

and newspaperman and congratulating him on his many achievements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, on December 4, 2007, I missed the following rollcall votes due to illness: rollcall vote No. 1123, H.R. 3998, passage of America's Historical and Natural Legacy Study Act; rollcall vote No. 11124, passage of H.R. 3887, the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act; rollcall vote 1125, the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2082, the Intelligence Authorization Act; and rollcall vote No. 1126, passage of the Charlie W. Norwood Living Organ Donation Act.

If present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall Nos. 1123, 1124, and 1126, and I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 1125.

HONORING THE 2007 MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION II FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HIGH SCHOOL

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, it is a great pleasure and privilege that I offer the following resolution and an accolade of tribute to Head Coach James Reynolds, Jr., the assistant coaches, and the players of Martin Luther King, Jr. High School's boys football team on their stellar season. I am proud to salute this wonderful organization. This organization was honored during a special ceremony on Friday, November 30, 2007 at Cobo Hall where thousands of Detroiters paid tribute to the King Crusade.

Whereas, under the skilled guidance of Head Coach James Reynolds, Jr. and Defensive Coordinator Dale Harvel, Martin Luther King, Jr. High School's boys football team won the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) Division II title, defeating Midland Dow High School by the score of 47 to 21 on Friday, November 23, 2007. Detroit King is the first Detroit Public School League (PSL) team to win a State title since the MHSAA started the playoff system in 1975.

Whereas, Coach Reynolds found his calling as the head coach of the King Crusaders football team—a post he has held for 34 years; made many personal sacrifices for the sake of training his teams; gave freely of his time and focused on developing athletes, mentoring young men, and instilling the principles of good sportsmanship; and retired in June of 2007 but returned to King High School to coach football. Under Coach Reynolds's leadership, his teams have posted an impressive record of 250 wins and 106 losses; nine city championships; four regional championships; and three appearances in the State finals. Coach Reynolds is the only Detroit Public

School coach who has led football teams to the Michigan State finals.

Whereas, Defensive Coordinator Harvel, a valuable member of the staff, made personal sacrifices in order to help the players develop their athletic skill, good character and to abide by the principles of good sportsmanship. Mr. Harvel exhibited true team spirit by working in unison with the other coaches for the benefit of the athletes and the best results on the football field.

Whereas, with a balance of excellent scoring and tough defense, Detroit King displayed great poise in setting goals for themselves at the beginning of the season by going out and making their dreams become reality through hard work and commitment. Many of the talents and characteristics they exhibited in reaching this goal will help them in all aspects of their lives.

In special tribute, therefore, this resolution is dedicated to extend the highest commendation to the Martin Luther King, Jr. High School, the coaching staff, and the members of the boys football team for their victorious and first MHSAA Division II Football State Championship. On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, and the Congressional Black Caucus, we salute you. May the Congress of the United States, and the Nation, know of our collective pride in your accomplishments and achievements.

CONGRATULATING THE FARMINGTON COMPANY ON ITS 27TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Farmington Company for 27 faithful years of service in the insurance industry. Based in Farmington, Connecticut, this local company has proven hard work is more than a virtue.

In 1980, two Connecticut men, Bob Burke and Brad Collins, recognized that the majority of America—the Nation's lower and middle wage earners were underserved by the insurance community. Understanding the opportunity of meeting the insurance needs of the average American, Bob and Brad moved forward to develop a company founded on the basic principle of "people helping people."

The product of hard work and vision, the Farmington Company has grown to national and industry-wide recognition. As a fledgling enterprise, the two-man operation of the Farmington Company targeted the New York and New England regions. Now, 27 years later, the Farmington Company is still led by Bob Burke, the company president and Brad Collins, the executive vice president. The company employs more than 150 staff members that provide services to thousands of individuals across the United States. The 27-year record of success for the Farmington Company can be attributed to the heart of the operation—the company's dedicated and talented employees. Most notably, it is the hard work and leadership of people like Sales Vice President Doug Mantz, Senior Vice President Carol Rosenblatt, the New England branch president Jay Hershman, regional directors like Ed

Calitri and John Lenihan, director of corporate services Steve Frankel and finance vice president Chris Thaurau that define the success of the Farmington Company.

In the insurance capital of the world—the State of Connecticut—we are proud of companies like the Farmington Company that have long worked to create and expand meaningful insurance opportunities for those who normally couldn't or wouldn't get insurance. A business built on basics, the Farmington Company understands the needs of both employers and employees, and most importantly the needs of the community. As a company defined with success, I would like to also recognize how the Farmington Company gives back to the community. Whether supporting the important work of the Jimmy Fund or participating in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer campaign, the Farmington Company lives up to their motto of "people helping people."

On their 27th anniversary, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the achievements and important contributions of the Farmington Company. I applaud their work in Connecticut and across the country.

A TRIBUTE TO RALPH HENRY "SMILEY" SEYLLER

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great community leader, Ralph Henry "Smiley" Seyller, of Hampshire, Illinois who passed away November 17, 2007 at the age of 82.

Ralph was a man of many hats who dedicated his life to community service. Whether as a coach or park district director, much of his life was spent mentoring and encouraging children and developing programs in Burlington, St. Charles and Hampshire, Illinois.

His many contributions and honors include: Ralph Seyller established the Burlington Boys Club and served as counselor for 17 years. For his efforts, the Village named the baseball field in his honor and inducted him into their Hall of Fame.

After 25 years of employment at St. Charles High School, Ralph was honored for his service to the youth of St. Charles High School and his contributions to the Athletic Department. He was inducted into their Hall of Fame and given a Lifetime Achievement Award.

In retirement, Ralph organized the Hampshire Park District and served as Director for 20 years. During his tenure, he established programs for people of all ages. His major accomplishments included creation of the Little People Playtime Pre-School program, now in its 25th year and occupying its own facility. He created the Coon Creek Classic Run/Walk which eventually included 800 runners. And he organized trips to Cellular and Wrigley Fields to watch the Chicago White Sox and Cubs play baseball. In appreciation of those and many other contributions, the east park was named the Ralph H. Seyller Park.

Ralph served many years as Democratic Precinct Committeeman.

I was privileged to know Ralph Seyller, whose son David Edmonson is married to my niece Jodi. His life serves as a role model for

those who want to make their own communities the best that they can be in serving the needs and desires of their residents. My heart goes out to those who will miss him most, his loving wife and partner, Catherine, and his children Sarajane, David, Donald and Susan.

**PROMOTE AND PROTECT OUR
STRONG ECONOMY**

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, America's third quarter GDP grew at an impressive 4.9 percent. That means we have had 6 straight years of economic growth coupled with a record 51 straight months of job growth creating 8.3 million additional jobs. In the district I represent, the Nation's fourth largest cabinet company, the ElKay Cabinet Division, has announced a new manufacturing plant in Barnwell which will create hundreds of jobs. This job success is the product of the pro-growth tax policies that President Bush signed into law 4 years ago.

There remains much more that we must do in order to promote strong economic growth. We need energy legislation that actually helps create new energy, health care reform that values individual choice over government mandate, and sensible tax reform. We must enact legislation—including a repeal of the Alternative Minimum Tax—that doesn't expand the burden of Washington spending on the backs of middle class Americans and small businesses.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th.

**IN RECOGNITION OF KATE
WHITACRE**

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of Cadet Kate Whitacre from Boonville, IN. Kate recently received the Carl A. Spaatz Award—the highest honor bestowed upon members of the Civil Air Patrol.

The award is based on a demonstrated excellence in leadership, character, fitness and aerospace education. And Kate's receipt of this prestigious award is a testament not only to her abilities in these areas but also to her commitment to our community.

As a member of the Civil Air Patrol, she is volunteering to risk her own life to make others safer, and she understands that there is no higher calling than service to others.

I congratulate Kate Whitacre on her tremendous accomplishment. She is a leader among many and an inspiration to us all.

**ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND
SECURITY ACT OF 2007**

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the energy bill before us today raises the bar and sets new, higher standards for us as a Nation and all I can say is "It's about time."

It's about time we raised CAFE standards to a level to be competitive with the rest of the world. Allowing these standards to fall behind is an embarrassment for a country that should be a role model for other countries in technology and efficiency.

It's about time that we had a nationwide renewable energy standard. Renewable energy in some form is available in every corner of this Nation. We need to invest in it and make it work for us and for a cleaner future for our children. Setting a standard at 15 percent is a good start.

And it's about time that we work toward making cleaner fuels for our automobiles. That's why I'm proud language is included in this bill that I authored with the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. BARTLETT, which sets a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the production and use of biofuels.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and move our energy policy forward for our children and grandchildren. It's about time.

**TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
SHIRLEY WADDING**

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the many accomplishments of the Honorable Shirley Wadding, Mayor of Lake Station, Indiana. I have known Shirley for many years, and she is one of the most involved citizens that I have ever known, especially when it comes to her service to the residents of Lake Station. Shirley has been a public official in Lake Station for the past twenty years, the last twelve of which she served as the city's mayor. Though Shirley has been the cornerstone of her community, she decided not to run for reelection and will be retiring from her elected office at year's end. For her efforts and many contributions to the City of Lake Station, Shirley was honored at a retirement celebration on Saturday, December 1, 2007, at the Lake Station Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #9323.

Originally from Indiana, Pennsylvania, Shirley came to Northwest Indiana in 1960. A resident of Lake Station since that time, Shirley's familiarity with the people of Lake Station and her fondness for the city emerged from her everyday interactions with them as the owner of a local sandwich shop. Undoubtedly, it was her connection to the people that steered her in the direction of public service and led to her election to the city council in 1987. Following eight years on the council, Shirley's leadership

skills and dedication led to her election as mayor, serving from 1996 to 2007. During this time, Shirley received numerous accolades from the community, including: the Liberty Bell Award from the Indiana State Bar Association in 2002, the Department of the Army's Certificate of Appreciation in 2005, and the Marine Corps League Distinguished Service Award in 2007.

As the mayor of Lake Station, Shirley was instrumental in many improvements and upgrades within the city. Throughout her tenure, Lake Station has welcomed several new subdivisions and businesses, as well as many new public facilities, including a community center, a senior and nutrition center, a food pantry, a public library, and a compost facility. Thanks to Shirley's leadership and perseverance, the city was also able to acquire and restore what would become her most rewarding contribution, the Lake Station Boys and Girls Club. Throughout the years, Shirley's commitment to public safety and the well-being of the community was constant. During this time, the city saw improvements and additions made to the ambulance service, the police department, and the fire department. These included additional vehicles, equipment, officers, computer upgrades, and a new 911 emergency system. Public health services were also improved through the addition of a mosquito sprayer, new storm sewers, a renovated water tower, and new sidewalks and walking trails. Beautification of the city has also been one of Shirley's primary objectives, as is evidenced by Lake Station's Veterans' Community Park, a covered walking bridge, and numerous landscaping projects throughout the city.

Having decided to retire from public service, Shirley will now be able to spend much of her time with those closest to her, her family. A loving wife, mother, and grandmother, Shirley's commitment to the people of Lake Station is surpassed only by her dedication to her family. Shirley and her husband, Harry, have shared many wonderful years together. They have been blessed with three children: Jody, Toni, and James. Harry and Shirley are also the proud grandparents of 6 adoring grandchildren: Larissa, Kristin, Jordan, Jenna, Jake, and Jonas.

Madam Speaker, Shirley Wadding has given her time and efforts selflessly to the people of Lake Station for the past twenty years and beyond. At this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending her for her service and dedication. I also ask you to join me in wishing her the best of health and happiness in the years to come.

**CARDINAL JOHN P. FOLEY DAY IN
PHILADELPHIA**

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, December 13, 2007, is a special day in Philadelphia. The City Council has declared 'Cardinal John P. Foley Day in the City of Philadelphia' to honor a great and humble priest of our city who has been elevated to Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church.

Both in Philadelphia and on the world stage, Cardinal Foley has served ably as the communicator of both faith and social policy for the