

HONORING SERENA LAINE-
LOBSINGER, SPELLING BEE
CHAMPION IN FLORIDA

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Serena Laine-Lobsinger, an accomplished 7th grader from my congressional district, who recently won the regional finals of the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Florida. Serena competed against 8 opponents for 36 rounds of tense competition, to win as the area's top speller. She will now travel to Washington, DC, to represent Palm Beach, Hendry, Glades, and Okeechobee counties at the Scripps National Spelling Bee, the largest and longest standing spelling bee in our country.

Serena is a bright and talented young woman and her hard work and dedication to her studies will surely help her succeed in any endeavor she pursues. I wish Serena the best of luck in the finals of the Scripps National Spelling Bee, and continued success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MARLENE LEE

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a grateful heart to pay tribute to a selfless American, Marlene Lee of Boyds, Maryland.

In 2003, Marlene developed "Operation Atlas", a community outreach program for injured soldiers and their visiting families at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. It is through this program that I have been able to work with Marlene on a nearly monthly basis as she escorts soldiers and their families on tours of the Capitol.

Marlene is an incredibly giving person, both of her time and talents. Her son, Greg, has served two tours in Iraq, so she knows intimately the pains military families go through. Yet, she is always ready with a willing hand, a kind heart, and a new way to serve others. Named as one of the American Red Cross Volunteers of the Year in 2003, Marlene was recognized again in 2004 by the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. She is also on the board of directors of "Operation Support Our Troops" and the committee for Wheels for Warriors.

Through her time spent with wounded and recovering soldiers, Marlene recognized the need to reach out to children "who know of, care about, or just plain love a wounded warrior." She went back to school, earning a master's of arts in thanatology, the study of death, dying, and bereavement, from Hood College.

With the motto of "Children 'serve' and sacrifice, too", Marlene has written two books for children on dealing with the loss of a loved one in the Armed Services: *The Hero In My Pocket* and *That's My Hope*. She donates a portion of the proceeds from book sales to selected organizations that assist military families.

I am honored by the time that I have been able to share in service with Marlene. She is

a dedicated and humble person who goes out of her way to bless the lives of the men, women and the children in our military families and communities. May God continue to bless her and America.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. GOODLATE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor James Madison University on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

James Madison University, surrounded by the beautiful Shenandoah Valley, has proved to be a catalyst for growth in western Virginia, building on the agricultural base of the region to create a center for higher education.

It has been a true pleasure to work with former president Dr. Ron Carrier and current president Dr. Linwood Rose as they have skillfully guided James Madison University into the twenty-first century.

From its inception, James Madison University has been at the forefront of education. Originally a teachers college, today James Madison provides ground-breaking research in information technology, security and alternative fuel sources, and offers more than 100 degree programs for its more than 17,000 students.

Madam Speaker, James Madison University's alumni have impacted the Commonwealth of Virginia, the United States and the world. Madison graduates travel to the farthest corners of the earth to perform research and provide leadership in corporate boardrooms, State legislatures and even here on Capitol Hill.

I am pleased to introduce today, along with the entire Virginia delegation, a resolution recognizing the rich history and accomplishments of this remarkable institution on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. I urge all the Members of this body to join us in congratulating James Madison University on its 100th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO TOM AND CHRISTINE BUTLER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of Tom and Christie Butler of Lexington, Missouri. Together, the Butlers have contributed over 100 years of outstanding service to the Boy Scouts of America. Their contributions to the young people of Missouri have helped them learn leadership skills and self-confidence that will last a lifetime.

Tom has been involved with the Boy Scouts for the past 56 years and earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 1961. Christie earned the Gold Bar Award from the Girl Scouts of America and became the first female to serve as scout-

master in the Big Muddy District of the Heart of America Boy Scout Council. Both serve their district by serving as a resource for Scoutmasters, providing training to fellow adult leaders, and attending meetings of different area troops.

The Butlers believe strongly in the values and lessons learned from scouting. Throughout the years, the Boy Scouts have remained one of America's finest organizations in helping young people learn both practical skills and life lessons. Thanks to the work and dedication of people like Tom and Christie Butler, many more young people will have the opportunity to be involved in Scouting.

As an Eagle Scout myself, I understand the impact leaders such as the Butlers have in guiding America's youth. I hope Members of the House will join me in honoring and thanking the Butlers for their work with the Boy Scouts.

CONGRATULATING BILL BOSS ON RECEIVING THE TENNESSEE TITANS 2007 COMMUNITY QUARTERBACK AWARD

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, this January, Bill Boss of Tullahoma, Tennessee, received the Tennessee Titans 2007 Community Quarterback Award, and I rise today to congratulate his service to our community, our state, and our country.

Nearly thirty years ago, Bill completed his service to our armed forces and retired as an officer of the United States Air Force. For Bill, his time as one of America's finest was only the beginning of a life dedicated to his community and the betterment of those around him.

After retiring from the Air Force, Bill began a career as a research engineer for the University of Tennessee Space Institute. It was there that Bill met with friends and colleagues to discuss how they could use their scientific expertise to give young students in Coffee County, Tennessee, and across the state an opportunity to discover the sciences for themselves. Only seven years later, Boss's diligence proved successful and helped open the Tullahoma Hands-On Science Center.

Today, 10,000 eager young learners visit the Hands-On Science Center every year as it continues to provide a forum that engages and enthalls the scientists of tomorrow. I commend Bill for his efforts, and proudly stand to congratulate him today for an award well earned in service to Coffee County students and all those aspiring scholars across the State of Tennessee.

CONGRATULATING THE INDIANA WRESTLING STATE CHAMPIONS AT MISHAWAKA HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the victory of the Mishawaka

Cavemen in the Indiana High School Athletic Association state wrestling championship. The championship was a repeat challenge between two-time defending state champions Mater Dei and the Cavemen, who had suffered defeat the year before. It took all their strength and motivation to turn the tables, but at the end of this year's tournament it was the Cavemen who were celebrating victory.

It was the perfect finish to a season full of intense physical training and exhausting practices. On its way to the state title, Mishawaka—ranked third overall—completed their season with a record of 31–1 and knocked off both the first and second-ranked teams. While they have appeared in the state finals for nine consecutive seasons, this is the first championship for Mishawaka since 1991.

Mater Dei had an early lead in the contest, but junior Tim Forte rallied to win his match 1–0. This gave the Cavemen a score of 9–7—a lead which they were able to maintain throughout the rest of the competition. Seniors Dave Balentine and Randy Morin and sophomore Paul Beck were all victorious in their matches, bringing the score to 22–10. But it was a win by junior and three-time individual state champion Josh Harper that finalized Mishawaka's victory.

These exceptional members of the Mishawaka team were joined by Danny Abu-Shehab, DJ Ballenger, Brandon Barcus, Jon Bennett, Christian Bergin, Dustin Boyd, Andrew Brogdon, Gary Brooks, Andrew Childress, Darius Cooley, David Delarosa, Anthony Eddy, Marty Friedman, Adam Guerra, Matt Guerra, Neal Kostro, Christian Lentz, Anthony Lewis, Darius Marshall, Hunter Marvin, Brandon Merisch, Aaron Merisch, Richard Morin, Tyler Nally, Robert Norris, Caleb Norville, Trenton Reinoehl, Tyler Reinoehl, Steven Sandefer, Nick Schrader, Joey Smith, Tylor Smith, Brandon Straub, Quinci Sullivan, Mitch Sutherland, Travis Thomas, Justin Traver, Eric Uitdenhoven, Austin Vegh, Alex White and Taylor Wisler. These dedicated young men should be commended for their accomplishments.

None of this would have been possible, however, without the support of Mishawaka High School's administration and staff. Special recognition should be given to head coach Darrick Snyder, assistant coaches Fabian Chavez and Mike Lehman and Athletic Director Robert Shriner for the continued support and guidance they give to the team. Volunteers Brad Addison, Pat Day, Mike Faulkner, Scott Gann, Nick Nicodemus, Mike Strycker, Brandon Trtan, and Junior Varsity Coach Brian Woodworth gave freely of their time and energy to make this championship possible. The team was not alone in this accomplishment, as family, friends, fans, members of the Mishawaka community and Mishawaka High School principal Dr. George Marzotto have all tirelessly cheered the team on to victory throughout the season.

The Mishawaka Cavemen wrestling team has achieved a memorable ending to an extraordinary season. I offer my congratulations to the members of the team, the coaching staff, Mishawaka High School and the greater Mishawaka community on this season's accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF THE CLEVELAND FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Cleveland Federal Executive Board, and all federal employees of our community for their individual and collective dedication as public servants, focused on the public good.

The community of federal employees in Cleveland, Ohio, is comprised of more than 25,000 individuals who contribute their talent, trade and expertise daily within an array of roles, including park rangers, administrators, accountants, clerical employees, attorneys, engineers, military personnel, mail carriers, scientists, nurses and physicians.

The professional contributions extended daily by federal employees serve as a foundation of support, safety and security throughout our community. Every day, the environment is monitored; the mail is delivered; veterans receive medical care; our national park is preserved; immigrants are guided to citizenship; citizens are provided with benefits and programs; and the universe is studied and explored by the astronomers.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the members of the Cleveland Federal Executive Board and the thousands of federal employees who live and work within our Cleveland community. Their dedication to their work continues to preserve, protect and strengthen our entire community.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 312) revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2010 through 2013:

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Progressive Caucus Budget Substitute.

This week, many of my constituents are visiting Washington, DC. They are here asking for more funding for important Federal programs.

I keep explaining to them, that I will do my best; we all will do our best. We will fight for them; we will fight with them.

But the problem is the war in Iraq. Every penny we spend on this war is another penny that will cost our children, our grandchildren, our great grandchildren. Every cent we spend on this war in an emergency supplemental is off-budget. But every dollar we invest in health care, unemployment insurance, housing, in child welfare is subject to devastating cuts.

This administration believes that we have an endless pot of money for war, but no money for hard-working Americans.

Across the country people are struggling. They are struggling to keep up with their bills. Struggling to pay their mortgages, pay for college, pay for food, pay for gas. They come here and ask us to invest in their needs. They ask us to provide funding not for the war but for their communities.

Mr. Chairman, this budget amendment does just that. We provide nearly \$132 billion more than the President to assist struggling Americans. This proposal responds to our constituents. It says we found a way to fund what is important to you.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on this amendment.

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GAS ATTACK OF THE KURDS OF HALABJA

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to solemnly remember the 20th anniversary of a terrible crime committed against the Kurdish people, the gassing of the inhabitants of the city of Halabja on March 16, 1988. This attack on men, women, and children was a crime against humanity. On that day, Iraqi planes dropped chemical munitions, including mustard gas and nerve gas; the planes concentrated their attack on the city as well as the roads leading out of the town. More than 5,000 people were killed and another 10,000 were injured. Twenty years later, the survivors of this attack are still suffering from the effects of that horrendous onslaught.

As a staffer with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee at the time, I had the opportunity to travel to the region after this attack, in September 1988, and observed first hand the effects of that terrible campaign against the Kurds. With my colleague, Peter Galbraith, I interviewed Kurdish survivors of other chemical attacks that followed. We had the sad but important task of documenting chemical attacks on 49 Kurdish villages. These attacks were part of a year-long brutal campaign that resulted in the deaths and disappearances of approximately 180,000 Iraqi Kurds.

Because of these brutal attacks against the Kurds, the Senate passed stiff economic sanctions against the Saddam Hussein regime at the time, but the Reagan Administration defeated this effort and failed to penalize this regime with any meaningful measures. That failure sent a terrible signal to Saddam Hussein, and he may have concluded that he could subsequently attack Kuwait with impunity. After the Persian Gulf war of 1991, the United States imposed a no-fly zone over the Kurdish region of Iraq, which helped the inhabitants of that area to begin to restore their shattered lives.

Today, the Iraqi Kurdistan region is one of the most stable and peaceful regions of Iraq, and its brave people are trying to concentrate on political and economic development. As we try to assist these people we should also be mindful of what they have lived through and the loved ones they have lost. We must never