

Last Friday, Erie, Pennsylvania's Villa Maria Victors defeated three-time defending champs, York Catholic, by 56-51, winning the State championship for the first time in school history.

Displaying great team spirit, Villa Maria built a large 18-point lead in the second half before fighting off a late York Catholic charge.

Established in 1892 by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, the Villa Maria Academy is a Catholic coeducational secondary school. And for over 115 years, Villa Maria Academy has been a part of the history and tradition of the Erie area, providing educational excellence for area students in preparation for higher education and life pursuits.

The mission of the academy is to empower young people to recognize their uniqueness and talents. The Villa Maria Academy Girls' Basketball Team demonstrated that commitment to excellence last Friday.

Congratulations to the new 2009 Pennsylvania AA State Champions.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

OBAMA TAXES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, one of the worst things that you can do during an economic downturn is to raise taxes. And Speaker PELOSI and the Democrats' budget does exactly that.

The amount of taxes that they anticipate raising in their budget, which we are going to debate next week, is \$1.4 trillion. One point four trillion dollars. And the majority of the burden of this tax increase is on a number of different areas of government. One of those is a \$637 billion tax increase that is going to be borne by small businesses that pay taxes as individuals. Small businesses create about 60 to 80 percent of all the new jobs in America, and these new taxes will be a real wet blanket on job creation and economic growth right in the middle of this recession.

They are also going to tax everybody in this country with the energy tax that they are going to add. The budget proposes to raise taxes by \$646 billion

on consumers of oil, coal and natural gas through a complicated cap-and-tax program that will increase the cost of energy for every American. If you turn on your light switch, if you use gas in your car, if you use gas to heat your home, any kind of energy that you use is going to be taxed. And that is going to amount to, on average, \$3,128 in new taxes on every family in America.

Also under the Speaker's budget, taxes on capital gains and dividends will increase from 15 to 20 percent, increasing taxes on investors by \$338 billion over 10 years. These taxes would directly affect investors and stockholders, including people who have 401(k) programs and pension funds, mostly impacted by the declining stock market, and would further discourage investments during a time when new investments are absolutely essential to jump-start our economy.

They are also going to tax charitable giving. They are going to reduce the amount of money that people can deduct from their taxes when they give money to charities. And the charities of this country indicate that is going to cost them at least \$4 to \$9 billion. Now, if the charities in this country can't spend that \$4 to \$9 billion that is given to them by the people of this country, then where are they going to get the money?

Where are the people of this country going to get the money to solve these problems? It is going to probably end up on the back of the taxpayers.

And then we have what is called the "death tax" that they are reinstating. And that says that everybody that has a business, if you want to pass it on to your relatives or your children or grandchildren when you die, there is going to be a tax on it. They are going to tax it and tax it and tax it so that the value of the property or the investment will go down dramatically. And many of the people who would inherit a business so that they can carry on, a farmer, an agricultural family, they will lose it because they can't pay the taxes.

And then they are also going to tax investors, Part 2 investors. The budget would more than double the taxes on carried interest, increasing taxes up from the capital gains rate of 15 percent to the income tax rate of 35 percent.

And all I can say to my colleagues is that the Speaker and the Democrat proposal needs to be re-evaluated. At a time when this economy is suffering, we need to have tax cuts, tax incentives for new job creation, and tax cuts that will allow Americans to take more of their pay home that they can spend on things like refrigerators, cars, food and clothing.

□ 1300

And what they're going to do is they're going to tax, tax, tax, which is going to be another wet blanket on the economy.

One of the great things, one of the things that really hurt this country

during the Great Depression in the twenties and thirties, was because they raised taxes. That's exactly the wrong thing to do. After Jimmy Carter put us in this trick bag with 14 percent unemployment, or 14 percent inflation and 12 percent unemployment, Ronald Reagan came in and cut taxes across the board, and that increased the productivity in this country. People had more disposable income, and the economy flourished, and we had a period of unprecedented economic growth. That's what we should be doing now, not raising taxes, not adding to the deficit by having these huge budgetary expenditures that are in Speaker PELOSI and the Democrats' plan.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that everybody will listen to what was just said because we don't need tax increases and more spending right now.

WE MUST NOT REPEAT THE MISTAKES OF THE PAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, the Obama administration is finalizing its strategy for Afghanistan, and it may announce the results of its war review in the next few days.

President Obama inherited the situation in Afghanistan. He is a leader who prefers diplomacy over war. The United States is organizing an international conference on Afghanistan to reach out to the international community for their help. And there is talk about sending a civilian surge, a surge of experts in such areas as agriculture, reconstruction, rebuilding, and education to Afghanistan, all very positive steps.

Since President Obama, however, has said that he will send at least 17,000 more troops to Afghanistan and possibly more, I am deeply concerned. It will take years, and it will take a lot of blood and treasure to fight a war in Afghanistan and Pakistan. It could bog us down and distract us from our enormous domestic problems right here at home. It could cost us lives. It would cost us economic treasure, and it would cost us, actually it would leave our reputation, international reputation in tatters.

Our 6-year occupation of Iraq, which continues, as I speak, has been a disaster that we absolutely must learn from. Using military force to solve problems that don't have a military solution doesn't work. Foreign occupation doesn't work. According to a new Army report, there are still over 100 attacks per week on our troops in Iraq.

Another occupation, Madam Speaker, halfway around the world, raises serious questions that Congress needs an answer to. So last month, I joined my colleagues, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE and Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, and since we wrote a particular letter to the President and sent it, 10

other Members have signed on, and we're going to send that letter on to him also, raising these issues.

We and the others made six recommendations. These recommendations are:

1. Ask Congress for a clear authorization for the use for military force in Afghanistan and Pakistan;

2. Define the goals objectives and benefits of U.S. involvement in Afghanistan;

3. Determine the human and financial resources needed to carry out our efforts;

4. Develop a timeline for the redeployment of our troops and military contractors out of Afghanistan;

5. Clearly describe the role of NATO, the United Nations and other international partners;

6. And finally, meet the immediate humanitarian and economic needs of the Afghan people.

Madam Speaker, these six steps offer a good blueprint for avoiding a repeat of the mistakes that the United States made in Iraq. We need nation building, not empire building, because the way to defeat our enemies is to help the Afghan people to rebuild their country and to give them hope for a better future. Schools and roads will win us more hearts and minds than bombs and bullets.

And a new foreign policy, based on conflict resolution and humanitarian assistance, is the most responsible and smartest way for us to achieve our goals in the Middle East and Central Asia. I hope that President Obama's new plan for Afghanistan will reflect this strategy and these values, because if we don't learn from our Iraq experience, we are doomed to repeat it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

26TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI PEACE TREATY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, today I wish to acknowledge and express deep gratitude to timeless leaders President Jimmy Carter, Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin for their historic, unprecedented and courageous journey toward peace in the Middle

East three decades ago today. March 26 marks the anniversary of their signing of the Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty, momentous in that it was the first such treaty between an Arab nation and the nation of Israel. It followed the Camp David Accords which these leaders had signed the prior year. They signed it right here on the White House lawn.

I can remember the day. History will record for all time that incredible step forward of lions and lambs lying down their arms and their fears. I can still recall the day of that signing. It was a sunny day, as the three leaders pledged their political and personal capital to that unprecedented feat. It was historic. It was bold. And it was costly. In 1981, an assassin in Cairo would take the life of President Anwar al-Sadat. In 1983, Menachem Begin resigned. President Jimmy Carter lost his re-election campaign.

President Jimmy Carter and his gifted National Security adviser, Zbigniew Brezezinski, carry the collective living memory of that pristine moment of the Camp David Peace Accord and the Egyptian Israeli Peace Treaty. To date, only one other Arab nation has signed a peace accord with the nation of Israel, Jordan, in 1994, well over 10 years later, through the equally courageous vision of its timeless leader, King Hussein.

Looking back, as today's upheaval across the Middle East reminds us of old fractures and unmet potential, we can ask, how did these men do it? How did they make history?

The enmity between people and nations was no less. The prospects forward seemed very dim at that time. Yet, their inspired and dogged efforts did not take no for an answer. That peace agreement ended 30 years of war between Israel and Egypt. Now we have seen 30 years of peace between them. By anyone's measure, this remains the most important set of diplomatic achievements in the Middle East in modern history. We need to celebrate them.

And as we honor the achievement of these leaders, and the nations to which they dedicated their lives, let us remember what they did.

President Jimmy Carter stated, "War may sometimes be a necessary evil. But no matter how necessary, it is always an evil, never a good. We will not learn how to live together in peace by killing each others' children."

Prime Minister Menachem Begin said, "If through your efforts and sacrifice, you win liberty and with it the prospect of peace, then work for peace because there is no mission in life more sacred."

And President Anwar al-Sadat said, "Peace is much more precious than a piece of land."

Could we only recapture that moment again. How much our world still owes these men for leading history forward, for showing us the way. They did not allow the status quo or entrenched

rivalries and worn-out dreams to quash the prospect of peace. They gave their all to it. Today, we commemorate and we celebrate their greatness.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. COHEN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GOHMERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHERMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN'S FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to come here today with some of my colleagues to talk about several issues that we think are of very much concern to the American people. Whatever we do here in terms of spending, we know has a major impact on our country. And it's not just for today that it has an impact but it's for a long, long time. And so we are highlighting today what is happening with the budget that has been made public today and that's going to be debated next week, and probably adopted, unfortunately, unfortunately for the American people and for our children and our grandchildren, maybe even our great grandchildren. So we'll be talking about that for the next hour.

And I'm joined by two of my colleagues that I want to yield some time