

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 PREVENTION 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 RETIREMENT 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

successfully pushing an effort to recruit minorities into area unions and his work in setting up programs designed to prepare individuals for entry into an apprenticeship program. He also worked tirelessly to get members of labor registered to vote and elected to office.

Jay's love of service goes beyond his work with his fellow tradesmen and women. Jay has maintained a long career in public service and has served on the Economic Development Corporation of Decatur/Macon County, the City of Decatur Electrical Commission, and currently the Macon County Board as its chairman. Jay has shown a dedication to our community that is second to none.

I wish Jay, his wife Cheryl and his family the best as Jay prepares to retire.

HONORING THE LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY CHEERLEADING 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 Liberty High School Varsity Cheerleading team in capturing their second straight state championship.

Once again, the Liberty Varsity Cheerleaders were able to be crowned champions this year through hard work and tireless effort. This is the second straight year in a row the Blue Jays have won the state competition and the first time that Liberty High School has won consecutive state championships. To accomplish this feat was no easy task. The team started training in April and worked vigorously through each day of the summer.

Additionally, I want to recognize the exceptional leadership of coaches Brenda Moats, Daisy King, and Allison Kenealy. Through their vision and guidance, the Blue Jays were able to repeatedly deliver solid results with great athleticism and finesse.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully request you to join me in congratulating the Liberty High School Varsity Cheerleading team on their state championship.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF VOICE OF AMERICA'S UKRAINIAN SERVICE

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Voice of America's Ukrainian Service on its 60th Anniversary and to honor this organization for its commitment to broadcasting accurate, balanced, and comprehensive news and information to Ukraine.

Founded in 1949, the Voice of America's Ukrainian Service broadcasts two hours of television programming per week to approximately 4.7 million viewers in Ukraine. This service provides up-to-date information on international and American news, as well as feature stories about American life and social trends.

Voice of America's Ukrainian Service has been a steady source of unbiased information for Ukrainian citizens from the height of the Cold War to the collapse of the Soviet Union. More recently, this service was a vital source of commentary and analysis during the Orange Revolution in 2004, which saw the election of a pro-Western Ukrainian majority.

Thanks to the dedication of its staff, Voice of America's Ukrainian Service has played an important role in promoting United States diplomacy and democratic values to Ukraine. Millions of Ukrainians continue to benefit from the service's commitment to journalistic excellence.

Voice of America's Ukrainian Service will celebrate its 60th Anniversary on December 11, 2009 at Voice of America headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the Voice of America's Ukrainian Service for reaching this milestone and commending the continued efforts of this service to aid in the full integration of Ukraine into the Euro-Atlantic community of democratic nations.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SHIRLEY LAI

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Shirley Lai for her lifetime of community service to the people of Guam. Shirley passed away on November 28, 2009. Shirley was born in a small village in Canton, China on September 5, 1931 and later moved with her parents and four siblings to Hong Kong.

Shirley and her husband, Kwong Choy Lai, and her eight young children, moved to Guam in the late 1970s. Shirley started the Estimewa Restaurant, one of Guam's first restaurants specializing in Chinese cuisine. In 1983, after renting a vacant barbershop in an old hotel in Hagåtña, the capital of Guam, she opened her first coffee shop with only two employees. Shirley blended flavors of American, Chinese, Filipino and local Chamorro cuisine, and a short time later Shirley's Coffee Shop quickly grew from a nine table coffee shop into a chain of six restaurants, four in Guam and two in Saipan.

Throughout her life, Shirley continually gave back to her community. Just as she contributed much to the community of Guam, she taught her children to be generous and that success is best measured by the community's reciprocity in trust and respect. She and her family provided assistance to the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Make-a-Wish Foundation as well as several sports leagues for children. She also assisted in disaster relief efforts during times of recovery in our region.

Like many who knew her as a close friend and community leader, I will miss Shirley. My thoughts and prayers are with her sons and their families; her daughter and husband; her fifteen grandchildren; and her great grand-daughter.

RECOGNIZING THE 225TH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY OF FORMER PRESIDENT ZACHARY TAYLOR

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 225th birthday anniversary of former President Zachary Taylor. President Taylor was born in Orange County, Virginia, on November 24, 1784, to a family with a background in military service. His father, Richard Taylor, fought in the Revolutionary War, and Zachary followed in his footsteps in 1808 as he started a military career of his own. Zachary Taylor was personally appointed by his cousin James Madison to serve as a first lieutenant in the War of 1812, and he led many successful battles thereafter.

Because of Zachary Taylor's military accomplishments, he achieved national recognition, and won the Whig Party nomination for President in 1848. Subsequently, he became the twelfth President of the United States, joining the ranks of presidents born in Virginia. As President, Taylor implemented an effective foreign policy, especially in regards to forming a strong alliance with Great Britain.

Sadly, on July 4, 1850, after having served as President for only sixteen months, Zachary Taylor died unexpectedly. He served his country well both in the military and political fields. In honor of President Taylor, the United States Mint will be placing a Zachary Taylor coin into public circulation.

Please join me in remembering the many outstanding contributions of President Zachary Taylor.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OMNIBUS AUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, the District of Columbia Omnibus Authorization Act is a welcome committee innovation designed to achieve greater efficiency in handling local District of Columbia matters, most of which are of little importance or concern to Congress, but must come to Congress because they are restricted by Federal statute and cannot become D.C. law until approved by congressional action. All of the provisions in this bill have been passed or approved by the District of Columbia.

This bill contains several land-transfer provisions. In an important effort to continue to balance the city's growing need for land with the National Park Service's (NPS's) mission to protect park land, we are encouraged by the NPS's willingness to move forward with a few small land transfers. The land transfers consist of six small, unused parcels of land scattered throughout the city. Two of the parcels complete a previous Federal transfer to allow the development of the southwest waterfront to move forward. The other four small land transfers, mainly parts of schools and libraries, include a portion of the Marie H. Reed Community Learning Center in northwest Washington,