

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.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

**CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
WRESTLING 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 Champion Wrestling team from my alma mater, Detroit Catholic Central High School. On February 27, 2010, the Catholic Central Shamrocks defeated Rockford 39–24 to hoist their first state championship trophy since 1988.

Third year Head Coach Mitch Hancock, an individual state final winner for the Shamrocks in 2000, saw all fourteen of his wrestlers earn a berth to the Individual State Finals. This is the first time in recent Division 1 history that an entire team has qualified for the Individual State meet. Three Shamrock grapplers brought home individual state titles to complement the team championship. This is truly a tremendous accomplishment for a devoutly dedicated group of young men. The hard work and dedication of all of its members 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.

Following in the remarkable tradition of legendary Catholic Central Coach Mike Rodriguez, who was both coach and mentor to current Coach Mitch Hancock, the Shamrocks brought home their eighth state wrestling team title.

Madam Speaker, with a season record of 27–4, the 2010 Catholic Central Shamrocks deserve to be recognized for their determination, achievement and spirit and I am very proud of their determination and effort. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Shamrocks for obtaining this spectacular title and honoring their devotion to our community and country. Live and Die for CC High!

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2010 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today, joined by my colleagues Representative FRANK WOLF and Representative JAMES MORAN, to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Awards recognize remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exem-

plified by our public safety agencies and their commitment to the community. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line everyday to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. Nearly 80 individuals are receiving awards at the 2010 ceremony in a variety of categories: The Lifesaving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Bronze, Silver, or Gold Medal of Valor.

Four members of the Herndon Police Department are being honored this year for their exceptional service. It is with great pride that we submit their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Recipients of the 2010 Lifesaving Award are: Corporal Robert Galpin, Senior Police Officer Justin Dyer and Officer Jeffrey Lange.

Recipients of the 2010 Certificate of Valor are: Corporal Robert Galpin, Senior Police Officer Mark Fraser.

Madam Speaker, we would like to thank all of the men and women who serve in the Herndon Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join us in commanding this group of remarkable citizens.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF NOWRUZ AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF IRANIAN-AMERICANS

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 15, 2010

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, the following speech, "Nowruz: A New Day for Humanity," was given by Dr. Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, on the evening of March 17, 2010, at the Library of Congress for the Nowruz Commission's inaugural event. Dr. Karimi-Hakkak serves as Chair of the Nowruz Commission's Cultural Committee.

NOWRUZ: A NEW DAY FOR HUMANITY

Nowruz, literally meaning "new day," has lived up to its name in wondrous ways. For at least three millennia, it has provided the supreme occasion for renewal and rejuvenation. The power behind its inexhaustible appeal resides in a simple truth: humans need a ritual that transcends distinct and distinguishable group identities to celebrate our common humanity. Nowruz does so by inviting everyone to contemplate nature as it puts on its most magnificent dress at springtime and to synchronize personal and communal relations with the spirit of nature. Pointing to nature's ability to renew itself each and every year, Nowruz manifests intense human yearnings that transcend all divisions. The roots of Nowruz are scattered in myth and in history in much of western Asia and is anchored most profoundly in Persian mythology, where it marks the beginning of the calendar. In recent centuries, as Empires in India and Iran, in Anatolia and Central Asia gave way to the modern countries, Nowruz has been celebrated in accordance with myriad local customs and traditions. Everywhere, however, it offers the promise of a human community in which a race of all races can create a new global culture beyond all nationhood and nationality. It aspires to

no less than a human community as beautiful and colorful as nature on the first day of spring.

**CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
FOOTBALL 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 Champion Football team from my alma mater, Detroit Catholic Central High School. On November 27, 2009 the Catholic Central Shamrocks steamrolled Sterling Heights Stevenson 31–21. The win capped off an undefeated season for the Blue and White.

This 2009 Catholic Central football team gave Coach Tom Mach the 10th State Championship in his 34 seasons as head coach of the Shamrocks. This is truly a remarkable accomplishment for this close-knit group of young men. The hard work and dedication of all of its members epitomize 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.

Following a wildly successful Catholic season that saw 6 shutouts and a defense that allowed only 23 points on the season, Catholic Central added yet another shutout, edging Orchard Lake St. Mary's 7–0 for the Detroit Catholic League Championship. After routing Livonia Franklin 42–7 in the district opener, the Shamrocks exacted revenge on Livonia Stevenson, who had ended Catholic Central's 2008 playoff run by trouncing the Spartans 38–0. With the win Coach Mach became only the 7th coach in Michigan history to have reached 300 wins, all at the helm of Catholic Central.

But there was more to accomplish. A determined Canton team forced the Shamrocks into overtime before Catholic Central ran into the end zone on the first possession. The stingy Shamrock defense wouldn't budge, and the beloved Blue and White eked out a 31–27 triumph.

With only Holt standing in the path to the finals at Ford Field, the Shamrocks rolled to a 31–0 win, racking up the 9th shutout of their spectacular season.

Finally a winning team took to the turf of Ford Field as Catholic Central went to the big dance against Sterling Heights Stevenson. While this Stevenson team fared slightly better than their Livonia counterparts, the Shamrocks met their final challenge and soared to a 31–21 victory, raising the Division 1 trophy in triumph.

Madam Speaker, with a season record of 14–0, the 2009 Catholic Central Shamrocks deserve to be recognized for their determination, achievement, and spirit and I am very proud of their determination and effort. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Shamrocks for obtaining this spectacular title and honoring their devotion to our community and country. Live and Die for CC High!