

Senior Calvin Watson, who had 24 points and six 3-pointers, was named the Sunbelt Conference Tournament's Most Outstanding Player. Guard Ben Bell was also named to the all-tournament team.

This victory was a combined effort and would not have been possible if it was not for the incredible work ethic demonstrated by these athletes and coaches. I extend my sincere congratulations to Head Coach Johnny Jones, University of North Texas President Gretchen M. Bataille, as well as the members of the UNT Men's Basketball Team.

I am proud of these young men—their victory in Sunbelt Conference and their efforts during the NCAA tournament. Not only am I honored to serve as their U.S. Representative, but I am proud to be a University of North Texas alumnus.

THE UNFORTUNATE TWO-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF CHINA'S ANTI-SECESSION LAW

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, two years ago, China passed its anti-secession law, codifying its use of force against Taiwan. Despite Taiwan's pleas for friendship and worldwide condemnation of the legislation, China has continued its military buildup along the coast of Taiwan and heightened its rhetoric against the people of Taiwan. The 23 million people of Taiwan feel insecure and worry about present or future military confrontations in the Taiwan Strait.

Even more ominously, China recently successfully tested an anti-satellite missile, threatening the surveillance satellites of India, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, the United States, Europe and Russia. China's development of space-based technology will seriously threaten U.S. military operations and world peace. This action, when combined with other actions by the PRC, should raise serious concerns among my colleagues about future moves that China may conduct.

For the sake of world peace, I urge my colleagues to continue to speak out against the Chinese military buildup. China's military intimidations against Taiwan pose a serious threat to the well-being of the peaceful 23 million people that reside in Democratic Taiwan. It is in our best interests for people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait to live in peace and any military action against Taiwan will lead to chaos and destruction for many countries in the region. As a start to maintaining this critical peace on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, China should rescind its anti-secession legislation now. This legislation should have never been adopted by the Chinese, and therefore I ask for its immediate repeal.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HATCH ACT REFORM ACT OF 2007

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Hatch Act Reform Act of 2007 to eliminate discriminatory treatment of the District of Columbia which still falls under the federal Hatch Act, as it did before the Congress made the District an independent jurisdiction that today enacts its own local laws. This bill would retain federal Hatch Act authority concerning prohibited partisan and political activity that applies to every state upon receipt of federal funds or functions, and importantly, would require the District to enact its own local version of the Hatch Act barring similar local violations, to become effective. This bill, of course, would automatically be held over for congressional review as required by the Home Rule Act. In any case, local Hatch Act violations in the District are rare, but the District needs its own Hatch Act to fully account and be responsible for local violations, with which only a local, objective body would be most familiar.

This bill will leave in place the federal Hatch Act restrictions that apply to other jurisdictions on the use of official authority, specifically as it relates to elections; the solicitation, acceptance, or receiving of political campaign contributions; the prohibitions on running for public office in partisan elections; and the use of on-duty time and resources to engage in partisan campaign activity where federal funds or responsibilities are involved. My bill would remove only the federal Hatch Act jurisdiction that applies solely to the District of Columbia and would require the District to have its own local Hatch Act, like every other jurisdiction, instead of requiring the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and its Special Counsel to devote staff time and other resources on investigation, fact-finding and judgment of unfamiliar local matters.

Indeed, the OPM has asked for the federal guidance my bill offers. In recent cases, OPM cited an ANC commissioner (Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner) for violations of the Hatch Act when he ran for higher office, even though ANC commissioners are "elected officials" under local laws. The application of the Hatch Act to ANC commissioners has been selectively enforced by OPM. For example, recently OPM filed cases charging Hatch Act violations against an ANC commissioner running for the D.C. Council but did not file when several members of the current City Council ran for the Council from positions as ANC commissioners. The present law results in possible violation of the federal Hatch Act while leaving OPM with local responsibility that does not implicate its federal jurisdiction.

The House recognized that the present federal Hatch Act jurisdiction over the District was inappropriate and obsolete by removing this federal responsibility several years ago, but the Senate failed to act. The District should bear this local responsibility. My bill will eliminate the double indignity of placing a local burden on the federal government and depriving the District of a responsibility, which only local jurisdictions familiar with local laws can be expected to handle responsibly.

The Hatch Reform Act is the third in the "Free and Equal D.C." series of bills that I have introduced to eliminate anti-Home Rule or redundant bills that deprive the city of equal treatment and recognition as an independent self-governing jurisdiction.

HONORING BRONZE STAR RECIPIENT PAUL BAKER

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Mr. Paul Baker, recipient of the prestigious Bronze Star Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device in recognition of his actions on February 19, 1945 at Iwo Jima.

The Battle of Iwo Jima was a crucial victory in World War II against the Japanese. On the morning of February 19th, 1945, the first of 70,000 Marines and Sailors, including Pharmacist's Mate First Class Paul Baker, U.S. Navy, landed on Iwo Jima. By the end of the battle 35 days later, the Allies were victorious, but suffered over 25,000 casualties, including over 5,000 deaths.

On that initial morning of the invasion, Petty Officer Paul Baker, was among the first infantry troops to land on the island. Baker was rendered unconscious by a Japanese artillery shell that struck his ship. Upon regaining consciousness, despite his injuries and without regard for his own safety, Baker began treating multiple injured Marines, refusing medical treatment for his own injuries to save the lives of his fallen comrades. Only after all of the wounded Marines had been transferred to the medical personnel on the USS *Sanborn*, did Petty Officer Baker allow himself to be treated.

Petty Officer Baker displayed the highest level of dedication and selflessness by his courageous actions that day. He is a shining example of the heroism and valor that was displayed by so many of our troops during World War II. On Friday, March 23rd Secretary of the Navy Donald Winter will personally present Mr. Baker with this Bronze Star with Combat "V" at a ceremony in Irondequoit, New York. I am proud to use this opportunity to publicly recognize Mr. Baker and to congratulate him and his family on this long overdue recognition.

A TRIBUTE TO LILIAN KAWARATANI

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Lilian Kawaratani, of Monterey Park, California. Each year in March, in recognition of Women's History Month, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women.

Lilian was born in Honolulu, Hawaii where she was raised. She enrolled at the University of Hawaii. After completing the Fifth Year Program for Teachers, Lilian left Hawaii for New York where she attended Columbia University Teachers College and received her M.A. in

Education. In 1980, Mrs. Kawaratani received her Adult Education Designated Subjects Credential from the University of California State College.

Mrs. Kawaratani began her career teaching at Barber's Point Elementary School in Hawaii. Upon graduation from Columbia Teacher's College, Lilian moved to Monterey Park and began teaching at Euclid Ave. Elementary School in East Los Angeles. After taking time off to raise her children, Lilian returned to teaching for the Alhambra School District's Adult Education ESL program until she retired in 1999.

Lilian has demonstrated a strong commitment to community service. Lilian was a Board Member and Coordinator for the United Methodist Pre-School's Mother Helpers Program. She has held various positions for the PTA, served on the GATE Advisory Board, and volunteered as a Brownie and Girl Scout Leader. Mrs. Kawaratani has also held various offices at the California Council of Adult Education, where in 1988 she was awarded the CALCO Award for Excellence in Teaching. Lilian also serves as the Membership Chair for the Friends of Monterey Park Library Board.

Most notably, Lilian is admired for her volunteer work with the Monterey Park Library's LAMP (Literacy for All of Monterey Park) Citizenship Classes. Following her retirement, Lilian was invited to help teach Citizenship Classes for the library for two hours per week. Lilian's passion for teaching was made apparent as she spent up to eight hours a day at the library and often met one-on-one with adult learners to further prepare them for their citizenship tests and interviews. Her efforts have directly helped 50 to 100 students annually become proud new American citizens. As Lilian enters her eighth year of teaching for LAMP, she has seen over 700 students attain U.S. Citizenship and has devoted thousands of hours of service.

In addition to her many professional and personal accomplishments, Mrs. Kawaratani is a wife and mother of four children and enjoys spending time with her grandchildren.

Mrs. Kawaratani's devotion to her career and her long-time commitment to the prosperity of our community serves as a true inspiration to us all. I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Lilian Kawaratani.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN CHACON, SR.

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to honor and remember a great community activist, role model, loving father, husband, and grandfather, John Chacon, Sr.

John was born in El Paso, Texas, on July 6, 1935, but he called California home, as he resided in Ventura County for over 63 years.

John graduated from Oxnard High School in 1955. In 1957, John married the love of his life, Frances "Pancha" Castro, with whom he shared 50 years of happy marriage.

Professionally, John worked over 25 years for W.B. Post and Nick Wargo Construction Companies. He was a lead paving foreman for

19 of those 25 years. At the age of 52 John retired, but he remained active in the community, particularly with his labor union. He was an active member of Laborers Local 585 for 46 years.

John's accomplishments in the community are too many to list here, but some of his most notable include: membership in Los Compadres del Rio, membership in the Rio Mesa High School Boosters Club, and a founding, charter membership in the Mexican-American Golf Association.

John's passions included golfing, gardening, camping at Lake Cachuma, backyard barbecues with family and friends, and listening to mariachi music.

John was well-known throughout the community for cooking his famous "tripas" and his secret salsa recipe. He made friends everywhere he went, and could never go anywhere in the community without someone recognizing him.

On March 4, 2007, John passed away from a sudden illness. He will be greatly missed by his wife, Frances; son, John Jr.; daughters, Rosemary and Barbara; grandchildren, Jennifer, Vincent, Francesca and Analisa; and his four sisters.

Let us pay tribute to John for the man he was and the example he set for all of us to follow. His dedication to family and friends, and his love for his community was evidenced in all that he did.

Although he is no longer with us, John's legacy and spirit will continue to live on through the lives of everyone he has touched.

Madam Speaker, let us pay our respects to John Chacon, Sr. He will always have a place in our hearts for everything he gave to his loved ones and community.

HONORING THE OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE OF WENDY MILLER

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Wendy Miller of Jamison, Pennsylvania for her dedication to our soldiers overseas. Her efforts have brought hope to many soldiers serving in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as here at home.

For the past three years, Ms. Miller, working through the program Anysoldier, has collected various supplies, clothes, and treats from family, friends, and neighbors. Each year she collects a thousand homemade valentines and hundreds of homemade cards and letters from area children. She then ships the packages to the units requesting supplies on anysoldier.com.

Ms. Miller has shipped 130 boxes already, and plans to ship another 100 in the next month. She has taken the initiative to organize volunteers in four other neighborhoods to help collect the donations. The project has been so successful that she plans to send at least 500 boxes by the end of the year.

Her hard work has not gone unappreciated. In fact, Madam Speaker, Ms. Miller has received letters from soldiers, thanking her for the supplies, for the hope each shipment gives

them, and for the reminder that they are not forgotten. The generosity of the hundreds of residents who participate in this project is overwhelming, and the devotion of Ms. Miller is incredible.

One letter of thanks from a soldier serving in Afghanistan reads "Your care package got our soldiers smiling after a long day." Madam Speaker, as a veteran of the Iraq war, I rise today on behalf of American soldiers to thank Wendy Miller and her neighbors for their unending dedication and generosity.

IN THE GAME OF LIFE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, in tribute of slain Marine Jimmy Regan, Albert Carey Caswell, United States Capitol Tour Guide, penned the following poem:

"In the game of life,
There's only what's wrong or right!
For there are only the very few, who shall so
shine there so who . . . are so very
bright!

"For only one thing so counts,
For only one score so adds up, that which so
amounts . . .
For it's all about what we've so said and
done, and what is really true . . . as so
to be won!

"For there are no second chances!
In these our short minutes, upon this earth
. . . as our time here so advances . . .
Our goal! All in what we've said and done, for
whom we've so bled . . . to take our
valiant stances!

"Whether, upon fields of green . . .
Or on oh so heroic battlefields of honor
seen . . .
Jimmy, was always the one! A brave heart!
As a leader of men, time and time
again!

"A Marine's Marine,
A brave heart who once so lived, who so gallantly
chose to give . . .
Facing death, with only his magnificent
courage left . . . his heart of a lion
seen could not be checked!

"Fast breaking in the game of life, writing
his book of sacrifice . . .
To this our world he so gave, but never took
. . . no mistaking around him the earth
so shook!

Strength in Honor . . . was his great life's
measure, in each and every step he ever
took!

"For so few of us shall ever be such a treasure,
For so few of us such magnificence, as a hero
to their Country shall be so measured!
Such Splendid Splendor, was Jimmy . . .
who to our Lord's heart brought such
pleasure!

"For in the minutes and the hours,
Of our lives upon this earth we give now,
upon all others which so shower!
Are our gifts of Freedom and Peace, in our
Lord's eye's hold such power!

"To Make a Difference With It All,
To be a champion in life! As what Jimmy so
lived for and died, as for what he saw!
Could we, would we . . . ever such the
strength so find, to stand as tall as him
in time?

"In the game of life,