

SPECIAL OLYMPICS MASSACHUSETTS AND MR. DON DOWD

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commend Special Olympics, Massachusetts and longtime friend Donald J. Dowd. Both Special Olympics, Massachusetts and Mr. Dowd have been fixtures in New England and wonderful contributors to the people and culture of our region.

As my colleagues know, Special Olympics provides year-round sports training, athletic competition and other related programming for athletes with intellectual disabilities.

This organization founded by my Aunt Eunice Kennedy Shriver in 1968, contributes to the physical, social, and psychological development of people with intellectual disabilities. It is a global force for change with over 2.5 million athletes participating world wide representing over 140 countries.

In Massachusetts and Rhode Island, Special Olympics does amazing things for the people of New England. Special Olympics Massachusetts also offers Unified Sports, an initiative that combines approximately equal numbers of Special Olympics athletes and athletes without intellectual disabilities, called Partners, on sports teams for training and competition.

One of Special Olympics' greatest supporters has been Donald Dowd, or Don as I affectionately call him. He worked for and volunteered for my Father in the Other Body for over 40 years, as well as for my uncles. He was responsible for coordinating the opening of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and has served as a member of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation Board since its inception, helping to found the Friends of the Kennedy Library.

He is a lifelong resident of Springfield, Massachusetts, began his career in public service as President Kennedy's Assistant Regional Director of the U.S. Postal Service for the six New England States, and was a political advisor to U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy. I am proud to call him a friend and thank him for his dedication to my family, to Special Olympics, to our region and to our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I regret that I missed rollcall vote No. 902-904 and vote No. 911-913. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all rollcall votes.

HONORING WORLD AIDS AWARENESS DAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize World AIDS Awareness Day. This

awareness initiative started on December 1, 1988 with the purpose of raising money, increasing awareness, fighting prejudice, and improving education on HIV/AIDS topics. The World AIDS Day theme for 2009 is "Universal Access and Human Rights," serving as an important reminder that HIV/AIDS has not gone away, and that there are many things still to be done.

According to the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS, there are 33.4 million cases of HIV/AIDS worldwide. Approximately 1.1 million of these cases are in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and there are more than 50,000 new HIV/AIDS infections reported each year in America. Sadly, minority communities face the brunt of its reach. African American are the most affected, representing half of the total 1.1 million cases in the United States. Blacks are 8 times more likely to have AIDS than their White counterparts. The racial disparities are clear, with HIV being the main cause of death for both Black men and women between the ages of 25 to 44. It is of utmost importance that we take action and stand together to stop this pandemic from spreading further.

Congress has played its part in trying to stop the HIV/AIDS epidemic. I applaud the House for passing the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act. The Ryan White program has been serving people with AIDS and HIV for nearly two decades. It provides care, treatment, and support services to nearly half a million people—most of whom are low-income. This bill increases the authorization level for each part of the Ryan White program by 5 percent a year for the next four years, making important investments in care and treatment services to ensure the highest quality of life for HIV/AIDS patients, while also funding prevention and outreach programs. I have myself introduced H.R. 1964, The National Black Clergy for the Elimination of HIV/AIDS Act of 2009, which seeks funds for the prevention, testing, education, treatment and care of HIV/AIDS.

Although great efforts have been made to fight HIV/AIDS, much is left to be done by both, the government and citizens. World AIDS Awareness Day is about prevention, education, and increasing awareness of this pandemic that is affecting millions around the globe. This day will bring to many the education necessary to create the awareness necessary to prevent HIV/AIDS, as well as give us a moment to recognize and remember those who have suffered from this disease.

HONORING THE RESOLVE AND TEAMWORK OF THE NORTH BRANCH HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the hard work, determination and teamwork displayed by the 2009 North Branch Varsity Girls Volleyball Team. These young women endured a grueling 83 match season and in the end came out on top as the Class B Michigan State Cham-

pions! They collected an impressive overall record of 76-5-2. This was a historic accomplishment because it was the first sports title ever in the school's history.

Coach Jim Fish did a tremendous job leading the team and bringing them together as a cohesive unit to accomplish a common goal—winning a state title. I commend all the assistant coaches, support staff, teachers, parents and fans in the community for their help and making this a season to remember.

However, the road to the state finals at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek was anything but a walk in the park. Despite graduating eight players from the 2008 squad, the Lady Broncos rolled through the regular season winning the Tri-Valley East Conference Title. Nonetheless, the Lady Broncos did hit a slight speed bump when they fell to Bloomfield Hills Marian. But in all fairness, I must state that Bloomfield did go on to win the Class A State Title. Now some teams might have taken this defeat as a negative experience, but not the Lady Broncos. They learned from this loss and rebounded to attain a number one ranking for most of the season.

North Branch realized the conference championship brought them just a step closer to their ultimate goal so the team once again pulled up their sleeves, laced up their shoes and got back to work.

The Lady Broncos continued their memorable quest as they picked additional trophies for the school's display case winning the district title and regional title and an eventual spot in the state quarterfinals.

Here the team faced-off against a feisty Cadillac Team. The Lady Broncos proved their tenacity and resilience as they beat Cadillac in four hard fought sets. Next North Branch was matched up against Delton Kellogg. But unfortunately for Kellogg, it just was not in the cards for them to win on this Saturday because destiny was on the side of the Lady Broncos. There was nothing Kellogg could do on the court to prevent North Branch from raising the championship trophy in glorious triumph. The Lady Broncos were determined to finish what they had started since the first practice of the season. And through all the sweat, injuries and difficult training sessions, the Lady Broncos saw their dreams come to fruition as they were crowned the Michigan Volleyball Class B State Champs!

Teamwork, dedication and friendship all helped deliver this first-ever championship in the schools sports history. The entire North Branch community and Lapeer County should take pride in what these young women accomplished.

I certainly share that pride and want to offer my congratulations to everyone who contributed to this team effort. First starting with the co-captains Kara Stuewer and Jordan Fish and team members—Katie Smillie, Danika Racknor, Taylor Wiegele, Layne Molosky, Samantha Garza, Hailey Smillie, Catherine Brusie, Laura Johnson, Macaela Deshetskyy, Shanel Johnstone, Katie Owens, Stephanie Marsh, and Angela Root. You all should be extremely proud of this achievement.

In addition, I must mention that not only were these young women champions on the court but in the classroom as well. The volleyball team compiled an outstanding 3.49 GPA and achieved an all-state academic recognition.

My hat also goes off to Head Coach Jim Fish—Assistant Coaches Curt June, Chris

Schlaud, Marian Somerville, and Sue Fish—Athletic Trainers Mike Kohler and Brian Curtis and Team Managers Jacqueline Ken and Ali Ruhlman.

Great job North Branch on a successful season and I look forward to a repeat in 2010! Go Broncos!

A TRIBUTE TO REGINA MAINOR

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Regina Mainor. For years, Ms. Mainor has served the people of Philadelphia as the Director of North Central Victim Services. In December she will celebrate her retirement after many years of service to her community.

Regina Mainor was a hard worker from the beginning, obtaining her Bachelors Degree in Business Education and Masters Degree in Social Work from Temple University. Ms. Mainor obtained a position as Director of North Central Victims Services in 1999, and becoming Executive Director of the agency in 2002. The National Crime Victimization Services (NCVS) is a neighborhood victim service agency which specializes in working with victims of all ages, especially seniors. The NCVS provides crime victims compensation, crisis response, education, counseling, criminal justice/legal advocacy, court accompaniment, case management, and legal services, all of which are free of charge. Ms. Mainor helped the NCVS to get recognized as a federal non profit organization in 2002.

Ms. Mainor has been recognized by the NAACP with the NAACP Award for Community Service, and she was honored again in 2006 for the National Crime Victims Services Award for Professional Innovation in Victims Services.

Regina Mainor's long and impressive career showcases her commitment and service to her community. Her contributions to the area of Victim Services will be felt for many years to come. Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in thanking Regina Mainor for her work and congratulate her on the occasion of her retirement.

CONGRATULATING HERMAN AND MARJORIE WILLIAMS ON 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my esteemed colleague from Maryland, ELIJAH CUMMINGS, in order to congratulate Herman and Marjorie Williams of Baltimore, Maryland, as they celebrate sixty years of marriage. Since they exchanged their vows on November 24, 1949, these high school sweethearts have been extraordinary parents, friends, and members of their community.

Over the decades of their marriage, they contended against racism and segregation as

they pursued their careers, Herman as one of the first black firefighters in Baltimore and Marjorie at Westinghouse. Their commitment to hard work and to their family never wavered.

Herman eventually became the nation's first African-American major-city fire chief and Marjorie retired after a long and exemplary career. Even after her retirement, Marjorie has volunteered her time with many charitable organizations, dedicating herself to helping the less fortunate. Always an adventuresome spirit, she has also continued to pursue her love of travel.

The two of them together raised four wonderful and successful children: Marjorie, Clolita, Montel, and Herman. Marjorie and Herman have a fierce dedication to their family, and the values they instilled led their children to prominent careers in the arts, education, civil service, and broadcast media.

The Williams have been an inspiration to their friends, their family, to their community, and to everyone determined to triumph in the face of adversity.

On November 28, 2009, they celebrated their anniversary along with family and friends. Please join us in wishing them the best of luck as they continue to spend their lives loving and supporting each other and bringing joy and happiness to their family and friends.

IN MEMORY OF MRS. SARA BISSELL

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of one of my constituents, Mrs. Sara Bissell, of Charlotte, North Carolina. Mrs. Bissell passed away after a brave 11-year battle with cancer on November 8, 2009 at the age of 71. Born in Charlotte and the granddaughter of former North Carolina Governor Cameron Morrison, Mrs. Bissell attended Charlotte Country Day School and graduated from Bennett Junior College in New York.

Mrs. Bissell took over her mother's fine furnishing store in 1964 and ran it until recently. Her interior design influence can be seen throughout Charlotte's buildings and landmarks. Sara's contributions to her community were many and varied. She worked tirelessly, both out front and behind the scenes, to make Charlotte a better place. She served on the board of directors for Charlotte Country Day School, University of North Carolina—Charlotte, YMCA of Greater Charlotte, and Queens University. The Chancellor's residence at UNCC is named in her honor.

Sara married H.C. "Smoky" Bissell, a successful developer, in 1960. Together they had four children and nine grandchildren whom they loved and cherished. She was also the sister of Charlotte businessmen, Johnny and Cameron Harris. Mrs. Bissell will be greatly missed by her family, friends, and the Charlotte community.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, this morning our national debt was \$12,089,226,465,642.57.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,450,800,719,348.77 so far this year.

According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the forecast deficit for this year is \$1.6 trillion. That means that so far this year, we borrowed and spent an average \$4.4 billion a day more than we have collected, passing that debt and its interest payments to our children and all future Americans.

HONORING DR. AIDA LEVITAN, EMILIO ESTEFAN AND DR. EDUARDO PADRON: SOUTH FLORIDA MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN LATINO COMMISSION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize several outstanding individuals from my South Florida community who have been named to serve on the National Museum of the American Latino Commission: President of Hispanic Events Dr. Aida Levitan, world-renowned musician and producer Emilio Estefan and Dr. Eduardo Padron, President of Miami-Dade College.

The Commission is charged with the planning, construction and design of the museum. The Commission's members will also help formulate the museum's organizational structure and how to engage the Hispanic community in its development and design.

These individuals are not only dedicated to the mission of making a National Museum of the American Latino a reality, but they are also representative of the great diversity of the Hispanic community that the museum will showcase.

The story and history of Hispanic-Americans is part of the rich tapestry of this nation's history. Hispanics have enriched our great nation in a myriad of ways. Hispanics have served proudly in America's defense from the American Revolution to our current engagement in Iraq and Afghanistan. The number of Hispanic-owned businesses approached 3 million in 2008 and they contribute approximately \$389 billion dollars annually to the U.S. economy.

The Hispanic-American experience is part and parcel of the American story. I will be honored to join these talented men and women tomorrow with the rest of the members of the Commission. Through their efforts, Americans from all walks of life will one day be able to see and appreciate the contributions of Hispanic-Americans to our great nation.