

girl's basketball teams have won twenty-four district championships, four state championships, and were runner-up finishers for the state championship four additional times.

Reaching 700 career wins was a milestone in itself, so it was with even more excitement that Ronnie and Janis reached their 722nd career win on January 20, 2007. This victory carried a unique significance as the Bonds entered the Florida record books as having the most wins of any high school girl's basketball coaches in the State of Florida.

Their winning basketball program has been founded on solid principles of love, family, honor, and commitment. They have taught many young people about teamwork, the power of a shared vision, and one way to achieve success is to expect excellence.

It will be difficult to find two people more committed to helping students than Ronnie and Janis Bond. They have set a high standard in their dedication to their work and devotion to their students. A benchmark has been established for all other high school coaches. Teachers and coaches serve as role models for students, and the Bonds have without a doubt been a great role model for those who have played for them. They are sure to remain in the Florida record books for years to come.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to congratulate Ronnie and Janis Bond for their efforts in reaching out and touching the lives of thousands of our nation's young people.

WELCOMING GHANA'S AMBASSADOR DR. KWAME BAWUAH-EDUSEI TO CONNECTICUT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome Dr. Kwame Bawuah-Edusei, Ghana's Ambassador to the United States, to the great State of Connecticut. Ambassador Bawuah-Edusei, who is visiting the State for the first time this weekend, will address Ghanaians from all across New England in honor and celebration of Ghana's independence.

Ghana, formerly known as the Gold Coast, is a nation rich in history, culture and natural resources. Under the leadership of Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana became the first African country south of the Sahara to gain independence from European rule on March 6, 1957. This year marks 50 years of social freedom, and economic and political achievement. Ghana has contributed greatly to world affairs and has been the birth place of national and international leaders, among them former United Nations Secretary General and Nobel Peace Prize winner Kofi Annan.

Connecticut's Ghanaian population continues to grow and prosper. I am proud to have Mr. Nana Okoda-Darko, king of the Akim-Kusi traditional council in Ghana living in my district and hometown of East Hartford. I am also pleased to have learned a great deal about Ghana and the Ghanaian culture from a member of my staff Adwoa Ansah whose father is from Kumasi in the Ashanti Region of Ghana.

And so today, on behalf of Mr. Okoda-Darko, Adwoa Ansah, and the many Gha-

naians in my district and the great State of Connecticut, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ghana in its 50th Anniversary and welcoming Ambassador Bawuah-Edusei to the State of Connecticut.

"AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH"

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to bring attention to the House an article published in the New York Times regarding former Vice President Al Gore's documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth." As this documentary continues to shape the discussion on the controversial issue of global warming, I would like to highlight the following article, which identifies the inconsistencies of the film.

[From the New York Times, Mar. 13, 2007]

FROM A RAPT AUDIENCE, A CALL TO COOL THE HYPE

(By William J. Broad)

Hollywood has a thing for Al Gore and his three-alarm film on global warming, "An Inconvenient Truth," which won an Academy Award for best documentary. So do many environmentalists, who praise him as a visionary, and many scientists, who laud him for raising public awareness of climate change.

But part of his scientific audience is uneasy. In talks, articles and blog entries that have appeared since his film and accompanying book came out last year, these scientists argue that some of Mr. Gore's central points are exaggerated and erroneous. They are alarmed, some say, at what they call his alarmism.

"I don't want to pick on Al Gore," Don J. Easterbrook, an emeritus professor of geology at Western Washington University, told hundreds of experts at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America. "But there are a lot of inaccuracies in the statements we are seeing, and we have to temper that with real data."

Mr. Gore, in an e-mail exchange about the critics, said his work made "the most important and salient points" about climate change, if not "some nuances and distinctions" scientists might want. "The degree of scientific consensus on global warming has never been stronger," he said, adding, "I am trying to communicate the essence of it in the lay language that I understand."

Although Mr. Gore is not a scientist, he does rely heavily on the authority of science in "An Inconvenient Truth," which is why scientists are sensitive to its details and claims.

Criticisms of Mr. Gore have come not only from conservative groups and prominent skeptics of catastrophic warming, but also from rank-and-file scientists like Dr. Easterbrook, who told his peers that he had no political ax to grind. A few see natural variation as more central to global warming than heat-trapping gases. Many appear to occupy a middle ground in the climate debate, seeing human activity as a serious threat but challenging what they call the extremism of both skeptics and zealots.

Kevin Vranes, a climatologist at the Center for Science and Technology Policy Research at the University of Colorado, said he sensed a growing backlash against exaggeration.

While praising Mr. Gore for "getting the message out," Dr. Vranes questioned whether his presentations were "overselling our certainty about knowing the future."

Typically, the concern is not over the existence of climate change, or the idea that the human production of heat-trapping gases is partly or largely to blame for the globe's recent warming. The question is whether Mr. Gore has gone beyond the scientific evidence.

"He's a very polarizing figure in the science community," said Roger A. Pielke Jr., an environmental scientist who is a colleague of Dr. Vranes at the University of Colorado center. "Very quickly, these discussions turn from the issue to the person, and become a referendum on Mr. Gore."

"An Inconvenient Truth," directed by Davis Guggenheim, was released last May and took in more than \$46 million, making it one of the top-grossing documentaries ever. The companion book by Mr. Gore quickly became a best seller, reaching No. 1 on the New York Times list.

Mr. Gore depicted a future in which temperatures soar, ice sheets melt, seas rise, hurricanes batter the coasts and people die en masse. "Unless we act boldly," he wrote, "our world will undergo a string of terrible catastrophes."

He clearly has supporters among leading scientists, who commend his popularizations and call his science basically sound. In December, he spoke in San Francisco to the American Geophysical Union and got a reception fit for a rock star from thousands of attendees.

"He has credibility in this community," said Tim Killeen, the group's president and director of the National Center for Atmospheric Research, a top group studying climate change. "There's no question he's read a lot and is able to respond in a very effective way."

Some backers concede minor inaccuracies but see them as reasonable for a politician. James E. Hansen, an environmental scientist, director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies and a top adviser to Mr. Gore, said, "Al does an exceptionally good job of seeing the forest for the trees," adding that Mr. Gore often did so "better than scientists."

Still, Dr. Hansen said, the former vice president's work may hold "imperfections" and "technical flaws." He pointed to hurricanes, an icon for Mr. Gore, who highlights the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and cites research suggesting that global warming will cause both storm frequency and deadliness to rise. Yet this past Atlantic season produced fewer hurricanes than forecasters predicted (five versus nine), and none that hit the United States.

"We need to be more careful in describing the hurricane story than he is," Dr. Hansen said of Mr. Gore. "On the other hand," Dr. Hansen said, "he has the bottom line right: most storms, at least those driven by the latent heat of vaporization, will tend to be stronger, or have the potential to be stronger, in a warmer climate."

In his e-mail message, Mr. Gore defended his work as fundamentally accurate. "Of course," he said, "there will always be questions around the edges of the science, and we have to rely upon the scientific community to continue to ask and to challenge and to answer those questions."

He said "not every single adviser" agreed with him on every point, "but we do agree on the fundamentals"—that warming is real and caused by humans.

Mr. Gore added that he perceived no general backlash among scientists against his work. "I have received a great deal of positive feedback," he said. "I have also received comments about items that should be changed, and I have updated the book and slideshow to reflect these comments." He gave no specifics on which points he had revised.

He said that after 30 years of trying to communicate the dangers of global warming, "I think that I'm finally getting a little better at it."

While reviewers tended to praise the book and movie, vocal skeptics of global warming protested almost immediately. Richard S. Lindzen, a climatologist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a member of the National Academy of Sciences, who has long expressed skepticism about dire climate predictions, accused Mr. Gore in *The Wall Street Journal* of "shrill alarmism."

Some of Mr. Gore's centrist detractors point to a report last month by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a United Nations body that studies global warming. The panel went further than ever before in saying that humans were the main cause of the globe's warming since 1950, part of Mr. Gore's message that few scientists dispute. But it also portrayed climate change as a slow-motion process.

It estimated that the world's seas in this century would rise a maximum of 23 inches—down from earlier estimates. Mr. Gore, citing no particular time frame, envisions rises of up to 20 feet and depicts parts of New York, Florida and other heavily populated areas as sinking beneath the waves, implying, at least visually, that inundation is imminent.

Bjorn Lomborg, a statistician and political scientist in Denmark long skeptical of catastrophic global warming, said in a syndicated article that the panel, unlike Mr. Gore, had refrained from scaremongering. "Climate change is a real and serious problem" that calls for careful analysis and sound policy, Dr. Lomborg said. "The cacophony of screaming," he added, "does not help."

So too, a report last June by the National Academies seemed to contradict Mr. Gore's portrayal of recent temperatures as the highest in the past millennium. Instead, the report said, current highs appeared unrivaled since only 1600, the tail end of a temperature rise known as the medieval warm period.

Roy Spencer, a climatologist at the University of Alabama, Huntsville, said on a blog that Mr. Gore's film did "indeed do a pretty good job of presenting the most dire scenarios." But the June report, he added, shows "that all we really know is that we are warmer now than we were during the last 400 years."

Other critics have zeroed in on Mr. Gore's claim that the energy industry ran a "disinformation campaign" that produced false discord on global warming. The truth, he said, was that virtually all unbiased scientists agreed that humans were the main culprits.

But Benny J. Peiser, a social anthropologist in Britain who runs the Cambridge-Conference Network, or CCNet, an Internet newsletter on climate change and natural disasters, challenged the claim of scientific consensus with examples of pointed disagreement.

"Hardly a week goes by," Dr. Peiser said, "without a new research paper that questions part or even some basics of climate change theory," including some reports that offer alternatives to human activity for global warming.

Geologists have documented age upon age of climate swings, and some charge Mr. Gore with ignoring such rhythms.

"Nowhere does Mr. Gore tell his audience that all of the phenomena that he describes fall within the natural range of environmental change on our planet," Robert M. Carter, a marine geologist at James Cook University in Australia, said in a September blog. "Nor does he present any evidence that climate during the 20th century departed dis-

cernibly from its historical pattern of constant change."

In October, Dr. Easterbrook made similar points at the geological society meeting in Philadelphia. He hotly disputed Mr. Gore's claim that "our civilization has never experienced any environmental shift remotely similar to this" threatened change.

Nonsense, Dr. Easterbrook told the crowded session. He flashed a slide that showed temperature trends for the past 15,000 years. It highlighted 10 large swings, including the medieval warm period. These shifts, he said, were up to "20 times greater than the warming in the past century."

Getting personal, he mocked Mr. Gore's assertion that scientists agreed on global warming except those industry had corrupted. "I've never been paid a nickel by an oil company," Dr. Easterbrook told the group. "And I'm not a Republican."

Biologists, too, have gotten into the act. In January, Paul Reiter, an active skeptic of global warming's effects and director of the insects and infectious diseases unit of the Pasteur Institute in Paris, faulted Mr. Gore for his portrayal of global warming as spreading malaria.

"For 12 years, my colleagues and I have protested against the unsubstantiated claims," Dr. Reiter wrote in *The International Herald Tribune*. "We have done the studies and challenged the alarmists, but they continue to ignore the facts."

Michael Oppenheimer, a professor of geosciences and international affairs at Princeton who advised Mr. Gore on the book and movie, said that reasonable scientists disagreed on the malaria issue and other points that the critics had raised. In general, he said, Mr. Gore had distinguished himself for integrity.

"On balance, he did quite well—a credible and entertaining job on a difficult subject," Dr. Oppenheimer said. "For that, he deserves a lot of credit. If you rake him over the coals, you're going to find people who disagree. But in terms of the big picture, he got it right."

HONORING THE LIFE OF U.S.A.F. COL. FRANCIS R. "FRANK" CAPPELLETTI

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary life and accomplishments of U.S.A.F. Col. Francis R. "Frank" Cappelletti, a giant amongst men.

Col. Cappelletti was born in Koppel, Pennsylvania in 1918. He graduated from Laval University in Quebec City, Quebec before entering the Army Air Force in 1940. He completed navigation training with Pan American Airlines in Coral Gables, Florida in 1941. Thereafter, he was assigned to a B-17 outfit, the 19th Bomb Group. During World War II, Col. Cappelletti courageously flew 91 combat missions against the Japanese in the Pacific Theater of Operations. Later he served under General Curtis LeMay at the Strategic Air Command Headquarters.

Frank Cappelletti's flying prowess extended beyond combat missions. Before it was routine, the Colonel pioneered the flight pattern from Alaska to the North Pole. His continued service in the Air Force had him participating in the Cuban Missile Crisis, as well as the Vietnam War.

He retired as an Air Force Colonel after 30 years of service. During his extraordinary career he amassed several awards and honors, including the Distinguished Flying Cross with cluster, Silver Star with clusters, and Air Medal.

A humble man who never rested on his laurels, Col. Cappelletti continued serving his country and his community. After his retirement, Frank worked for the Defense Department civil service section for 11 years. He also volunteered for the Smithsonian Institution, translating documents from Russian into English. He was an active member of the Kiwanis Club, the Boys and Girls Club, the Military Officers Association of America, and of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida.

A tall, striking figure with movie star good looks, Colonel Cappelletti was an exemplary resident of my district and I am so proud to have served him, even for a short time. His devoted wife, Rose Cappelletti, took care of him to the very end as Alzheimer's disease gradually consumed him. In the final days of his extraordinary life, Mrs. Cappelletti provided him with a last glimpse of what she described as the "love of his life," a look at his beloved B-17 bomber as it toured a local airport. While the B-17 may be a close second, I know the real love of Colonel Cappelletti's life was Rose.

Madam Speaker, may the Colonel's life be a model to which we should all strive. May he rest in peace, and may his memory be eternal.

CALLING FOR RELEASE OF ISRAELI SOLDIERS HELD CAP- TIVE BY HAMAS AND HEZBOLLAH

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 107—a bill calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Israeli soldiers being held captive by Hamas and Hezbollah.

On July 12, 2006, Sergeant Udi Goldwasser and fellow soldier Eldad Regev were on patrol inside the Israeli border when their armored humvee was bombarded by Hezbollah rockets. Udi and Eldad were captured during this attack and have been held by Hezbollah militants for more than 8 months.

I tell this story because just over one month ago, I had the pleasure of welcoming Udi Goldwasser's wife, Karnit, to the United States Capitol. She told me about how hard it has been to live without "the love of her life" and how her dreams of raising a peaceful and loving family with Udi are now in jeopardy due to the cowardly acts of a terrorist organization that has said it will not rest until her country is destroyed.

Terrorist acts are not military actions between warring nations. They are despicable crimes that rob wives of husbands, husbands of wives and children of their parents. And as the leader of the free and democratic world, it is America's solemn duty to condemn such attacks whenever they occur and to support the justifiable actions of our ally Israel when it comes under heinous, premeditated attacks.