

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the work of Mollie and Jackie Singer and their family to raise awareness of diabetes and to work toward a cure, and I wish them continued success in their efforts.

CONGRATULATING KAZAKHSTAN
ON ITS ELECTION AS CHAIR OF
OSCE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I welcome the unanimous decision of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to elect Kazakhstan its Chair-in-Office for 2010, reached on November 30, 2007 in Madrid.

This is undoubtedly a monumental event not only in the history of modern Kazakhstan, but also of the OSCE of which the United States is a member. For the first time, a country which in recent past was part of the Soviet Empire will lead this international institution. This vividly shows that Kazakhstan has managed to make a breakthrough from its communist past to a democratic future in a short time. This is also testimony to the evolutionary development of the OSCE itself. The Madrid decision, helps the OSCE strengthen its unity and become an organization of equal partners who sincerely believe in and are committed to ideals of democracy and freedom.

This is a stellar moment for the people of Kazakhstan, and a recognition of the long-standing efforts of their leader, President Nursultan Nazarbayev, on building a truly democratic and free society. President Nazarbayev has managed to achieve things leaders of many other countries can only dream of. To pull the country from the chaos of Soviet era and lead it towards the ranks of economically strong and democratically developed nations of the world in a little more than a decade takes incredible efforts, strategic vision and endless care for one's people. Today, Kazakhstan is a recognized leader in Central Asia, and I believe that, as Chair-in-Office, Kazakhstan will not only strengthen its leadership in that key region but will also help strengthen the OSCE's authority internationally, as well as improve mutual understanding and cooperation between East and West.

Madam Speaker, next week the people of Kazakhstan will celebrate the 16th anniversary of their independence and mark the establishment of Kazakhstan-U.S. diplomatic relations. We are proud that in these 16 years our relations have developed into a true strategic partnership. Kazakhstan has always been true to its commitments and has never wavered in its support for our nation.

I join my colleagues in congratulating our strategic ally and friend with its Chairmanship of OSCE in 2010 and with the 16th anniversary of independence. I strongly believe the opportunities Kazakhstan and our strategic partnership have to offer have not been fully explored. I wish the wise people of Kazakhstan and their leader Nursultan Nazarbayev happiness, well-being, and further prosperity.

CONGRATULATING THE L.D. BELL
HIGH SCHOOL BLUE RAIDER
MARCHING BAND

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the L.D. Bell High School Blue Raider Marching Band of Hurst, Texas, on being named the 2007 Bands of America Grand National Champion on November 17, 2007 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The L.D. Bell Blue Raider Marching Band has participated in the Bands of America Grand Nationals five times since 2001, placing 4th, 5th, 3rd, 2nd, and now 1st. They also received the highest achievement awards in the areas of Outstanding Music Performance and Outstanding General Effect. In the semi-finals round, the band received the highest score given in Bands of America history: an astounding 97.8.

The Band is capably led by Director of Bands Jeremy Earnhart, Assistant Director of Bands Jollette Wine, and Associate Band Directors Nick Thomas and Brandon Holt.

I sincerely commend the L.D. Bell High School Blue Raider Marching Band, their directors, and Drum Majors, for winning 1st place at the University Interscholastic League Bands of America Grand Nationals. Their hard work, dedication, desire to excel, and success in promoting and performing music deserves the highest recognition and congratulations. I'm very proud to represent these students and teachers in the U.S. House of Representatives.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
ALEX LEAS FOR PLACING SECOND
IN THE MANCHESTER
UMBRO INTERNATIONAL CUP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Alex Leas competed in England's largest youth soccer tournament; and

Whereas, Alex Leas showed hard work and dedication to the sport of soccer; and

Whereas, Alex Leas has broadened her abilities and skills in the sport of soccer; and

Whereas, Alex Leas was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Alex Leas always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Alex Leas on placing second in the Manchester Umbro International Cup. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated.

HONORING MRS. HELENA SNYDER
ON THE CELEBRATION OF HER
100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker I rise today to honor Mrs. Helena Snyder, an outstanding American, on her 100th birthday. A resident of Riverside, Illinois, for over fifty years, Helena celebrated 100 years on November 7th of this year.

Born in Pekin, Illinois, to Sicilian parents, Helena grew up dreaming of a career in Chicago. After graduating high school, Helena left Pekin to pursue her dream and was hired by the offices of the U.S. District Attorney in Chicago. She remained employed there until 1939, when she married her husband Bernard Snyder.

Shortly after their first child was born, World War II began and Bernard enlisted in the Navy. Helena and their son Brad moved to California with him until he was sent overseas. Upon Bernard's return, Helena became a full-time homemaker and spent much of her valuable time volunteering for a number of different groups in her community. Notably, Helena has held many offices as a member of the Riverside Women's Club and served as president of the organization for two years.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mrs. Helena Snyder, an exceptional woman and pillar in the community, on the celebration of her 100th birthday. I am honored to have such an outstanding individual in my district and wish Helena and her family a joyous celebration.

TRIBUTE TO EFRAIN GUERRERO,
AKA: "HAPPY"

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a unique American patriot, a South Texan whose pleasure is derived from making other people happy: Efrain Guerrero, also known as "Happy the Clown."

If you ever have the pleasure of talking to Happy, you will laugh too loud, and walk away wiping tears of laughter. If laughing is indeed good for our health, Happy is an extraordinary doctor.

Like every great American comedian, Happy delves deeply into the human condition—our habits, our reactions, our relationships, and all the things that make us laugh about ourselves, our families, and our lives.

Happy has a tremendous connection to people, using humor—and his exceptional personal charm—to inspire them and motivate them. He is an international award-winning entertainer and public speaker throughout Texas and the United States. As a motivational consultant, Happy has made countless presentations to schools, health organizations, and parent groups.

His humor is disarming. Happy recently brought down the room as a headliner at Harrah's Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas Nevada. He has written and co-produced comedy

CD's, and has been dubbed: a "Texas legend in entertainment."

Happy is one of the top twenty-five Latino comedians in the United States. Happy's performances have delighted thousands of diverse audiences who attend his comedy concerts, conventions, and private events throughout the United States, Mexico, and Puerto Rico.

Happy is a member of the Texas Magician's Association and uses a level of magic in his shows and presentations, for which he has also won numerous awards.

He has written and produced five comedy CD's: Happy Live Disconnected, El Pachuco Dude, Dale Gas, Happy Live! Chisquitito . . . and his most recent CD, Barely Reality. Happy also released two comedy DVD's, Happy Live! I and Happy Live! II.

On screen, Happy was featured in *Harvest of Redemption* (April 2005), an independent film about the journey of an angry young man in the Rio Grande Valley, circa 1920. Happy was the original host and co-producer of the comedy show *Que Loco!* on Galavision's network.

Happy's recent comedy show, *La Migra Gone Wild!* is a Tejano comedian's hysterical perspective of the chaos immigration is causing on both sides of the border . . . his latest installment of illustrating and illuminating through humor.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending my friend, Efrain Guerrero "Happy," for his intense and hysterical comedy that gives us all a hard look at ourselves and the world around us.

RECOGNIZING LAWSON CARDINALS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the outstanding achievement of the Lawson Cardinals high school football team on defeating Blair Oaks, by a score of 38-17, to win the Class 2 State Championship.

The Cardinals finished their incredible season by posting an unblemished record of 14-0 this season while scoring 501 points and only allowing 145 points. In the Championship game, the defense forced seven turnovers, resulting in 24 points from turnovers, third most in Show-Me Bowl history.

Also, I want to recognize the great leadership of the team, including Head Coach Todd Dunn and the work of his assistance coaches. I also want to acknowledge the work of school administrators, Superintendent Craig Barker, Principal Don Edwards and Assistant Principal Clint Ross, and Athletic Director Scott Harrold, as additional keys to success.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating the achievement of Lawson Cardinals High School football team on their perfect season and state championship. It is an honor to represent this team in the United States Congress.

CONGRATULATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SPECIAL OLYMPIAN JESSICA CROOK OF LOGANSPORT, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I am so proud to rise before you today to offer a word of congratulations to Special Olympian Jessica Crook of Logansport, Indiana for her accomplishments at this year's World Games in Shanghai, China and for being selected as a member of the 2007-2009 class of Sargent Shriver International Global Messengers.

Not only is Jessica the first Global Messenger to be selected from the State of Indiana, but she is an accomplished athlete as well. She became involved with the Special Olympics in 1999, with the Cass County Aquatics program. In June 2005, Jessica won a Gold Medal in the Summer Games, and followed up with two more in 2006. Also in 2006, Jessica won top honors in three events at the National Games.

This year, Jessica was one of seven Hoosiers representing Team USA at the World Games in Shanghai, China. She competed in three events at the World Games, held in November, placing 6th in the 50-meter Freestyle, winning a Silver Medal as part of the 4x50-meter Medley Relay team, and winning a Gold Medal in the 50-meter Butterfly.

As an International Global Messenger, Jessica will serve for two years as a voice of the Special Olympics. Sargent Shriver International Global Messengers (IGM) are a group of twelve Special Olympians from around the world that speak on behalf of the Special Olympics, appearing in various national and international media outlets. The new class, consisting of athletes from across the globe, is committed to the vision and benefits gained from participation in athletics. Jessica is the first Special Olympian athlete from Indiana to receive this distinguished appointment, and she is eager to relay the powerful declarations of hope, acceptance, dignity and courage of Special Olympics Athletes around the world.

Again, it is my honor to join with the constituents of Indiana's Second Congressional District and around the country in congratulating Jessica Crook of Logansport, Indiana, for her accomplishments at the 2007 Special Olympics World Games and for being selected as a Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger.

CONGRATULATING RILEY BELL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Riley Bell, of Trinity Christian Academy, on qualifying for induction into the Spring 2007 National Honor Roll. Riley resides in The Colony, TX and is in her third year of high school at Trinity Christian.

The National Honor Roll offers several benefits that can contribute to the success of its student members. The National Honor Roll

chooses students based upon their academic performance. Each student that qualifies for induction must have a B average or better, and show ambition in areas such as grade point average, interests, activities, and future goals.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Ms. Riley Bell for her remarkable dedication to education and exemplary learning. Her commitment to her studies, her school, and her future should serve as an inspiration to all. I am honored to represent her in the 26th District of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH SIMONE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Elizabeth Simone of Gladstone, Missouri. Elizabeth will be celebrating her 78th birthday on November 22nd and it is my privilege to offer her my warmest regards.

Elizabeth raised three children and has eight grandchildren, including my legislative attorney Dominic Lackey. Elizabeth is a talented pianist and now spends her days retired after serving as an accomplished secretary for the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to represent Elizabeth in the United States Congress, and I wish her all the best on this birthday and many more in the future.

VIOLENT RADICALIZATION AND HOMEGROWN TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably out of town on October 23, 2007, when a vote was taken on H.R. 1955, the Violent Radicalization and Homegrown Terrorism Prevention Act. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted against this misguided and dangerous piece of legislation. This legislation focuses the weight of the U.S. government inward toward its own citizens under the guise of protecting us against "violent radicalization."

I would like to note that this legislation was brought to the floor for a vote under suspension of regular order. These so-called "suspension" bills are meant to be non-controversial, thereby negating the need for the more complete and open debate allowed under regular order. It is difficult for me to believe that none of my colleagues in Congress view H.R. 1955, with its troubling civil liberties implications, as "non-controversial."

There are many causes for concern in H.R. 1955. The legislation specifically singles out the Internet for "facilitating violent radicalization, ideologically based violence, and the homegrown terrorism process" in the United States. Such language may well be the first step toward U.S. government regulation of