case of popular discontent with an illegitimate government to become an anti-Western lost cause.

A TRIBUTE TO THE NASHVILLE SCRAPPERS

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, it is with honor and great pride that I recognize and congratulate the Nashville Scrappers of Nashville, AR, whose outstanding teamwork and dedication on the football field earned them a Class 4A Arkansas State Title at War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock on December 9, 2006. The Nashville Scrappers embody the spirit of teamwork, determination, and all that defines a champion.

As a parent, I value the important lessons that teamwork teaches our students in pursuit of a lifetime of success. I have long been an advocate of sports and extracurricular activities as they complement academic excellence, inspire leadership, and build character, which better prepare our State's students to face the challenges of the 21st century.

It is a tremendous honor to congratulate the Nashville High School football program on winning the Class 4A Arkansas State Football Championship. I applaud the Nashville Scrappers for their season. This victory is the result of hard work contributed by the players, students, coaching staff, faculty and the community. I salute all who remained focused on this goal and especially the players who rose to the occasion to become State champions. Congratulations Scrappers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. NORWOOD. Madam Speaker, on roll-call No. 24, on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 61, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE DANCE TEAM

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Tennessee Dance Team, located in my District, for winning their first ever Division IA National title.

On January 15th, 2007, the team competed against 17 other Division IA dance teams at

the Universal Dance Associations College Nationals held at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, FL.

The team was awarded an all expenses paid trip to the national competition after placing third in the qualifying round, based on a two minute video they submitted in October, 2006.

Although they placed 1st in semi-finals, the team knew their competitors would step up their performances in the next round. In the final round, Tennessee gave its strongest performance yet, leaving the crowd in awe and leaving no doubt in the minds of the judges who should receive the National title.

The team defeated the four time National Champions, the Minnesota Golden Gopher Dance Team, by a margin of more than 20 points.

The Tennessee dancers worked intensely to reach this never before attained goal, practicing up to three times a day over their holiday break.

The Tennessee Spirit program is the only program in the country to place in the top five in the Cheerleading, Mascot and Dance divisions.

I would also like to congratulate coaches Kelley Eidenmuller, Valerie Baxter and Spirit Coordinator Joy Postell on their exceptional work with this group of dancers.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a recent article from utsports.com regarding the University of Tennessee Dance Team's outstanding achievement.

TENNESSEE DANCE TEAM CAPTURES FIRST NATIONAL CROWN

ORLANDO, Jan. 14, 2007.—Tennessee's long elusive national crown finally found its resting place in Knoxville as Tennessee's Dance team captured its first national crown in commanding fashion in the land of dreams and wishes.

At the Milk House in Orlando, Florida, Tennessee put on a dominating performance before a packed house at the Wide World of Sports Complex. Performing to "Your House" by Alisa Morissette, the dance team performed to an Acapella version of the song and simply rocked the house.

Co-Head Coach Kellie Edenmueller said this team knew this was the material it would take to bring home the national championship.

"We knew from the moment we put this together it had the potential to bring us a national championship. Our girls worked tirelessly and put together a great performance."

Tennessee was not without their fans as more than 150 made their way to the Milk House and turned the old can into a home away from home. It was something this program has sought for almost a decade.

"It is finally a breath of fresh air to win this national title, both from a coaching standpoint and a coordinator of trying to raise the bar," said UT Spirit Coordinator Joy Postell. "Repeatedly these squads have come here and have left disappointed because they did not achieve their goal. To finally achieve the goal, to represent your university and to win the title is breathtaking and ecstatic."

"The feeling I have and pride I have that UT has allowed me to have a phenomenal program to reach out to so many spirit athletes. Not just athletics but in every aspect and to bring notoriety to this university. At Tennessee we work together as a team and cheer, dance, and mascot are all emphasized

as being winners and achievers. Everyone of these teams is very supportive of the other. I am very fortunate to have the tools the university provides me to succeed. For us to reach the top five in every category is both not just a personal goal but a goal of every athlete in this program."

Tennessee was the only program in the nation to place in the top five in the country in Mascot (5th place), Cheer (4th place) and dance again in the Hip-Hop division with a 5th place finish.

Tonight was truly magical and the young women made it happen.

A TRIBUTE TO THE ARKANSAS HIGH RAZORBACKS

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, it is with honor and great pride that I recognize and congratulate the Arkansas High School Razorbacks of Texarkana, AR, whose outstanding teamwork and dedication on the football field earned them a Class 6A Arkansas State Title at War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock on November 25, 2006. The Arkansas High Razorbacks embody the spirit of teamwork, determination, and all that defines a champion.

As a parent, I value the important lessons that teamwork teaches our students in pursuit of a lifetime of success. I have long been an advocate of sports and extracurricular activities as they complement academic excellence, inspire leadership, and build character, which better prepare our state's students to face the challenges of the 21st century.

It is a tremendous honor to congratulate the Arkansas High School football program on winning the Class 6A Arkansas State Football Championship. I applaud the Arkansas High School Razorbacks for their season. This victory is the result of hard work contributed by the players, students, coaching staff, faculty and the community. I salute all who remained focused on this goal and especially the players who rose to the occasion to become State champions. Congratulations Razorbacks!

TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN CANCER FUND FOR CHILDREN AND KIDS CANCER CONNECTION

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the American Cancer Fund for Children and Kids Cancer Connection, located in the 30th Congressional District, which I represent.

Los Angeles mayor Antonio Villaraigosa proclaimed the week of December 11, 2006, as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Week" in the city of Los Angeles. I am pleased to join Mayor Villaraigosa in thanking Steven Firestein, the founder of American Cancer Fund for Children and its sister organization, Kids Cancer Connection, for his wonderful work in assisting children with cancer.

More than 12 years ago, Steven began the American Cancer Fund for Children to provide

vital patient psychosocial services to children undergoing cancer treatment at the Skull Base Institute at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Office Towers in Los Angeles, Mattel Children's Hospital at UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles, and participating hospitals throughout the country.

One of the wonderful services provided through American Cancer Fund for Children is the Magical Caps for Kids program. Hand-made caps and decorated baseball caps are given to children who want to protect their heads following the trauma of chemotherapy, surgery, and radiation. The American Cancer Fund for Children also sponsors Courageous Kid award ceremonies and hospital celebrations in recognition of children's bravery and determination in their struggle against cancer.

As we know, cancer is the leading cause of death by disease among children in the United States. This tragic disease is detected in nearly 11,000 of our Nation's children each year. Steven Firestein and the American Cancer Fund for Children and Kids Cancer Connection are providing critical services and comfort to young patients and their families. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Steven Firestein for his tremendous efforts.

CHOOSE GENEROSITY, NOT
EXCLUSION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, somewhere in Minneapolis or Jackson or Baltimore, somewhere in America today, there is a young couple that is feeling vulnerable. Maybe one has been laid off due to outsourcing, and maybe, the other is working for something close to a minimum wage. They probably have no medical benefits. Today real income is lower for the typical family than in 2000, while the incomes of the wealthiest families have grown significantly. Things are tough for working people, but in America, we often turn to our faith in tough times.

When our couple shows up for worship service, probably on a Sunday, there is no doubt that the preacher will tell them of God's unyielding love. "God loves you." But the next thing the preacher tells them is crucial—not only to the young couple, but to us all. The next message from the preacher may help to shape, not only the next election results, but the political landscape of the Nation.

Will the preacher tell our young couple, "God loves you—but only you and people like you?" Or will the preacher say "God loves you and you must love your neighbors of all colors, cultures, or faiths as yourselves"? One message will lead to be a stinginess of spirit, an exclusion of the "undeserving," and the other will lead to a generosity of spirit and inclusion of all.

In America today, we are encouraged to believe in the myth of scarcity—that there just isn't enough—of anything. But in the story of the miracle of the loaves and fishes, Jesus, who the Muslims called Isa, found himself preaching to 5,000—not including the women by the way—at dinner time, and there didn't appear to be enough food. The disciples said that there were only five barley loaves and two

fish. We just have to send them away hungry. We simply don't have enough. But Jesus took the loaves and the fish and started sharing food. There was enough for everyone. There was more than enough. What was perceived as scarcity was illusory as long as there was sharing, and not hoarding.

The idea here is not that there is a boundless supply of everything. Such an idea leads to waste and dispensability of everything. But the idea is that there is enough.

If scarcity is a myth, then poverty is not necessary. America need not have 37 million Americans living below the poverty line. It is a choice. Hunger is a choice. Exclusion of the stranger, the immigrant, or the darker other is a choice.

We can choose generosity. In America today, we spend more on health care than any other industrialized Nation, yet 46 million people have none. Canada spends half of what we spend and covers everyone. Perfectly? Of, course not. But adequately. That's more than what a lot of people have right now.

We live in a society which says that there is enough for a tax break for the wealthy but not enough for an increase in the minimum wage for national health care. There is enough for subsidies to oil and coal companies but not for families who are struggling to afford child care or a college education. But it doesn't have to be this way.

We need a politics of generosity based on the reality of abundance as opposed to a politics of not enough. The richest 1 percent of the Nation, on average, owns 190 times as much as a typical household. The child poverty rate in the United States is the highest of 16 other industrialized nations. Employers are shifting health insurance costs onto workers. Not only are fewer employees receiving health insurance through their employers, but those who still do are paying more for it.

Recently, I have become the focus of some criticism for my use of the Qu'ran for my ceremonial swearing in. Let me be clear: I am going to be sworn into office like all Members of Congress. I am going to swear to uphold the United States Constitution. We seem to have lost the political vision of our founding document—a vision of inclusion, tolerance and generosity.

I do not blame my critics for subscribing to a politics of scarcity and intolerance. However, I believe we all must project a new politics of generosity and inclusion. This is the vision of the diverse coalition in my congressional district. My constituents in Minnesota elected me to fight for a new politics in which a loving Nation guarantees health care for all of its people; a new politics in which executive pay may not skyrocket while workers do not have enough to care for their families. I was elected to articulate a new politics in which no one is cut out of the American dream, not immigrants, not gays, not poor people, not even a Muslim committed to serve his Nation.

TRIBUTE TO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
WEEK

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Catholic Schools Week.

The Nation's nearly 8,000 Catholic schools will celebrate Catholic Schools Week January 28 through February 3. Catholic schools have made many significant contributions to the education of our Nation's children.

Catholic schools have a longstanding and proud tradition in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. The percentage of Catholic families who choose Catholic schools for their children here is among the highest in the country. There are about 51,000 students enrolled in our Catholic elementary and high schools. Catholic schools foster an atmosphere of mutual respect. Students learn to value God, themselves, and others.

Today I would also like to recognize and commend our Catholic educators who are committed to a living faith community founded on the Catholic tradition of academic excellence and enriching the lives of the children they teach spiritually, academically and socially.

I strongly support the goals of Catholic Schools Week 2007 and laud their efforts to produce students dedicated to their faith, families, and values.

CELEBRATING BETTY NIXON'S
PIONEERING CAREER OF SERVICE
TO HER COMMUNITY

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, today I rise on behalf of the Tennessee delegation, in particular Mr. COHEN, Mr. DAVIS, Mr. GORDON, and Mr. TANNER, to pay tribute to a lifelong activist and community servant, Betty C. Nixon, upon the occasion of her retirement from Vanderbilt University. Betty's last 17 years have been spent building bridges between Vanderbilt and the Nashville community, firmly connecting this institution to the city she loves, and yet this work represents only a small sliver of her service to her fellow citizens.

Betty's ties to Nashville run deep. She grew up there, graduating from Hillsboro High School in 1954 and heading to Texas, where she would graduate from Southern Methodist University in 1958. Most people would rest or retire after teaching high school in Alabama for the decade of the 1960s, but not Betty. By 1975, she had been elected to her first of three terms in the Metropolitan Council of Nashville and Davidson County and was serving as deputy press secretary for Tennessee Governor Ray Blanton. It was only the beginning of her public service.

In 1982, the same year she graduated from the Vanderbilt Owen Graduate School of Management, Betty became the first woman to chair the Metro Council Budget Committee. Two years later, she managed the statewide political campaign for Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro, and four years after that, she managed James R. Sasser's successful bid for the U.S. Senate. Along the way, Betty ran for mayor in 1987 and 1991, and once again she blazed a trail: Betty was the first woman to run for mayor in Nashville's history.

Like many civic-minded individuals, Betty moved to Washington, but after a year of professional service to the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations,