

## TRIBUTE TO BRENNIA AILEO

**HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 15, 2008*

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brenna Aileo, a U.S. recipient of the International Committee of the Red Crosses, ICRC, 41st Annual Florence Nightingale Medal. Every 2 years, this medal is awarded to qualified nurses who have shown exceptional courage and devotion to the wounded, sick, or disabled or to civilian victims of a conflict or disaster; and to those who have shown a creative and pioneering spirit in the areas of public health or nursing education.

Mrs. Aileo earned a BSN degree from Eastern Washington State University and an MA in Health Services Management from Webster University in St. Louis. She served as a nurse in the U.S. Army for 21 years, including 2 years of enlistment and 19 years as a commissioned officer in the Army Nurse Corps where she achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel. Her posts included the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC and the 85th Evacuation Hospital in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. In Saudi Arabia she treated wounded U.S. soldiers, including many from a Pennsylvania-based unit who were injured in a mortar attack.

In response to the attacks on September 11, Mrs. Aileo began volunteering with the American Red Cross. She worked with disaster relief at Ground Zero and at other disaster locations throughout the United States and Guam. During a flood in my district in 2006, Mrs. Aileo heroically managed a shelter at Blue Ridge High School in New Milford, PA.

Since 2001, she has worked at the local, regional, and national levels. As the first appointed service area staff health volunteer consultant in Susquehanna County, Mrs. Aileo distinguished herself by developing and presenting key disaster training programs. In 2004, Mrs. Aileo worked as a health consultant for the Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services, where she reviewed and cleared staff for overseas deployment. No staff member who Mrs. Aileo cleared has returned from a deployment due to medical reasons.

Mrs. Aileo's professional experience includes working as a community health nurse administrator for the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Northeast District and as a nursing supervisor for the Northeast Veterans Center in Scranton. She also worked as a charge nurse in the Montrose General Hospital ICU and as an instructor at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

As an active member of our community, Mrs. Aileo sits on the Board of Directors of the Garden Club Federation, Susquehanna County Library, and her church. Her interests include gardening, wine making, and travel. Her son, Jason, continuing Mrs. Aileo's tremendous dedication to public service, served in Iraq from 2003 to 2004.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Brenna Aileo for her continued service to our country.

## HONORING EULESS TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL FOR WINNING THE 5A DIVISION I FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 15, 2008*

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to the 2007 Euless Trinity High School football team upon winning the 5A Division I State Championship on Saturday, December 22, 2007.

The Trinity Trojans' 13-10 win over Converse Judson Rockets in the San Antonio Alamodome gave the program its second State title in 3 years. It is believed that defenses win championships and this game was no exception as the Trojans held the Rockets scoreless during the second half. Despite the fact that all of the scoring took place in the first and second quarters, the second half was just as thrilling as the defense stopped the Converse Judson's offensive attack while the Trojans' tireless running offense wore down the Rockets and controlled the clock. Under Coach Steve Lineweaver's tenure, Euless Trinity has amassed an 88-16 record and has won 14 of its last 16 playoff games.

I am extremely proud to represent Euless Trinity High School in Congress and I congratulate the players, coaches, fans and parents who made the 2007 season a memorable and victorious one.

## TRIBUTE TO TERRY YATES

**HON. HEATHER WILSON**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 15, 2008*

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, on December 12, 2007, Terry Yates, Vice President for Research and Economic Development at the University of New Mexico passed away. He was a remarkable scientist and professor, and UNM has suffered a great loss with his passing. He lived a life full of enthusiasm for science. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Nancy, their sons and his entire family.

Terry Yates came to the University of New Mexico in 1978 as an assistant professor of biology, and went on to become a professor of biology and pathology. He helped create the Long Term Ecological Research site outside Socorro, New Mexico, and he was the curator of Genomic Resources for the Museum of Southwestern Biology on the UNM campus.

Terry Yates was appointed Vice Provost for Research in 2004, and served as Vice President for Research and Economic Development from 2004 until his death. During this time as Vice Provost and Vice President, Terry increased the total amount of research awards from \$247 million to nearly \$300 million.

UNM's President, David Schmidly, taught Terry as a graduate student at Texas Tech University in the mid-1970s. "It was his exuberance you remember most about Terry. He was always ready to examine a new idea or take a trip to the field to explore a theory. I think he was happier out in the field than he was behind a desk," said Schmidly.

Terry was best known for his groundbreaking research on the source of Hantavirus, a serious respiratory disease that is frequently fatal. He began his work in 1993, when many people in the Southwest began dying from an unknown viral disease. In collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Terry examined specimens that he had collected over several years, that were residing in the museum of Southwest Biology. Through his study, he was able to pinpoint a species of deer mice as the carrier of the Sin Nombre virus. The National Science Foundation named this research done by Terry and partner Robert Parmeter as one of its "Nifty 50" discoveries—projects funded that have had the biggest impact on American lives.

Most recently, Terry published a paper on the relationship between weather and deer mice populations. He and his co-authors were able to predict increased health risks posed by deer mice to humans in specific parts of the Four Corners area. This research also provided the New Mexico Department of Public Health with the necessary scientific evidence required to give advanced warning to people living in specific parts of the state that they face increased risk of exposure to Hantavirus.

He has published a total of 126 research papers.

Terry was an honorary member of the Board of Life Sciences of the National Academy of Sciences, as well as an honorary member of the Society of Mammalogists. This is the highest honor that the Society bestows upon an individual.

While his professional enthusiasm was for research and pushing back the frontiers of knowledge, Terry loved people and had friends from all walks of life. Every year, on Kentucky Derby Day, Terry had a party at his house complete with mint juleps. But he insisted on never sending out invitations. Everyone was welcome and no one was excluded.

Terry Yates was a great mind and a vibrant leader. He fought for life to the very end with humor and grace. Of his final illness, he told people, "I expect to get some patents out of this!"

He challenged us and inspired us and will deeply be missed.

## HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF DAVID JOHN FESMIRE

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 15, 2008*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my deep sympathies to the family of David Fesmire, including his loving wife, Karen, his three wonderful daughters, Kindra, Katti and Mikki, and his 4 grandchildren.

David Fesmire's passing is a great loss for all of us. He was a true hero who dedicated his life to improving the lives of others. He honorably served his country in Vietnam, his state with the California National Guard, and his community as a paramedic and firefighter.

David served in the Army from 1970 to 1973, with two tours in Vietnam. He was highly decorated for his service, receiving 2

Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart and 34 Air Medals, among others. He went on to the California National Guard, serving as a Crew Chief in the 126th Helicopter Company. He was extremely proud of his military service, and particularly enjoyed coordinating the Vietnam Darkhorse project.

David then became a certified EMT and worked in the public ambulance sector as a paramedic from 1980 to 2001. He served first as a volunteer, then as an employee at the North Shore Fire Protection District, Lucerne Station from 2001 to 2007. He held a variety of positions with the Fire Protection District, including Paramedic, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Fire Officer, Weapons of Mass Destruction Instructor/Trainer, and Captain. His tireless efforts led him to be recognized as Firefighter of the Year.

David will always be known as someone who loved his family and his community dearly. He is remembered by those who knew him as a superlative husband, father, and grandfather; as a caring brother, a respected comrade, a spirited co-worker, a true friend, a loyal employee and an honest neighbor.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, David Fesmire's contributions to our country and the community of Lake County are immeasurable. His presence will be missed even as his legacy endures.

#### HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER FOOTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

#### HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 15, 2008*

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater football team for their courageous and improbable victory in the 35th Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl to capture the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III national championship.

With Salem Stadium as the backdrop, Whitewater capped off an incredible season by beating the undefeated and top-ranked Mount Union College Purple Raiders to give the university its first football national championship. The Warhawks' third trip to Salem, Va., in as many years proved to be the charm. Mount Union had defeated Whitewater in each of the previous two Stagg Bowl games en route to a 37-game winning streak that has now been snapped thanks to the tremendous dedication and determination of all the Warhawk players, coaches, staff, and fans.

To add to his already long list of accolades including 2007 Gagliardi Trophy winner, National Player of the Year Justin Beaver was named the game's Most Outstanding Player. Beaver carried the ball 31 times for 249 yards and a touchdown, raising his season rushing total to 2,455 yards and breaking the previous Division III record he set two years ago. Beaver's play was complimented by the strong performance of the 22 other seniors who took the field for the last time at the Stagg Bowl.

In a phenomenal first season, head coach Lance Leipold led Whitewater to a 14-1 record, going undefeated in league play to secure the Warhawks' third straight Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title.

Leipold took the reins of a storied program with a rich history that includes the likes of long-time coaches Bob Berezowitz and stadium namesake Forrest Perkins.

The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater represents the best of student-athletics and this title serves as a major accomplishment for the entire state of Wisconsin. I sincerely congratulate the team and the university and wish them luck in their quest to repeat as national champions.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE JOHN WILLIAM JACKSON FUND

#### HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 15, 2008*

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituents, the Jackson family, founders of the John William Jackson Fund.

Boise resident Bill Jackson established the John William Jackson fund seven years ago in honor of his son, John, who died in a rock climbing accident in Central Asia. John William Jackson was known as a free-spirited individual who was passionate about academics, performing arts and outdoor sports. He challenged both himself and those around him to believe in themselves. He pushed them to excel at all that they did and to reach for the stars.

In providing scholarships and activities through the Fund, Bill Jackson has honored his son's memory by continuing to encourage young people to be successful individuals who can make great things happen. Jackson received the nickname "Action" Jackson during his service in Vietnam, and he continues to live up to that nickname through his work with the Fund.

The Jackson Fund has supported youth rock-climbing programs at the YMCA. It has provided new musical instruments to Kuna Middle School, and it has given scholarships to needy students to attend a Boise State University music camp. Just as John Jackson made other people believe in their dreams, the Jackson Fund is giving them the assistance and support to make those dreams a reality.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the achievements and contributions of the John William Jackson Fund and am honored to represent the Jackson family in Congress. Across America, our constituents are donating their time and energy to make a difference in people's lives, and I appreciate the opportunity to highlight one family in my state that is doing just that.

#### WISHING JESSE ANN LEWIS A HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 15, 2008*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, Jesse Ann Lewis of Bay City, Texas will celebrate her 100th birthday on January 30. A lifetime resident of Bay City, Mrs. Lewis faithfully served several Bay City families as a domestic serv-

ant. However, Mrs. Lewis's greatest contribution to her community has been her over six decades of service as a missionary for the Enterprise Church. Mrs. Lewis's service to Enterprise Church's congregation enabled her to positively impact the lives of several generations of Bay City residents.

The love and dedication Mrs. Lewis has shown for the people of Bay City is reciprocated in the love and respect the people of Bay City have for Mrs. Lewis. It is therefore a pleasure to wish Mrs. Jesse Ann Lewis a happy 100th birthday as she prepares to celebrate her centennial with a gathering in her beloved Enterprise Church, surrounded by people whose lives were improved by Mrs. Lewis's devotion to her church, her community, and her fellow human beings.

#### HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY IN BELARUS OFF TO DISCOURAGING START IN THE NEW YEAR

#### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 15, 2008*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, last month, I chaired a Helsinki Commission briefing with a delegation of leading political opposition figures and democratic activists from Belarus. The briefing was entitled, "The Future Belarus: Democracy or Dictatorship" and focused on the prospects for change in a country located in the heart of Europe that has Europe's worst track record with respect to human rights and democracy. Unfortunately, developments since the delegation's visit to Washington have been deeply discouraging and do not bode well for Belarus' democratic future.

One of the young people who testified at the briefing, 19-year-old Zmitser Fedaruk, spoke eloquently of the dangers that young human rights activists face in Belarus. His words were prophetic, as a few days later, back in Belarus, he was beaten and knocked unconscious by riot policemen, then rushed by ambulance to the hospital. Just last week, the Minsk district prosecutor's office in Minsk refused to open an investigation into Zmitser's beating.

A day earlier, my friend Anatoly Lebedka, one of Belarus' staunchest defenders of democratic rights, who also testified before the Commission, was roughed up by Belarusian police as well. It was far from the first time that this leader of the democratic opposition had been beaten up or repressed by the Lukashenko regime. On January 4, the Lukashenko regime banned Anatoly from travelling abroad in what was obviously a politically-motivated decision. Today, Anatoly is in jail serving a 15-day sentence, along with several dozen other pro-democracy and small business advocates who participated in a January 10 protest against restrictions on activities of small businesses. Some of the activists—mostly young people—received injuries during their arrest. Tatyana Tshishkevch, who was severely beaten during her arrest and presented her bloodstained jacket in court, received a 20-day sentence. Arsen Pakhomau, a freelance photo correspondent for "Nasha Niva" weekly—one of the very few remaining independent publications in Belarus—was also