

HONORING THE PENNEY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 3, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise to recognize the outstanding achievement of the Penney High School Hornets football team in defeating Valle Catholic, by a score of 21–17, to claim victory in this year’s Class 1 Show-Me Bowl at the Edward Jones Dome.

A championship is not only reflective of the final game of the year but also the hard work and dedication required in getting to that point through diligence and discipline. Knocking off one of Missouri’s historically great football programs and owner of 9 previous state titles is no small achievement and the Hornets should be commended for their efforts in doing so.

Additionally, I want to recognize the outstanding leadership of Coach Dave Fairchild, who earned his first state title in his 26 years of coaching. Through his vision and guidance, the Hornets were able to repeatedly deliver solid results and achieve the honor of state champions.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully request you to join me in congratulating the achievement of the Penney High School football team on their state championship.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JEANNE M. MERSHON

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 3, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude to a long-time employee of the House of Representatives, Jeanne M. Mershon, who, on November 30th, retired after more than 27 years of dedicated service to this body. Ms. Mershon is a constituent of Virginia’s 8th Congressional District, born and raised in Springfield, Virginia and currently resides in Arlington. Jeanne is a proud graduate of the Northern Virginia public school system and her alma mater, the College of William and Mary.

Ms. Mershon began working for the House of Representatives in 1982 in the Office of the Clerk after a stint at the Federal Election Commission. She started in the Office of the Director of Non-Legislative and Financial Services and later joined the Chief Administrative Office in the Office of Facilities Management. After over a decade of making sure the operations of the House ran smoothly, in December of 1995, she joined the Parking Security Office for the House Sergeant at Arms, where she has since served as Assistant Director.

Ms. Mershon is known by her peers as thorough and detail oriented, as well as someone they are able to turn to at any time, even with the most difficult questions. This past September, Ms. Mershon was the recipient of the Office of the Inspector General’s “Employee Excellence Award,” a fitting tribute to her tireless efforts. We are fortunate to have had Ms. Mershon’s service for so many years. She will be sorely missed by all her friends and colleagues. I wish her the best in all of her future

endeavors and a lifetime ahead of even greater reward.

MS. BERTHA M. JONES—
AGRICULTURALIST,
THROPIST, CHAMPION

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 3, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, it gives me immense pleasure to recognize the life and legacy of one of America’s most prolific champions of agricultural education and science, Ms. Bertha M. Jones.

Ms. Jones is a native of Huntsville, AL, where she first found her love for agriculture and appreciation for the mystical wonders of nature. Ms. Jones graduated from State Agricultural and Mechanical Institute in Alabama, currently known as Alabama A&M in 1945, receiving her Bachelor’s of Science in Home Economics. After completing her undergraduate studies, Ms. Jones began her career in Luverne, Alabama as a Negro Home Demonstration Agent servicing Crenshaw County for more than a decade.

In 1956, Ms. Bertha received her Master’s of Education in Home Economics from Penn State University and shortly thereafter served as a State 4–H Agent for Negro Girls at Tuskegee Institute, currently known as Tuskegee University. During that period Ms. Jones was responsible for 4–H publications and 4–H administration for 37 county agents. Her desire for scholastic achievement led her to further her studies at both Prairie View A&M and George Washington University.

Ms. Bertha Jones lives by the motto, “4–H Is Life”, devoting countless hours towards the educational and economic growth of young people throughout the region. Ms. Jones believed that every young person should be exposed to the 4–H experience because it was instrumental in life skills development. Ms. Jones served multiple roles both locally and nationally for 4–H related junctures, including membership on the National and State 4–H Congress Committees, the 4–H Food Preservation and 4–H DOT Committees as well as the 4–H Advisory Committee. Ms. Jones was also the first State Leader for Urban 4–H in both Mobile and Huntsville, AL.

Ms. Jones has authored and co-authored numerous publications dedicated to advancing agricultural studies among rural and urban communities. Some of her works are comprised of the 4–H Officer Training Handbook, Clean Look and Your Health, and the History of Negroes in Cooperative Extension, which she co-authored with Dr. Richard Bailey. Not only has she authored and co-authored publications, Ms. Jones also has been featured in publications such as They Too Call Alabama Home: African American Profiles, 1800–1999, written also by Dr. Bailey.

Ms. Jones is a noted philanthropist of local 4–H efforts, giving not only financial resources but also substantial amounts of time towards helping enrich and increase the growing knowledge among young people about 4–H procedures and practices, willing monetary support for those wishing to expand their knowledge through involvement in 4–H activities or pursuit of higher education.

During the course of her career, Ms. Jones received a number of plaques, certificates and awards of recognition and achievement. Some of her most treasured awards include a Presidential Citation for the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education as well as her 2004 induction into the National 4–H Hall of Fame. Not only has Ms. Jones received citation and notary inductions but she also has a conference room dedicated in her honor at Alabama A&M in the Home Economics Department.

Ms. Jones was a faithful steward of the Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church in Tuskegee, AL where she served as an active member of their congregation since 1970. During her membership Ms. Jones served in several capacities including the choir, the Pastor’s Aid Committee and as a devoted Sunday school teacher.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to recognize one of the finest agricultural icons in American history, Ms. Bertha M. Jones. Her achievements and contributions to the world of agricultural science will never be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 3, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, November 17, 2009 and Wednesday, November 18, 2009.

For Tuesday, November 17, 2009, I ask that the Record reflect that had I been present I would have voted “Aye” on rollcall vote No. 892 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3360), “Aye” on rollcall vote No. 893 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 842), “No” on rollcall vote No. 894 (on approval of the Journal), “Aye” on rollcall vote No. 895 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 891).

For Wednesday, November 18, 2009, I ask that the Record reflect that had I been present I would have voted “No” on rollcall vote No. 896 (on agreeing to H. Con. Res. 214, which provides for a conditional adjournment of the two Houses), “No” on rollcall vote No. 897 (ordering the previous question on the Rule for H.R. 3791, the Fire Grants Reauthorization Act of 2009), “No” on rollcall vote No. 898 (on agreeing to H. Res. 909, which provides for consideration of H.R. 3791), “No” on rollcall vote No. 899 (on agreeing to the Perlmutter Amendment to H.R. 3791), “Aye” on rollcall vote No. 900 (on agreeing to the Flake Amendment to H.R. 3791), “Aye” on rollcall vote No. 901 (on passage of H.R. 3791).

HONORING THE KEARNEY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 3, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise to recognize the outstanding achievement

of the Kearney Bulldogs High School girls cross country team in capturing their first-ever Class 3 state championship.

Winning their first state championship was even more sweet for Kearney, as they beat the powerhouse team of West Plains, who just last year squeaked past the Bulldogs by three points to win the state championship. This year, the hard work and dedication paid off as all seven Kearney runners placed in the top 50 in a field of 165.

Additionally, I want to recognize the outstanding leadership of Coach Jeff Roberts. Through his vision and guidance, the team was able to deliver solid results and achieve the honor of state champions.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully request you to join me in congratulating the Kearney High School girls cross country team on their state championship.

NADINE GULIT AND "OPERATION
SUPPORT OUR TROOPS"

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the co-founder of an organization that provided comfort and support for thousands upon thousands of our brave service men and women.

For nearly eight years, Nadine Gulit has freely given nearly all her time to support and run "Operation Support our Troops." Whenever I hold Veterans Fair's in my district, the 8th of Washington, or attend veterans or service member rallies, Nadine is always present. Providing aid and comfort to our brave soldiers was the work of her heart and soul and she poured 100 percent of both into "Operation Support Our Troops."

As the story goes, Operation Support Our Troops started after Nadine's daughter Sheryl Sheaffer received a message from her son Scott serving in Iraq. At that point, Nadine and Sheryl were active in a grassroots organization called "Operation Home Front," a support our troops grassroots effort. But after receiving Scott's call, Sheryl and Nadine took supporting our troops to a new level.

"Operation Support Our Troops" has held many, many rallies in support of service members around Western Washington and is in regular contact with thousands of military supporters around the State. "Operation Support Our Troops" has sent care packages to tens of thousands of our soldiers at a time and has touched the lives of many more.

Nadine's family has a long history of service to this country and a deep respect for the work our soldiers do at home and abroad. Nadine and her group have been honored and recognized for their tireless efforts before, and I felt strongly I needed to add my name to the list. Their contributions will be missed but they have provided a blueprint for patriotic Americans to follow.

On November 5, Specialist Aaron Aamot—a 22-year-old soldier from Custer, Washington—was killed in Afghanistan by an IED. His father Mark, reflecting on his son's death and the outpouring of support from his community and country, quoted 19th century French historian Alexis de Tocqueville: "Amer-

ica is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great." Madam Speaker, Nadine is the kind of American de Tocqueville was talking about. She is good and people like her continue to make America great.

INTRODUCING THE ENDOCRINE
DISRUPTING CHEMICALS PRE-
VENTION ACT OF 2009

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "Endocrine Disruption Prevention Act of 2009," legislation that will not only established a much-needed comprehensive research program to identify chemicals that interfere with human reproduction and development, but that also will require regulatory agencies to provide an appropriate public response as to how they will respond to the scientific findings and what actions they will take to protect humans from exposure to such chemicals.

Recent studies have convincingly demonstrated that a disturbing increase in the number of disorders of the human endocrine system is seriously undermining the health of our Nation. These disorders include autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, asthma, juvenile and adult diabetes, juvenile cancer, autoimmune diseases, obesity, osteoporosis, Parkinson's disease, and Alzheimer's dementia. These disorders began to increase noticeably in the early 1970s when the first generation exposed in the womb to post-World War II synthetic chemicals reached maturity. Today, 1 in 3 children and 1 in 2 minority children will develop diabetes; 1 in 6 children is born with neurological damage; 1 in 100 children has an autism spectrum disorder—among boys the occurrence is 1 in 58; and in 2007, an age-independent decline in testosterone levels over the past 20 years was discovered in American men. Evidence from human epidemiological and laboratory animal studies have linked these disorders to prenatal exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs), yet the hands of federal agencies remain tied under existing law.

In 1996, Congress recognized the need to study endocrine disruptions when it directed the EPA to develop an endocrine disruption screening program as part of the Food Quality Protection Act. Unfortunately, for various reasons, many being political, the program has been plagued by delays. Here we are, 13 years later, and it wasn't until October of this year that EPA announced the availability of initial assays and testing guidelines for a limited number of chemicals. Moreover, many question whether any testing conducted under EPA's program will even be as relevant or effective as it could be, as scientists' knowledge and understanding of endocrine disrupting chemicals, and how to best detect them, has increased rather profoundly since that time, and will continue to do so. Using a modernized 21st century testing paradigm that recognizes the known unique, subtle, and complex properties and effects of EDCs is necessary, as only then will we have accurate, practical data to inform appropriate and expeditious regulation of them.

In the legislation I am introducing, the science, not politics, will set the stage for action to be taken by regulatory agencies. First, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) will undertake a comprehensive research and testing program, using the best available science, to identify chemicals with endocrine disrupting potential. In addition, an independent expert panel, guided by the scientific research, will develop a list of the chemicals and evaluate the potential threat they pose. If the expert panel expresses even a minimal level of concern over the potential threat a chemical poses, regulatory agencies will be required to explain how they plan to respond to the scientific findings. Hopefully, this process will lead to a greater public awareness of potentially dangerous chemicals, as well as a swift appropriate response by our regulatory agencies that will limit or prevent exposure to them.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation and I ask that the full text of the legislation be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of these remarks.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 915, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF JAY DUNN'S RETIRE-
MENT FROM IBEW LOCAL 146

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the long and dedicated service of Mr. Jay Dunn, an outstanding member of IBEW Local 146 in Decatur, Illinois. Jay retired from the Local on November 30, 2009 after a distinguished career serving the people of Decatur and his brothers and sisters in the labor movement.

A long-time resident of Decatur, Jay started in the labor movement when he was accepted into IBEW Local 146's apprenticeship program in 1973. After starting work in July of 1973, Jay completed his first year of classroom instruction and on-the-job training and was initiated into the local in August 1974.

Jay became a journeyman wireman in May 1977 after an extensive 4-year apprenticeship program and since then has held many roles in the local, including serving as a job foreman, general foreman, and steward. He served on and chaired numerous committees for the local and was a member of the executive board at the time of his appointment to business manager/financial secretary.

Jay took great pride in building the labor community's presence in the Decatur area. This culminated in Jay being named the president of the Decatur Building and Construction Trades in 2000. His tenure was marked by his aggressive representation of working men and women. His many accomplishments include