

## HONORING DREW LINN

**HON. PARKER GRIFFITH**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 19, 2010*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to a fine American, Drew Linn, on an occasion when he and his business have received a prestigious honor: the International Circle of Excellence Award for 2009.

The Circle of Excellence, which is awarded by the International dealer organization of Navistar, Inc., honors International truck dealerships that achieve the highest level of dealer performance with respect to operating and financial standards, market representation, and most importantly, customer satisfaction. It is the highest honor a dealer principal can receive from the company.

Drew's business, Southland International Trucks, is headquartered in Homewood, Alabama, where it was founded more than 30 years ago, and includes two dealerships in my district, in Huntsville and Decatur. Under his leadership, it has grown into one of the pre-eminent truck dealerships in the Southeast and the entire nation, with 171 employees and five dealer locations throughout Alabama. It was recently named the International Dealer of the Year, an honor awarded to the one International dealer who exhibits the highest commitment to best-in-class customer service. Last year, Southland delivered more trucks than any other International dealer in the global network. With this most recent award, Southland International has now received the Circle of Excellence Award, under Drew's leadership, a total of 10 times.

Drew has achieved this level of accomplishment and recognition through many years of hard work and service to his industry and community. He has also built a successful truck leasing business, Southland Idealease of Alabama, which is a multi-year winner of the IdealGold Award for Excellence. He is a past president or chairman of the Alabama Trucking Association, its Workers Compensation Fund, and the Shelton State Foundation. He is an active member of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, the West Alabama Regional Commission, the West Alabama Bank Board of Directors and the University Transportation Center for Alabama.

Through his commitment to hard work and outstanding customer service, he has built an economically vital business of which he can be justly proud. Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Drew Linn for his record of accomplishment and for his many contributions to his community, state and nation.

## TO CELEBRATE THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BRYSON CITY LIONS CLUB

**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 19, 2010*

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Bryson City Lions Club as they celebrate their 70th anniversary in Swain County, North Carolina. For the past 70 years, this outstanding volunteer organization has

worked tirelessly to help the visually impaired through their SightFirst initiatives, and I commend their outstanding efforts to promote civic projects in the community.

Many years ago, Helen Keller challenged Lions across the country to be "Knights of the Blind" and the Bryson City Lions Club has continued to live up to that challenge. The generous efforts of the Bryson City Lions Club include providing the visually impaired with glasses, eye surgeries, and vision screening, as well as awarding college scholarships to children of blind parents. The organization's members and their works are a source of pride to Western North Carolina. I deeply appreciate all they have done in the past 70 years to make the lives of the visually impaired citizens more comfortable and fulfilling. I also want to commend the leadership of Judy Burnett, the current club President and the first female to hold the position.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues today to rise with me in recognizing the inspiring good works of the Bryson City Lions Club, and the civic leadership they have demonstrated in Western North Carolina. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating this outstanding organization's 70 years of service to those in our community.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DOC HASTINGS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 19, 2010*

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, due to an unexpected illness I missed two votes on Thursday, March 18, 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall votes 129 and 132. I would further like to note that I am a cosponsor of Mr. GRIFFITH's resolution, H. Res. 1190, requesting an up or down vote on the Senate health care bill.

## RECOGNIZING THE ESTACADO MATADORS BOYS BASKETBALL 2010 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 19, 2010*

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I proudly congratulate the Estacado Matadors boys basketball team of Estacado High School in Lubbock, Texas for winning the 2010 Texas Boys 3A State Basketball Championship.

The Matadors finished the 2009–2010 season with 33 wins and only 4 losses. The championship squad includes: seniors Eldon Gatewood, Barry Johnson and David Barnes; juniors Dallas Manahan, Kevin Wagner and Clarence Willard; sophomores Ti Russell, Nate Lewis, Anthony Robinson, Ryhiem Hunter and Kevin Manahan; and freshmen Dearius Poindexter, Tamarick Courtney and Tevin Faye. The Mats were led by head coach Tony Wagner and the 2010 Most Valuable Player, Clarence Willard.

Following a frustrating loss in last year's state championship game, the Mats' focus and determination throughout the season paid off in a stunning 69–63 victory over Dallas Madison. With this win, Estacado earned the first

University Interscholastic League boys basketball title for a Lubbock Independent School District team since 1951.

I applaud the Matadors' hard work and tradition of success. With great support from the community, the team proved itself as the best 3A basketball team in Texas. The Estacado Matadors exemplify the principles of competitive spirit and success both on and off the court, and I congratulate them on a well-deserved state championship.

## HONORING MICHELLE RZEPKA

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 19, 2010*

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Novi resident, Michelle Rzepka, for her contribution to the United States bobsled team during the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver.

As a student at Novi High School, Michelle demonstrated extraordinary athletic ability as a varsity letter winner in basketball, volleyball and track and field. During her college career, Michelle was a two time All-American pole vaulter and Big-10 indoor and outdoor pole vault champion for Michigan State University.

In 2007, Michelle began her bobsledding career when she joined the World Cup team. Since joining the team, Michelle has placed in the top ten in seven out of eight World Cup races. In Vancouver, Michelle joined teammate Shauna Rohbock as the sled's brakeman on the United States first bobsled team. The duo finished in sixth place.

Madam Speaker, as we recognize Michelle Rzepka for her participation in the 2010 Winter Olympic Games, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her for her past athletic accomplishments and wishing her continued success in all future endeavors.

## ATTACK ON KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 19, 2010*

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, a team of militants launched a spectacular assault at the heart of the Afghan government on Monday, January 18, with two men detonating suicide bombs and the rest fighting to the death only 50 yards from the gates of the presidential palace.

The attack paralyzed the city for hours, as hundreds of Afghan commandos converged and opened fire. The battle unfolded in the middle of Pashtunistan Square, a traffic circle where the palace of President Hamid Karzai, the Ministry of Justice and the Central Bank, the target of the attack, are located.

As the gun battle raged, another suicide bomber, this one driving an ambulance, struck a traffic circle a half-mile away, sending a second mass of bystanders fleeing in terror. Afghan officials said that three soldiers and two civilians—including a child—were killed, and at least 71 people were wounded.

The war in Afghanistan is dynamic, fluid, and ever-evolving. What was true 9 months

ago is no longer the case. This means both that we cannot rely on our previous successes and that our current shortcomings can be fixed. It should give us hope but not foolhardy confidence. What the Kabul attacks prove is that we constantly have to be adjusting our strategy to keep up with the evolution of our enemy. The Taliban are a mostly rural phenomenon in a mostly rural country; the overwhelming majority of United States troops are deployed in small outposts in the countryside.

On most days, the war does not reach the urban centers, but on January 18 it did. Our strategy must be flexible enough to adapt. So to set an arbitrary deadline, to pull out our troops of Afghanistan in 2011, not only endangers our troops on the ground but also the ultimate success of our mission. We must finish the fight, root out the Taliban, and destroy al-Qaeda.

**HONORING CATHOLIC CENTRAL  
HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING  
COACH, MITCH HANCOCK**

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 19, 2010*

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Division 1 Wrestling Coach of the Year, Mitch Hancock. Hailing from my alma mater, Detroit Catholic Central High School, Coach Hancock led his grapplers to their first state championship in 22 years. Under his tutelage, all 14 Catholic Central wrestlers qualified for the individual state meet.

Taking over the head coaching reins from his mentor, 40 year legendary Coach Mike Rodriguez, in the fall of 2007, Mitch Hancock brought the unique perspective of having won an individual state title himself. Hancock was selected as a high school All-American and went on to have a stellar career at Central Michigan University where he again attained All-American status.

Though CC is known for excellence in many sports, it reserves a section of its rafters for state championship banners in the two sports the Shamrocks herald as their calling card: football and wrestling. In his inaugural season, Coach Hancock took his Shamrocks to the state regionals, where their season ended at the hands of Hartland, 39–33. Hancock's sophomore campaign ended at the state quarterfinals as Catholic Central was bested by Lake Orion, 42–27. This season Coach Hancock and the Shamrocks reached the pinnacle by dethroning perennial power Rockford, 39–24, earning their first state championship under Hancock's reign. Mitch Hancock has coached five individual state champions in three short years, amassing a record of 56–18. He has placed eight wrestlers in All-State status with the 2010 selections as yet to be announced.

It is understandable why former coach Mike Rodriguez felt completely comfortable in turning his legacy of 40 years over to Hancock. Rodriguez saw a willingness to get on the mat and challenge his wrestlers. Mitch Hancock has an incredible passion for the sport and enjoys helping his athletes develop. Coach Hancock's priorities are, in order; God, family, job

and wrestling. His wrestlers understand that excellence is the expectation, not the exception.

Madam Speaker, after earning his first state championship and being selected as the Michigan High School Association's 2010 Division 1 Wrestling Coach of the Year, Mitch Hancock deserves to be recognized for his dedication to the young men of Catholic Central and his determination to keep the highly respected winning tradition of the Shamrocks alive. In recognition of his effort and the honor bestowed upon him, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Detroit Catholic Central Wrestling Coach Mitch Hancock on his accolades and in honoring his devotion to our community and country. Live and Die for CC High!

**RECOGNIZING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY  
AND LIFETIME OF SERVICE OF  
MS. CATHERINE MENNINGER**

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 19, 2010*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Catherine Menninger who is celebrating her 80th birthday this week. Ms. Menninger has selflessly committed her life to public service, making a positive impact to the lives of hundreds of children through the organization she helped establish, CEP Youth Leadership Inc. in La Grange, Illinois.

Ms. Menninger was born on March 16, 1930, in Brooklyn, New York. The daughter of Italian immigrants, she grew up in the Belmont Community of the Bronx, where she was one of the first lay people allowed to teach religious education at the Holy Rosary in the Bronx. In the 1960s she moved to Chicago.

In 1978, Ms. Menninger helped found CEP Youth Leadership Inc., which develops child enrichment programs and peer counseling programs for a diverse group of youth. Ms. Menninger served as the executive director of CEP from October 1980 until September of 1991. After her tenure, Ms. Menninger continued to work at CEP as the tutoring and mentoring coordinator. In addition to her extraordinary work with CEP, Ms. Menninger has opened her home to more than 100 foster teens.

Her tremendous contributions have been recognized through the United Way Voluntary Action Award for Outstanding Achievement, the Western Springs Citizen of the Year Award and the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year Award in 1999. Also, in 1995 CEP established the Catherine Menninger Scholarship.

Today Ms. Menninger works as a life coach. She is blessed with five children Chris, Cathy, Carl, Carolyn and Lisa and six grandchildren Katie, Megan, Tyler, Alex, Sarah and TJ.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Ms. Catherine Menninger for her years of service and congratulating her on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Her efforts and leadership have been a great benefit to the children of her community and truly merit our highest praise.

**CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
BOWLING TEAM**

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 19, 2010*

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the Division 1 State Championship Bowling team from my alma mater, Detroit Catholic Central High School. This has been a noteworthy year for the gentleman at Catholic Central, as this championship marks the fourth state title of the 2009–2010 school year.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association recognized bowling as an official sport in 2006. Thus, it is impressive how the Catholic Central team has risen to state prominence in a very short time. Two members of this State Championship Bowling team qualified for the individual finals and, although they did not ultimately win, they represented CC High admirably and honorably.

After defeating Salem 1856–1824 in quarterfinals, the Shamrock bowlers outdueled Flint Carman-Ainsworth 1855–1747 and earned a berth in the finals setting up to take on Macomb Dakota. On March 5, 2010 the Catholic Central Shamrocks rolled over Macomb Dakota 1834–1565 to earn their first state championship trophy.

Coach Al Bridges saw his bowlers in seventh place after the morning qualifying round. In true Shamrock fashion the team kept fighting and refused to give up. As the day wore on, CC kept moving up in the standings, leading by 143 pins after the Baker games. From that point on the Shamrocks never looked back. Coach Al Bridges credits good conditioning and a lot of practice for the payoff of winning a championship. The hard work and dedication of each team member epitomizes what it means to be a Shamrock. By the teaching of our Basilian Fathers through goodness, discipline and knowledge, the entire Catholic Central family, including this alumnus, shares in this accomplishment.

Madam Speaker, in earning their first bowling title, the 2010 Catholic Central Shamrocks deserve to be recognized for their determination, achievement and spirit. In recognition of their effort, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Shamrocks for obtaining this spectacular championship and honoring their devotion to our community and country. Live and Die for CC High!

**OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT**

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 19, 2010*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,661,296,056,307.25.

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 \$2,022,870,310,013.45 so far this Congress. The debt has increased \$21,516,577,665.36 since just yesterday.