

COMMENDING THE GEORGE MASON
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' AND BOYS'
SOCCER TEAMS ON WINNING THE
VIRGINIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to proudly recognize the George Mason High School girls' and boys' soccer teams for winning their respective State 1A Soccer Championships. On June 12th at Radford University, the George Mason High School Mustangs of Falls Church valiantly defeated Radford High School 3-1 to capture their third consecutive state title. The following day, the boys' team displayed equally outstanding talent by defeating Radford 2-1 to capture their second consecutive state championship.

The girls' championship win follows a remarkable season of 18 wins, 3 losses, and 1 tie. Junior midfielder Hannah Walker scored twice and sophomore forward Leah Roth had a goal and an assist. Nichole Mitchell played tough as the starting goalkeeper, only allowing one goal in the net from a penalty kick. After the final moment of the game, the George Mason players victoriously rushed the field and saluted their fans that had traveled 4 hours to watch the game.

The boys' championship game was led by Mustang seniors Nick Smirniotopoulos and Andrew Arias following a remarkable season of 19 wins, only 1 loss, and 4 ties. This is the second year in a row that the George Mason boys' soccer team has captured the state title. Smirniotopoulos, recently named to the 2010 All-Met team by the Washington Post, and Arias, each scored a goal to clinch the win. Just before halftime, junior goalkeeper Tyler Back made a remarkable save on a breakaway. Also standing as stalwarts on the defensive end were senior Natan Lailari and junior Franky Andrianarison. Like their counterparts on the girls' team, the lone goal scored against them came from a penalty shot.

I extend my congratulations to all of the athletes, coaches, and the entire George Mason High School community for their historic victories. Winning a state championship takes hundreds of hours of practice, preparation, and hard work. May your perseverance, strength, and diligence stay with you through all of your journeys in life.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE RE-
GARDING ANNIVERSARY OF DIS-
PUTED IRANIAN ELECTIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, it has been 1 year since Iran's disputed elections brought thousands into the streets to protest the regime's fierce grip on fundamental liberties. Today we pause to pay tribute to the faces of freedom that rose up in peaceful and spontaneous demonstrations across Iran only to be met with brutal violence by the thuggish

paramilitaries of the Iranian revolutionary guard.

In the days and weeks following the election, dozens of protestors were killed, hundreds were injured, others were arrested and tortured and some even died while in police custody. In the year since, Iranian authorities have cracked down on numerous other gatherings and severely curtailed the ability for Iranians to gather for national and religious holidays.

Although the 2009 election was not the first subject to serious irregularities, vote tampering and corruption, the obvious vote rigging that led some provinces to report a turnout greater than 100 percent created a tipping point.

At one point the anti-election momentum fueled a "Twitter revolution," as tech-savvy Iranian youth mobilized gatherings through texting and instant messages. It was a telling sign of the opportunity for technology to surpass censorship and galvanize a freedom movement.

The Iranian people take great pride in their nation's vibrant history as a crossroads of the world, but the dangerous policies of the current government have made them more isolated than ever.

The government's reckless management of the economy has prioritized enriching the mullahs and the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, while the average Iranian faces an unemployment rate approaching 30 percent.

The regime's illegal nuclear activities and dogged support for terrorist organizations have made Iran a pariah state in the community of nations. And now, with the recent passage of strict sanctions by the U.N. Security Council, the stagnant Iranian economy only stands to deteriorate further.

While tensions remain high between the United States and Iran, this resolution is a testament to our solidarity with the Iranian people and their courage to stand up for a better future. I am proud to be a cosponsor of the measure and I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

ON THE PASSAGE OF THE RESO-
LUTION CALLING FOR THE IM-
MEDIATE RELEASE OF GILAD
SHALIT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased that the House passed H. Res. 1359, a resolution calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit. It has been four long years since Gilad, then 19 years old, was kidnapped by Hamas. Hamas, in direct violation of international human rights law, has refused to allow Gilad any contact with his family, and has further refused to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross access to determine his well-being. It is a war crime for Hamas to hold Gilad hostage in order to compel the Israeli government to accede to Hamas' demands.

Madam Speaker, the time for Hamas to release Gilad Shalit is now. Right now. It is simply unconscionable for Hamas to engage in such a vicious and cruel exercise in inhu-

manity. One of both Israeli and American societies' highest and most noble ideals is to never leave a soldier behind. The passage of this resolution reaffirms the United States commitment to continue fighting for Gilad's unconditional and immediate release so that he may return to his family.

HONORING RON GETTELFINGER
FOR HIS LEADERSHIP OF THE
UAW

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mrs. HALVORSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues in congratulating Ron Gettelfinger upon his retirement. Ron has been a true champion for American families, a leading advocate for American workers, and a dedicated president of the United Auto Workers.

I came to Congress to work on jumpstarting our economy and I'm reassured to know that under Ron's leadership, the UAW has been a steadfast voice for protecting American jobs and the rights of the hundreds of workers in my district. Prior to coming to Congress, I served in the Illinois State Senate and was proud to represent the hard working men and women, members of UAW Local 588, who work at the Ford Stamping Plant in Chicago Heights, Illinois. I'm now proud to represent members of UAW Local 2488, who work at the Mitsubishi Plant in Bloomington, Illinois. It has been an honor to represent all of these working families.

Ron's vision that our country's success is rooted in everyday working men and women is something many of us share and we are lucky to have had such a passionate advocate for this cause over the past eight years. It is this belief that has protected and advanced the rights of the American worker during Ron's tenure as UAW President. On behalf of the 11th Congressional District of Illinois, I thank Ron for his service and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

SIR PAUL McCARTNEY,
GLADWELL'S "OUTLIERS" AND BP

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I submit the following letter from my good friend Gene Jewett, who shares his thoughts on the phenomena of talent and the recent visit from Paul McCartney who received the Gershwin Award from the Library of Congress.

Dear Friends,

Recently, Sir Paul McCartney visited Washington where he exhibited his musical prowess for the politically powerful, initially at the Library of Congress and then at the White House. In the course of his performance on the first night, he revealed the process by which he had written one of his most famous tunes, one where the melody had come to him in a dream, a refrain that he was fortunate enough to recall. For days, he

hummed the tune (randomly entitled "scrambled eggs") to his band mates and everyone else in his greater circle of musicians, all in an attempt to determine whether it was a product of his own musical software or a reflection of a tune he had previously heard for which he was serving as a mere psychic conduit. When he finally accepted the song as his own, he re-dubbed it "Yesterday" and the rest is history. Over 3000 singers have recorded the song, a number which marks it as a continuing star in the firmament of pop music.

His story caused me to reflect on the phenomena of talent, particularly as alluded to by Malcolm Gladwell in his book, "Outliers." In this book, there's a central premise that suggests that great achievement is derived from spending at least 10,000 hours honing one's craft. Specifically, it uses as an example Paul McCartney and the Beatles playing in the clubs of Hamburg where they purportedly refined their songs. Notwithstanding the fact that the "Hamburg" Beatles played cover songs which could have encouraged them to write their original tunes, the more simple truth points to what McCartney observes in himself as some mystical talent with which he has been gifted, something for which he has no explanation. The difference between the Beatles and thousands of other bands can be found in these "gifts" of unusual talent.

Not to be too grand, but the book "the 100: A Ranking of the 100 Most Influential People in History" by M.H. Hart is a primer for the study of people with extraordinary talent and abilities. For example, Genghis Khan was a late bloomer and certainly had no training as a military leader, but no one else in military history save perhaps Alexander shows anything close to his record of achievements. And how many in the realm of physics approach the works of Newton, Maxwell and Einstein? I realize this is a leap from Sir Paul, but pure talent, while it surely needs to be developed, is really a gift that defies description. It seems that some things just "are" and that's the name of that tune. And upon such random distributions of talent and ability the upward curve of the course of history will continue to remain reliant.

Sir Paul, author of over 300 popular songs, also played "Blackbird," a very pleasing and interesting composition. But I was hoping he'd do, "Fixing a Hole" as a nod to BP who could certainly use a little mystical talent about now, no?

RECOGNIZING SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 284, which recognizes the important role that special education teachers play in our Nation's schools. I thank my colleague, Congressman SESSIONS for introducing this resolution.

In 1972, the United States Supreme Court ruled that children with disabilities have the same right to receive a quality education as their nondisabled peers. Today, approximately 10 percent of our student population receives special education services.

It truly takes a special person to work with our special needs students. These teachers

often work well beyond the normal school day in designing individualized lesson plans for their students. Special education teachers have a tremendous amount of patience, flexibility, and creativity in dealing with special needs students. These teachers must also be able to adapt their teaching styles to accommodate the unique behavioral, social, emotional, or physical needs of their students.

Mr. Speaker, I would personally like to recognize the approximately 955 special education teachers in Los Angeles County. These individuals work extremely hard to provide a quality education to over 6,500 special education students. These extraordinary individuals work tirelessly and without complaint in trying to achieve successful outcomes for their students.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, we should pay tribute to the special education aides that assist the teacher in the classroom. These individuals are often overworked and underpaid and are frequently underappreciated for the positive contributions they make to our special needs students.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Con. Res. 284 in recognizing the important role that special education teachers play in our schools.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2194, COMPREHENSIVE IRAN SANCTIONS, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND DIVESTMENT ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation. The provisions contained in this act come after repeated attempts by the U.S. and partner nations to halt Iran's nuclear weapons program and curtail aggressive Iranian overtures around the globe—Tehran continues to sponsor, train, and equip terrorist organizations in the Middle East, act as a destabilizing force in Iraq and Afghanistan, and deploy Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force unconventional warfare operatives into the Western Hemisphere. The potential for a nuclear-armed Iran, when combined with the Iranian regime's volatile rhetoric and ambiguous intentions, poses a serious threat to the security of the United States, our troops serving in the Middle East, and our allies. The President and his administration have taken important steps to dissuade Iran from continuing to pursue nuclear weapons. The passage of this legislation sends a clear message that Iran's continued defiance will lead to significant, negative consequences for the Iranian regime.

In addition to imposing sanctions on refined petroleum to Iran, this legislation will broaden the entities affected by sanctions to include foreign entities that sell developmental energy technology, services, or information to Iran. This act also prohibits foreign banks from doing business in the U.S. if they deal with blacklisted Iranian institutions involved in the development of weapons of mass destruction or the promotion of international terrorism.

I commend my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for demonstrating such clear soli-

arity on this issue. I urge Iranian leaders to carefully consider the high costs of increased isolation brought about by their continued irresponsibility.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, during the vote on H.R. 5618, the Restoration of Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act of 2010, I was unavoidably detained—had I been present I would have voted against this legislation.

Americans are struggling to make ends meet in this economy and while I support giving unemployment benefits to people who lost their jobs, it is irresponsible for this Congress to add \$34 billion to the national debt to do so. This legislation should have been paid for with cuts to other programs. Last week the Treasury Department quietly announced that the estimated total debt for fiscal year 2010 will reach \$13.6 trillion, equal to 93.1 percent of our Gross Domestic Product. With the European Union in the midst of a sovereign debt crisis, this is the wrong time to add to our already staggering national debt.

Had I been present for the vote on H.R. 5623, the Homebuyers Assistance and Improvement Act of 2010, I would have voted in favor of this legislation. Unlike H.R. 5618, the cost of this legislation is fully offset. The homebuyer tax credit has been very successful, and after its expiration on April 30th, home sales dropped by more than 30 percent. Extending this credit by 90 days and fully offsetting its cost is a responsible course of action I fully support.

HONORING PERCY P. CREUZOT, JR.

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a great husband, father, entrepreneur, community activist and all-around great American, Percy P. Creuzot, Jr., who passed on from his earthly life on Sunday, June 6, 2010. We are privileged and honored to salute him as a Great Houstonian for all of America to admire.

Percy Creuzot had a unique ability to reach out and help others. Mr. Creuzot effectively articulated that strong communities are created when we recognize that every member of the community is important. He demonstrated this belief in every aspect of his life.

In 1966 his family moved to Houston, Texas, where he was employed by Herff-Jones Jewelry, a graduation supply company. Percy's first entrepreneurial endeavor in Houston was a snow-ball shop in Houston on Dowling and McGowan. There was a dearth of restaurant chains and, even fewer operated in minority neighborhoods. Mr. Creuzot saw the need for uplifting his community with his cuisine and with that envisioned a need and market in Houston for Southern Louisiana foods. With the influence from family members he decided to open a small sandwich shop in