

TRIBUTE TO CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL, CALIFORNIA FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a school in my congressional district that not only excels in academics but is also distinguished on the football field. On December 19, 2008, The Centennial High School football team won the 2008 California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Division I Championship. In the championship game, Centennial defeated De La Salle, Concord 21 to 16.

The football team is an outstanding example of hard work, determination and perseverance. They were undefeated in the 2008 season and have earned the title "Champions." The members of the winning football team, according to their jersey number, include:

Dion Bass, Geshun Harris, Nick Beasley, Michael Aguon, Taylor Martinez, Michael Arredondo, Vontaze Burfict, Jason Manalili, Lenon Ford, Larry Scott, Trevor Romaine, Demeirtri Beasley, Chris Simpson, Charles Oakley, Cody Baker, Barrington Collins, Michael Eubank, Ricky Marvray, Sam Kadar, Chris Gonzalez, Hayden Gavett, Anthony Goodman, Arthur Burns, KJ Vaifale, Kevin Angulo, Eddie Lopez, Denzel Hawkins, Duran Harris, Jacob Duro, Lee Adams, Anthony Whitlow, Khiry Shabazz, Norman Ford, Brandon Brown, Daniel Contreras, Marques Watson, Damion Smith, Izaac Colunga, Jimmy Munoz, JD Austin, Jaleel Johnson, Daniel Mireles, Frank Jimenez, James Lindsay, Markiece Miller, Casey Winans, Derek Aviles, Brandon Holder, Andrew Torres, Adam Hollick, Eric Rizzo, Steele Frey, David Leon, Jacob Appleton, Daniel Rojas, Cesar Olivares, Jake Amaya, Adam Davila, Adrian Contreras, Kendrick Allen, Luis Rodriguez, Marc Andres, Robbie Bishop, Chad Salcido, Jesus Cacho, Jacob Olsson, Gavin Pascarella, Joseph Lopez, Johnnyray Cabrera, Elijah Perricone, JT Felix, David Mireles, Deji Olijade, Jeremy Fennell, JT Powell, Ahkeel Chambers, Derrick Wilson, Romello Goodman, Isaiah Ashby, Bryan Murillo, Eric Finney, Milo Jordan, Iosefa Gasu, Derrick Ivy, William Sutton, Ben Letcher, Paul Verrette, Adam Uribe, Christian Gonzales, Thomas Amato.

The team is led by Head Coach Matt Logan; Assistant Coaches Ron Guringer, Jeremy Goins, Brian Benz, Noel Hughes, Matt Lance, Mike Nicks, Bill Carter, Kunane Burns, James Hughes, Leo Perez, Dan Herring, Casey Richardson, Trevor Bermudez, Ika Tamelfuna, and Corey Kipp. The team is strongly supported by Principle Sam Buenrostro, Athletic Director Bill Gunn and the entire Centennial family.

It is an honor to represent such a fine group of young people with a strong dedication to teamwork and academics. I know each one of them will treasure the memories of their championship season and I commend them, and the entire Centennial High School community, for this truly great achievement.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE CORPS OF RETIRED EXECUTIVES (SCORE) FOR THEIR VALUABLE SERVICE TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Started in October 5, 1964, Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), known presently as "SCORE Counselors to America's Small Business," is made up of more than 11,200 counselors in nearly 400 offices who provide time and expertise to assist fledgling business owners and prospective entrepreneurs. Today, the organization fulfills the vital role of helping small business owners survive economic challenges, stay in business, and keep Americans working. According to the Small Business Administration (SBA), each year SCORE assistance helps start approximately 20,000 new businesses and creates approximately 25,000 jobs.

In 2008, SCORE reached the impressive milestone of providing eight million clients with mentoring and training since its founding. That year, SCORE's nearly 7,000 business workshops drew in excess of 133,000 attendees and the online workshops attracted 51,000 more. Counselors can provide assistance via e-mail and numerous courses may be taken on line, free of charge.

America's small businesses play a significant role in our economy, accounting for 99.7% of all employer firms and generating more than half of the non-farm private gross domestic product (GDP). SCORE continues to be a well-positioned and valuable resource for these small businesses as they grow and develop.

I commend SCORE's numerous volunteers who share their time and valuable expertise to equip future entrepreneurs with the skills to own and operate successful small businesses. Volunteers from SCORE have demonstrated their commitment to enhancing quality of life, building strong communities, and promoting economic growth. Our communities can take pride in SCORE's good work.

HONORING BOB WILLIAMS FOR HIS EFFORTS SENDING CARE PACKAGES TO OUR SOLDIERS OVERSEAS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor American patriot and founder of the "Support Our Troops" organization, Bob Williams.

A veteran of the Vietnam War, Bob Williams understands how valuable it is to receive a care package from home. For 27 years, Bob has sent care packages to members of the Armed Forces serving overseas, often using his own funds to cover both the cost of supplies and postage. His organization, Support Our Troops, is the largest of its kind in Florida to send care packages to troops. His group operates out of its own warehouse in Wesley

Chapel, Florida, sending out over 250 packages a week. While Mr. Williams accepts donations, the cost of postage can often exceed \$8,000 a week.

In order to alleviate some of the difficulties incurred by these costs, Representative KATHY CASTOR and I have introduced H.R. 707, which would allow for a monthly voucher providing free postage for small parcels and other correspondence to be distributed to soldiers serving in combat zones overseas to transfer at their own discretion. We have introduced this legislation to recognize not only the sacrifices made by the brave men and women who serve overseas in our Armed Forces, but the sacrifices borne by their loved ones back home. Our hope is that, once passed into law, this bill will also assist generous souls like Bob Williams in his organization's efforts to send our troops a piece of home.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Bob Williams for the many contributions he has made to honor the bravery and selfless sacrifice of our Nation's servicemembers. May God bless our troops and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

THANKING LAKE ALICE SCHOOL

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a gem of western Nebraska, Lake Alice School. The school, which first opened its doors in 1915, will bid its final farewell on Monday.

A Farewell to Lake Alice School will be held with an open house at the school, allowing anyone who is or has been associated with the school to reminisce on its impact to our community and what it has meant to so many people through the years.

Nearly 7,000 students from Scottsbluff and the surrounding area have passed through the school during its 93 years. I'm proud to have known Lake Alice students, teachers, graduates, and faculty throughout my life. The school provided a quality education and served as a point of pride for the community.

Lake Alice will hold a special place in our hearts. I hate to see the doors close, but I know the memories will last forever.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF HUEY ALFRED MACK SR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Robertsdale, Alabama, and all of southwest Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor Huey Alfred Mack Sr. and pay tribute to his memory.

Mr. Mack was born in rural Escambia County and studied pre-med at the University of Alabama. In 1958, he received a degree in mortuary science at Gupton Jones Institute in Dallas, Texas, and just seven years later, he and his family moved from Atmore to Robertsdale and opened Mack Funeral Home.

In 1978, he was appointed by then-Governor George C. Wallace as Baldwin County's coroner. He went on to win seven consecutive elections and remained in the post until his retirement in 2006. In addition to serving as county coroner and owning the funeral home, he ran a commercial real estate business and a small cattle operation.

Former Baldwin County District Attorney David Whetstone said "[Mr. Mack] was probably one of the best coroners in the history of Alabama . . . And he is one of the best friends you could have." Jim Small, who was elected county coroner following Mr. Mack's retirement said, "He was a person who worked hard and diligently."

Mr. Mack was a founding member of the Central Baldwin County Chamber of Commerce and had served as its president. He was also past president of the Alabama Funeral Director's Association, the Robertsdale Rotary Club, and past board member of the Selected Independent Funeral Homes. He was a devout member of Robertsdale United Methodist Church.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a beloved friend to many throughout southwest Alabama. Huey Alfred Mack Sr. will be dearly missed by his family—his wife, Jean Marie Mack; his daughter, Linda Lou Mack, his son, Huey A. "Hoss" Mack Jr.; his sister, Judy; his brother, Arnold; his five grandchildren; and his great grandchild—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

HONORING MRS. PATRICIA HECK

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Patricia Heck, an exemplary public servant who is retiring as a teacher at Red Mountain High School in Mesa.

In 1988, Pat launched a program at Red Mountain through Reading Is Fundamental that promotes a love of reading for all ability groups through fun and entertaining activities. Pat's commitment and deep passion for literacy encourages students of all reading levels to unlock the mystery that each book holds.

Fueled by Pat's drive and determination, the program flourished. The club currently consists of 1,800 teen members; representing more than half the student body. Members organize an annual carnival, and produce year-round reading displays, assemblies, and read-a-thons. Every year, they collect over 2,500 books to distribute to their own high school and in other areas of need. Since the school opened in 1988, the club has given away \$3 million in donated books. At the core of Club RIF are the one-on-one reading buddies that work directly with 150 second graders at the Salk Elementary School and the tutors who read to 1,375 children each week.

Pat's dedication has been recognized numerous times over the years including national recognition in 1991 as President Bush Sr.'s 432nd Point of Light and in 2000 as the recipients of President Clinton's Student Service Award.

After more than 20 years of service to Club RIF and 30 years in education, Pat is retiring. Through her leadership, vision and passion, she excelled as a charismatic advocate for literacy and provided a shining example of how students can positively influence children in their communities through education and reading. Her energy and enthusiasm for Club RIF and its mission will continue to inspire students to get excited about reading.

I take particular pride in Pat's contributions and accomplishments because she was one of my first students when I began my own 28-year teaching career.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Patricia Heck on her energetic contributions to Club RIF, her upcoming retirement, and the lasting legacy she will leave with the community.

RECOGNIZING BETTE MIDLER AND THE NEW YORK RESTORATION PROJECT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Bette Midler and the New York Restoration Project who for the last 14 years has been revitalizing underserved parkland and community gardens in my Congressional District and throughout the City of New York. Restoration of our beloved parks and gardens has promoted in my community a sense of ownership and civic pride leading residents to preserve their beloved recreational areas.

Bette Midler first got the attention of this Congress when she took to national syndicated television in 1994 and confessed that if she had not gone into entertainment she probably would have pursued a career as an urban planner, and she certainly has moved to the forefront in promoting livability with her personal advocacy and investment.

This was most apparent when she spearheaded the rescue of 112 parks and community gardens in New York City when then Mayor Rudolph Giuliani threatened to auction these small gardens to the highest bidder for redevelopment. Had Bette not stepped in, along with the Trust for Public Land and the New York Restoration Project (NYRP), a great number of New Yorkers would have lost their sprawling parks and adored gardens.

New York Restoration Project was founded by Bette Midler in 1995 as the "conservancy of forgotten places." NYRP reclaims, restores and revitalizes neglected parks, community gardens and waterfronts throughout New York City—focusing especially on underserved neighborhoods. NYRP is also the lead non-profit partner of Mayor Bloomberg's PlaNYC MillionTreesNYC, the most ambitious public-private initiative in the country, dedicated to planting one million new trees in New York City by 2017.

For 14 years, NYRP has recognized that the challenges facing New York City's natural environment are significant. Dramatic increases in population, shortage of green spaces, insufficient tree canopy, and unsatisfactory environmental education are some of the compelling obstacles facing our great city, especially in low-income neighborhoods. As a result of

these pressing issues, the City is facing dangerously high rates of obesity and diabetes; dramatic climate changes with rising temperatures and sea levels; devastatingly poor air quality and growing asthma rates; and lack of knowledge of, and respect for, the natural environment among younger generations. NYRP is able to combat the negative effects of these concerns through five core initiatives: Park Reclamation and Beautification, Community Garden Design Excellence Program, Community Outreach, Environmental Education Programming, and MillionTreesNYC Tree Planting and Stewardship.

As a permanent operational partner with local communities and city agencies, NYRP supplies labor, materials, project design and management, and environmental educational programs throughout the city's green spaces. NYRP has removed more than 1,900 tons of garbage and debris from New York City parks and public spaces; created Swindler Cove Park on the Harlem River, on the site of what was once an illegal dumping ground; planted more than 200,000 trees as part of MillionTreesNYC, a public-private partnership between the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation and NYRP; undertaken the care of Fort Washington Park, Fort Tryon Park, Highbridge Park, Bridge Park, and Roberto Clemente State Park; saved 114 community gardens from commercial development; and served thousands of youth and families with after-school and school-day outdoor learning and public programs.

So Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing my good friend Bette Midler for all her contributions to our parks and such a remarkable and impressive organization like the New York Restoration Project who, under the leadership of Executive Director Drew Becher, has transformed and beautified the parks and community gardens of my district and the city of New York.

PRESIDENT MA OF TAIWAN

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, President Ma of Taiwan will celebrate the one-year anniversary of his taking office on May 20th, 2009. In just one year, the Harvard-educated President has accomplished so much to improve Taiwan's standing on the world stage.

The latest of these accomplishments is Taiwan's acceptance as an official observer at the World Health Assembly that will take place later this month in Geneva. The World Health Assembly, which is part of the World Health Organization, will finally give Taiwan's 23 million citizens a voice at this forum. This is possible because of President Ma's blossoming relationship with mainland China.

In April, officials from China and Taiwan participated in the Chiang-Chen Talks. The talks resulted in the signing of the following agreements: (1) "Agreement on Joint Cross-Strait Crime-fighting and Mutual Judicial Assistance" (2) the "Cross-Strait Financial Cooperation Agreement" and (3) the "Supplementary Agreement on Cross-Strait Air Transport." All of these agreements will result in improved coordination between the Taiwan