

CONGRATULATING LOYOLA SACRED HEART SPEECH AND DEBATE

**HON. DENNIS R. REHBERG**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. REHBERG. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the continued excellence of a speech and debate program in Montana that has won 25 state championships in a row. With this quarter-century milestone, the Loyola Sacred Heart High School speech and debate team is building on the longest streak of such state championships in United States history.

Speech and debate is an activity that fosters valuable skills such as public speaking, bolstering confidence and poise, and critical thinking while showing an awareness of current events. Students compete in two debate events—team debate and Lincoln-Douglas debate—and seven individual public speaking events—extemporaneous speaking, impromptu speaking, original oratory, memorized public address, expository speaking, serious oral interpretation of literature, and humorous oral interpretation of literature. Team scores are accumulated by individual performances in each of these events, so just like this championship streak is made up of many teams, each team is made up of many talented students.

This year's championship team included five individual state champions. Dan Evans won the state in Extemporaneous Speaking for an unprecedented third time. Nick Corn, Will Blair, Emily Mihalic and Emilie Loran also took home individual gold for Loyola. They are joined by the remainder of the team, Mike Tarbert, Kevin Conley, Katie Neher, Mary Callahan-Baumstark, Matt Eddy, Myles Dauterive, Dillon Linhart, Dan Cloninger, Nick Mihalic, Lyle Pocha, Laura Snook, Tricia Karsky, Erik Kappelman, Mike Evans, Mariah Rys-Sikora, Brooke Sauro, Kyle Doyle, Justin Dart, Dylan Hyland, Alex Hughes, Ashley Wegener, Ali Hege, Erich Dieziger, Erik Dale, Rachel Lee, Erik Loran, Shawnae Stanton, Griffin Woodall, Alex Ward and Matt Dollar. The team is coached by Head Coach Matt Stergios and Assistant Coaches Sarah Jennings, Stephanie Mansanti, Chuck Hansberry and Theresa Stergios.

I am proud to recognize the achievements of this year's team, building on the shoulders of 24 championship teams before them.

RECOGNIZING ANNETTE SYKORA AS CHAIRWOMAN OF THE NADA

**HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mrs. Annette Sykora of Slaton, Texas, on becoming chairwoman of the National Automobile Dealers Association. Annette comes from a family of auto dealers and is the dealer principal of Smith South Plains Ford/Mercury in Slaton, Texas, and South Plains Ford/Lincoln Mercury/Dodge/Jeep/Chrysler in Levelland, Texas.

From an early age, Annette knew her heart was in the automobile business. At age 19,

she told her father of her dream that one day she would run his dealership. By age 26, she was general manager, and by 29 she had a controlling share of the store.

In addition to running a successful business, Annette is also an active leader in her community. She is the chair of the finance committee of the First United Methodist Church of Slaton and serves as board member of the Slaton Chamber of Commerce.

As chairwoman of the NADA, Annette wants to strive to help connect domestic dealerships with valuable resources that are available through the NADA. Car dealerships in Texas alone bring in \$55 billion of revenue and employ more than 85,000 people. She also brings years of hard work and experience, as well as a message of hope for the future of domestic dealerships in America.

I, along with all the citizens of Slaton, am proud to celebrate Annette Sykora as the first woman to become chair of the NADA. I wish her continued success.

HONORING AND PRAISING THE NAACP ON ITS 99TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise and join my colleague, the Honorable AL GREEN of Texas, in honoring the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its 99th anniversary. As we celebrate Black History Month, it is only appropriate that we do so by recognizing our Nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization.

The NAACP was founded on February 12, 1909, by Ida Wells-Barnett, W.E.B. Dubois, Henry Moscowitz, Mary White Ovington, Oswald Garrison Villard, and William English Walling.

Since its inception, the NAACP has united students, laborers, professionals, scholars, officials, and others of all races to advance its vision of "a society in which all individuals have equal rights and there is no racial hatred or racial discrimination."

Historically, the NAACP is probably best known for its role and that of Thurgood Marshall in the seminal case of Brown v. Board of Education, in which the Supreme Court held in 1954 that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." Yet we must not forget that the NAACP has been at the forefront of all efforts to secure equality and justice for every American throughout the 20th century and now into the 21st century.

The NAACP spoke out against lynching, challenged racially biased Supreme Court Justice nominees as early as 1930, and pursued nondiscrimination policies in the military, war-related industries, and the Federal Government during the world wars.

At the height of the civil rights era, the NAACP fought battles on the ground, in the courtroom, and in Congress, where it lobbied for passage of civil rights legislation, like the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Since then and during our current session, the NAACP has lobbied for hate crimes legis-

lation and other legislation that protects minorities, not necessarily based on race, but based on discrimination.

Today, on the shoulders of distinguished members and leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Coretta Scott King, Rosa Parks, Medgar Evers, Merlie Evers-Williams, Benjamin Hooks, Julian Bond, Jesse Turner, Sr., Maxine Vasco Smith, and Kweisi Mfume, the NAACP continues to fight the good fight.

Most recently, the NAACP is promoting African American graduation and college readiness, protecting and advancing voting rights, and identifying solutions to the subprime mortgage foreclosure crisis. I have the privilege of working with the association to further these important efforts.

So, in recognizing the NAACP's past and present, I again salute the organization on its near centennial anniversary. I am confident the NAACP will remain an integral part of our Nation's efforts to protect and promote civil rights in the future and move society forward in a progressive manner on a wide array of issues.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 289.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

SPEECH OF

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise to salute the engineers, past, present, and future, of the United States of America. Engineers have shaped our history, from aiding the colonists to win our independence to designing our advanced, modern technologies. They impact our daily lives from the first ring of our alarm clocks in the morning to our late-night, online shopping.

In my home State of Nebraska, engineers aid agriculture with new and more effective agricultural chemicals and better equipment and technologies. Nebraska engineers help secure our Nation's energy independence by supporting the ethanol industry. Nebraska engineers ensure our roads, bridges, waterworks, and other infrastructure are well designed, functional, and safe.

Engineers are key to a prosperous and productive future for all Nebraskans and Americans. There are nearly 150 engineering companies in Nebraska's Third District. Every day I hear about the need to attract talented, educated young people to fill technical, engineering, and science positions in small communities and rural areas in the Third District. I have been, and continue to be, an enthusiastic supporter of the America COMPETES act which encourages American competitiveness in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education. I am optimistic this initiative will help Nebraska's engineering businesses attract and maintain native talent in engineering.