

RECOGNIZING CRAIG OLTHOFF

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Craig Olthoff, a long-time U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency employee, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to the agricultural community of Iowa.

For the past 30 years Craig has been employed by the Farm Service Agency. He served as the Hardin County executive director from 1978 to 1989, when he was then promoted to district director. As district director, Craig oversaw 11 county offices in north central Iowa. I offer him my utmost congratulations and thanks for his dedication to providing reliable service to Iowa Farmers.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Craig Olthoff for his leadership and service to the USDA Farm Service Agency and the farmers in his district. I consider it an honor to represent Craig in Congress and I wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO ANDREA R. ADAMS,  
MPA**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Andrea R. Adams. Andrea was born on Staten Island, New York and is a product of the City's public school system. After receiving her G.E.D., she enrolled in York College in Jamaica, New York and St. Joseph's College in Brooklyn. Andrea later attended Long Island University, graduating with a Master's of Public Administration and a certificate in Health Care Administration.

Andrea has worked in the health care field for 25 years. She has held various positions, among them: Medical Secretary; Technical Specialist; Health Educator; Hospital Training Director; Community Outreach Liaison; Executive Assistant; and currently, Director of Volunteer and Auxiliary Services.

Andrea is credited with spearheading the Gateway to Health Sciences School at Queens Hospital 12 years ago. She implemented this unique learning hospital/high school collaboration to lure inner city youth to occupations in the health profession. The hospital's on-site project opened the door to her present and most rewarding task; counseling young people allowing them to see the potential of a rewarding a career in the health care field. As the hospital's Volunteer Director, she also assists second career adults referred from health career schools, and senior citizens seeking a rewarding volunteer experience.

Andrea is a member of the National Association of University Women's Saturday Tutorial Program. This program assists children in improving their reading, math, penmanship, and communications skills. Andrea is an active

supporter of many of the programs at St. Matthew's Community A.M.E. Church of which she is a member. Currently, the church is preparing to open an after school program center. Upon its completion, Andrea plans to be a regular participant of the skills enhancement program. She is also a member of the New York City Board of Education's "Speaker in the Classroom" program. Each year, she visits day care centers, schools and colleges to share information about various and unique careers in health care.

Andrea is a member of the Women's Concerns Committee at Queens Hospital Center and participates in developing projects to advance cultural awareness among hospital staff. Her diligent work in this area earned her the Mayor's Award in 2001. She is also a rape, domestic violence advocate and an outreach educator of the health care proxy law, breast cancer awareness, and HIV/AIDS transmission.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the impressive achievements of Andrea R. Adams, who has spent her life giving so much to others. I also want to thank Ms. Adams helping the children of Brooklyn, New York.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this exceptionally kind woman.

FOURTH TIME A CHARM FOR  
WESTERN ALAMANCE**HON. HOWARD COBLE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, the old adage, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again" wasn't written specifically with the Western Alamance High School football team in mind, but as its players and fans will tell you, that statement perfectly captures the fighting spirit of the Warriors. On December 8, 2007, Western Alamance won the North Carolina 3-A high school football championship on its fourth try in the title game. The Warriors completed a perfect 16-0 season by defeating North Gaston 62-36.

Having lost three straight state championship games, the Warriors of Western Alamance were used to playing in a big game setting. As Head Coach Hal Capps told the Times-News, however, there was something different about this year's squad. "North Gaston is an outstanding football team, outstanding," Coach Capps told the Burlington newspaper, "but this team was on a mission, they were not going to be denied."

Senior receiver Levon Curtis, who was named the game's Most Outstanding Player, was part of those past title game losses, and he told the Times-News, "We did it. I didn't know it would ever happen. I've got to get it through my mind, we did it." Curtis certainly did it by scoring four touchdowns, two through the air and two on the ground. In all, Curtis caught seven passes for 153 yards and rushed for another 96 yards.

Coach Hal Capps will be the first to tell you that finally winning that elusive state championship took a total team effort. Members of

his coaching squad included Terry Covington, Drew Hambright, Chris Jackson, Frank Lassiter, Kenny Lockner, Brad Melton, Mike Mitchener, Chris Myers, and Jeff Snuffer. They were ably assisted by team managers Kaitlyn Lockner, Rachel McKinney, Amanda Summers, and Amanda Thomas.

But it was the players who finally led the Warriors to the promised land. Members of the 3-A champs include Ethan Willis, Jonathon Corriher, A.J. Smith, Donald Britt, Ryan Blair, Jared Orton, Houston Spake, Nathan Jasper, Brandon Hill, Kenneth Lindsey, Chris Sparks, Wes Satterfield, Tucker Street, Chris Bradsher, Matt Maness, Connor Meehan, Scottie Thomas, Justin Torrence, Rod Shaw, Michael Wade, Doug Bernard, Olanders Sellars, Johnny Mitchell, P.J. Wright, Brad Brenner, Macon Rippey, Billy Williamson, Gary Strader, Kyle Norris, Levon Curtis, Nathan Bell, Kevin Lewis, Kyle Haizlip, Josh Baulding, Casey Roberts, Todd Ludwig, Joe Ahlgren, Christian Saconn, Robert Fields, Mac Mitchener, Blake Bledsole, Chris Sizemore, Jered Welborn, Josh Warren, Donald Schietzelt, Jay Johnson, Matt Apple, Shawn Huffines, Richard Miller, Laramie Stallings, Nick King, Corey Brothers, Bradley Dickey, Jamal Dark, Zack Palm, Allen Black, Tony Bejos, Jeremy Gooding, Tyler Clayton, Martin Dailey, Dace Crawford, Ashton Tinin, Wayne Stanfield, Joe Reinheimer, Ronnie Mimms, Jordan Gaines, Bill Blanchard, Jeremy Ray, Avery Booker, Josh Medlin, Alex Mitchell, George Wentz, Ben Smith, Brent Oliver, and Orvin Guiffaro.

All of these players assisted Western Alamance in a record-setting performance. Six State records were broken during the title game, including most combined points scored (98) in a championship contest. The only number that the Warriors will remember is four. Because on the fourth try, Western Alamance finally brought home the trophy.

Even amid all of the jubilation, there was some sadness associated with the team. Two days before the championship, the brother of offensive coordinator Jeff Snuffner died of cancer. Quarterback Donald Curtt told the Times-News, "When we heard Coach Snuffner's brother died, something went off in us. We just wanted to do it for him. We wanted to go out there 110 percent, every play." Coach Capps told the Burlington newspaper that just before the game, he and his offensive coordinator hugged and told the other how much they loved each other. "I'm sitting there five minutes before the game," told the Times-News, "crying like a baby. That's what life is all about. It's about loving and caring about people and having relationships. When something doesn't go right, you pick each other up and go on."

The Warriors did more than go on. They went all the way to be named as North Carolina 3-A high school football champions. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate Western Alamance Principal Terri Spears, Athletic Director Carter Gerlach, Head Coach Hal Capps, and all of the players, coaches, staff, family, and fans, as well as the outstanding Warriors marching band. The team is a true inspiration to all of us who work hard to accomplish our goals. The Warriors proved that sometimes old adages are true because they never gave up.

TRIBUTE TO THE FREDONIA  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

**HON. PHIL ENGLISH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the accomplishments of the Fredonia American Legion Auxiliary. The members of this organization have loyally served the Fredonia area and its veteran community for many years and their good deeds deserve to be acknowledged.

All of the Legion's activities work toward its mission to improve the quality of life for Fredonia's veterans and their families.

To raise money for veteran family events, such as their annual Children's Christmas Party, the Legion has held various events throughout the year including a Chinese auction, craft show, bingo night and several basket raffles.

As part of their community service efforts, members collected donations to give to local needy families during the holiday season.

The Legion hosted an "Americanism" Essay Contest at local grade schools to promote patriotism among the country's youth. The winners included third-grader Olivea Wright from Oakview Elementary and sixth-grader Kelsey Greathouse from Commodore Perry Elementary.

On Veterans Day and Memorial Day, members held honorary services with special guest speakers to pay tribute to U.S. veterans in the Fredonia area.

From September 2006 to June 2007, the Fredonia American Legion donated an impressive \$18,700 in coupons to 37 commissaries around the world.

The officers of the Legion include: Mary Ellen Flynn, President; Sandy Lurtz, 1st Vice President; Ruth Foust, 2nd Vice President; Dorothy Young, Secretary/Treasurer; Shirley Kirsch, Chaplain; Darlene Hoffman, Historian and Sergeant-at-Arms; Mary Jane Lockcock, Sergeant-at-Arms.

I hope my colleagues will join me at this time in recognizing the service of the Fredonia American Legion and in congratulating its efforts.

MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT  
AT ATLANTA VETERANS AFFAIRS  
MEDICAL CENTER

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today, almost last, but certainly not least, Congress takes action on a bill to authorize a major medical facility project that will create modern inpatient wards at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Atlanta, Georgia. This is an investment of \$20.5 million to provide a standard of care our Nation guarantees for veterans across America. This is a relatively small bill but it is part of keeping a very big promise. We should always keep that promise.

This project will renovate 3 inpatient floors to meet ADA accessibility requirements. Our

handicapped veterans should have bathrooms, showers and toilet facilities they can actually use. This project will also meet needs of a growing group of women veterans. It will provide patient privacy where it has been inadequate. And it will make the staff work more efficiently by simply making the layout of the building better for work. In addition, an enclosed connecting bridge will be built between the Medical Center and VA Regional Office buildings so there will be more fluid access between what goes on at the hospital and what goes on at the benefits administration.

The Atlanta VA Medical Center has an active affiliation with the University of Emory Medical School. This project will keep this relationship on sound footing. Hundreds of medical doctors and students with Emory make contributions at the hospital and see firsthand the result of sacrifices made from generation to generation. Unfortunately, with the number of our boys and girls coming home from war growing as we speak, these physicians are going to be caring for so many more people with so many more health problems.

I want to applaud the efforts of my colleague from Georgia, Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON, for working to pass this bill through the Senate. I know on this issue, the issue of caring for our veterans, all of us from Georgia and on a bipartisan basis in the House and Senate can agree that no expense should be spared in order to ensure the best care modern medicine can provide.

We have more work to do on this and so many other issues. It is my hope we can come together on more bills in the coming year, much larger bills, which benefit those who wear the uniform, as well as kids and seniors who need better health care.

TRIBUTE TO HUGHSTON  
ORTHOPEDIC HOSPITAL

**HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, the city of Columbus in Georgia's 3rd Congressional District boasts a stellar health care community that enriches the well-being and quality of life for Muscogee and surrounding counties.

This year, Georgia Trend magazine singled out one of those health care facilities, Hughston Orthopedic Hospital, for its Honor Roll, naming it one of the 15 best places to work in the state.

Long known for its excellent patient care, Hughston's secret is now out: It also provides excellent employee care.

One of the founders of the hospital summed up the organization's ethos by saying, "It's not bricks, mortar and equipment that makes a hospital—it's people."

Employee input helps the hospital keep its edge in providing the best possible care. Every month, the President's Council convenes to allow employees to voice suggestions or concerns directly to the CEO, Don Avery.

Hughston employees receive 100 percent tuition reimbursement, flexible working schedules, day care discounts and a special HOPE fund to aid employees suffering hardships.

Employees who go above and beyond the normal call of duty receive special recognition, such as the Spirit of Caring award for nurses dedicated to excellent care and the Frist Humanitarian Award for workers who engage in community service and extraordinary acts of kindness.

In 1984, Dr. Jack Hughston, known as the "father of sports medicine," and Dr. Thomas Frist Sr. founded the hospital. Today, the hospital famed for its sports medicine is a 100-bed orthopedic facility performing spinal surgeries and joint replacements.

Madam Speaker, I want to call special attention to the special people providing visionary leadership and top-notch medical care to the patients in the Greater Columbus area. They embody the spirit of hard work and compassion that keep America great.

On behalf of the 3rd Congressional District of Georgia and this House, I congratulate Hughston Orthopedic Hospital on this well-deserved recognition.

SUPPORT FOR RECOGNITION OF  
PLUTO AS A PLANET

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the renewed recognition of Pluto as a planet.

The planet Pluto was discovered on January 23, 1930, by Clyde Tombaugh. Although just 24 years of age with no formal education beyond high school, Mr. Tombaugh discovered this new planet by painstakingly and systematically examining and comparing photographic plates he had made of the night skies over New Mexico. For this achievement, Mr. Tombaugh received a prestigious award from the Royal Astronomical Society along with a scholarship to the University of Kansas, which allowed him to continue his formal education.

Clyde Tombaugh went on to make a large number of additional contributions to our knowledge of the universe and to receive many more awards and honors before his death on January 17, 1997. I am proud to note that Mr. Tombaugh was born on February 4, 1906, on a farm near Streator, IL, in LaSalle County—a community which I am privileged to represent in the Congress of the United States.

Unfortunately, on August 26, 2006, the International Astronomical Union, IAU, meeting in Prague and relying on the votes of only a handful of its approximately 10,000 members, made the decision to downgrade the status of Pluto.

This decision was met with protests from eminent scientists and astronomers all over the world. Perhaps foremost among those in the international scientific community strongly disagreeing with the IAU decision was Dr. S. Alan Stern. Named earlier this year by Time magazine as one of the "One Hundred Most Influential People in the World", Dr. Stern is also one of the lead consultants for the New Horizons Mission.

The New Horizons Mission is an unmanned spacecraft launched in January of 2006, which is projected to reach Pluto and the outer edge of our solar system in the year 2015. This