

IN RECOGNITION OF EAST KENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL WINNING THE REGION THREE AWARD FOR THE "WE THE PEOPLE" 2010 NATIONAL FINALS COMPETITION

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2010*

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to praise the students, their families and educators at East Kentwood High School, located in my Congressional District, who won the Region Three Award during the national finals of the 2010 "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" competition. The students and teacher participating in this year's program have shown the nation the high standard of talent and education found in West Michigan.

The students studied for months before coming to Washington, DC, for the national finals. The team participated in a mock congressional hearing to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the principles in the U.S. Constitution. The team won local and state "We the People" contests to qualify for the national competition.

I would like to recognize the following students from East Kentwood High School for their outstanding performance: Tacy Allan, Heather Anderson, Brandon Bilski, Sam Broecker, Austin Calloway, Jessica Dippel, Christian Erwin, Natalie Eyke, Brandon Gafford, Alex Giarmo, Gorgen Grigoryan, Erin Letherby, Ian Macneil, Gwenevere Mueller, Brynley Nadziejka, Julia Nguyen, Taylor Sanchez, and Roger Taylor. Their teacher, Deb Snow, also deserves a great deal of recognition for instilling these students with a passion to learn and providing them with the knowledge they needed to succeed.

I would also like to commend the Center for Civic Education for putting on the "We the People" program and providing resources to schools in my district to help educators teach students about the U.S. Constitution. I cannot overstate how important it is for students to graduate from high school with a comprehensive understanding of how our government works. "We the People" programs should be recognized for promoting civic education, and I am pleased that it has had such a big impact in my district. Also worthy of special recognition are Linda Start and Jim Troost, the state coordinators, and Susan Laninga, the district coordinator who are responsible for implementing the "We the People" program in my district.

I am very proud of the students, their families and teacher at East Kentwood High School for winning the Region Three Award in the "We the People" competition, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them for their achievement.

HONORING RALPH ROSS ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2010*

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, Ralph Ross of Knoxville, Tennessee turned 100 years old

on May 3, 2010. I cannot think of a finer father, Christian, or community leader.

Ralph has had an amazing, blessed life. But despite his personal business success, he remains a humble Christian who devotes his resources, time, and heart to others.

Like many of Ralph's generation, he entered into the military during World War II after completing dental school and served admirably as the head of the dental corps at Camp Blanding, Florida.

While safeguarding the health of his fellow soldiers during the war, Ralph met the love of his life. Frances was the head of the nurse's corps at Camp Blanding, and that chance encounter would result in a 63-year marriage, two children, and four grandchildren.

Ralph served full time from April 1, 1941, to May 9, 1946. Even after the war, he continued his commitment to the United States, serving in the Reserves through the 1960s and retiring a Lieutenant Colonel.

Following his military service, Ralph got into the construction business. It takes a lot of hard work, determination, and a bit of luck to get a successful business off the ground. Ralph did it twice.

After getting much of the contract work for construction at Oak Ridge, a subcontractor ran off with most of his supplies and pay for the work. He was left with a shovel, a bulldozer, and no money.

Never one for self-pity, he started from scratch again by joining his brother in the coal business. And once again, he built a very successful business, selling it in 1982.

Ralph is a shining example of how to live a Christian life. Blessed with security on this Earth, he has never stopped giving to those who are not as fortunate.

From serving as President of the North Side Kiwanis Club in Knoxville, to his activities with Campus Crusade for Christ, YOLK Youth Ministries, Young Life, and Shriners International, Ralph spends his time helping others, especially youth. He is also a generous benefactor to the University of Tennessee.

I graduated from high school with Ralph's son Roger and used to frequently play basketball at his house. I have known Roger Ross almost his entire life.

He describes a bulletin board in their home filled with images of his father's generosity. "You name it, he was in it," Roger says. "Being a Christian was Daddy's life."

As a member of First Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, and then later Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church, Ralph served as elder and deacon. He is a very outgoing individual and meeting other people is his favorite thing.

"He always told me not to lie, and he never said a harsh word about anybody. And he would always help people," Roger says. "You ask him for help, or came and asked him for money, and he would give it to you."

Ralph lives by the creed that you always help those in need, even if some folks may try to take advantage of you. "That's life," he always says. "It doesn't mean you stop helping people."

Madam Speaker, Ralph Ross, through his faith in God, continues to live an honorable life. I call his devotion to others to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD and wish him a very happy 100th birthday. Roger Ross says of his father, "He just has people everywhere that love him." I think there is no better definition than that of a good life.

CELEBRATING MOTHERS AND MOTHER'S DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 5, 2010*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the actions of the House of Representatives in recognizing the role of mothers. I strongly support H. Res. 1295, which recognizes the significant contributions of mothers in building strong families and communities across the nation.

Madam Speaker, as we quickly approach Mothers Day this Sunday, let us recognize the tireless efforts and contributions to society, the personal sacrifices made, and the wise guidance that mothers provide everyday. The creation of Anna Jarvis, first observed on May 10, 1908, Mothers Day serves as a day of remembrance and reflection on the unyielding love and affection that mothers provide, reminding us that no matter the distance between mother and child, the maternal bond can never be broken.

Madam Speaker, Harry Truman once said "no one in the world can take the place of your mother. Right or wrong, from her viewpoint you are always right. She may scold you for little things, but never for the big ones." Mothers play a central role in the development of our children, raising them with values and morals, inspiring and encouraging them to reach for their dreams. No one among us would be where we are without the influence and encouragement of our mothers. Although there is no salary or compensation for the efforts of mothers, their words, actions, wisdom, and love are priceless.

One of my favorite quotes about mothers states "Most of all the other beautiful things in life come by twos and threes, by dozens and hundreds. Plenty of roses, stars, sunsets, rainbows, brothers and sisters, aunts and cousins, comrades and friends—but only one mother in the whole world."

I would also like to take a chance to recognize two of the mothers in my life, my mother, Mrs. Christine Callier, the woman who shaped every facet of my being as a child, and my wife Mereda, who is the light of my life. I am blessed to have two beautiful, strong and intelligent women to walk through life with.

I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution which celebrates the most important profession in the world: motherhood.

HONORING MS. IMELDA NAVARRO

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2010*

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Ms. Imelda Navarro, a recent inductee to the Laredo Business Hall of Fame. Ms. Navarro is currently the Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operation Officer of International Bank of Commerce in Laredo, Texas.

Ms. Navarro has contributed to the community of South Texas and the International Bank

of Commerce-Laredo, which has its parent company as the largest minority-owned bank in the country, also headquartered in Laredo, Texas. At the age of 16, Ms. Navarro joined the IBC family as a young file clerk through a program offered through Laredo's J.W. Nixon High School. Even after completion of the program, Ms. Navarro continued to work for the bank with an extended, committed twenty-nine year career. She earned her degree in Accounting and earned her Bachelor of Business Administration at the Laredo State University.

The financial and business industry in Laredo prospered with the work ethic and dedication of Ms. Navarro. In the 1980s and 1990s, the IBC began to grow substantially and Navarro continued to learn all the facets of personal and commercial banking, including responsibilities of financial accounting, human resources and bank operations. From her young beginnings as a file clerk to her multiple duties as Senior Executive Vice President currently, Ms. Navarro provides a unique and excellent perspective for the banking industry and business community.

Most recently, she was recognized as one of the Top Hispanic Women in the United States in 2009. In April 2005, Hispanic Business Magazine recognized Ms. Navarro as one of its outstanding women leaders and as one of the 100 most influential Hispanic women in the country. Navarro also helps the community with her services through Texas and International non-profit and professional organizations such as being a member of the Mercy Ministries Development Council. She has served as part of the Laredo Business Professional Women's Association and Financial Women International. She was former director of the Laredo Chamber of Commerce and served as President of the TAMIU Alumni.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize Ms. Imelda Navarro inductee to the Laredo Business Hall of Fame. She has shown in her extensive career dedication to the business and financial industry and contributions to the community.

CONGRATULATING STATE  
SENATOR BOB KREMER

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2010*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Senator Bob Kremer on his induction into the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement for his long and valuable service to agriculture.

The Hall is an organization whose primary purpose is to acknowledge and preserve the records of those citizens of Nebraska who have made outstanding contributions to the well-being of Nebraska's agricultural way of life.

Bob, a farmer and cattle feeder, served in the Legislature from 1999 to 2007. He was Chair of the Agriculture Committee from 2003–2006. Throughout his service to our State, Bob was a leader in policy related to property taxes, grain bonding and warehousing commodity check-offs, and beginning farmer incentives. He is also Chairman of Nebraska 25x25, a coalition dedicated to increasing the use of renewable energy derived from agricultural sources.

I have known Bob for a long time. He has been a tireless advocate not only for Nebraska agriculture, but for America's agriculture industry as a whole. I have always been impressed with his ability to look to the future while holding on to what makes Nebraska's way of life so great. I am anxious to see what he will accomplish next.

I want to thank Bob for his service and once again, congratulate him on this honor.

CONGRATULATING THE CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2010 NCAA DIVISION II MEN'S BASKETBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2010*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona men's basketball team for winning the 2010 NCAA Division II Men's Basketball National Championship.

On March 27, 2010, the Cal Poly Pomona Broncos defeated the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Crimson Hawks 65–53 in the finals of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, NCAA, Division II Men's Basketball Tournament in Springfield, Massachusetts. The Broncos shot over 50 percent from the field throughout the tournament and played with an impenetrable defense. The Broncos showed tremendous determination by making it to the championship game for the second year in a row after being narrowly defeated last year by Findlay University's last second three point shot in overtime.

The Broncos finished the 2009–2010 season with 28 wins and 6 losses, the best record in school history. This is a great credit to the players as well as the coaching staff, which includes head coach Greg Kamansky, associate head coach Bill Bannon and assistant coach Damion Hill. The trainers, managers, and staff also deserve praise for their outstanding dedication to helping the Cal Poly Pomona Broncos reach the summit of college basketball success.

The team was awarded many individual accomplishments as well. Coach Kamansky was named the NCAA Division II Coach of the Year from both the National Association of Basketball Coaches and the Division II Bulletin. Broncos senior Austin Swift was named Most Valuable Player of the tournament, averaging 17.6 points per game. Broncos senior Dahir Nasser was named All Elite Eight Choice and scored 12 points in the championship game. The roster of the Cal Poly Pomona Broncos also included juniors Mark Rutledge, Tobias Jahn, and Donnelle Booker; sophomores Matthew Rosser and Dwayne Fells; and freshman Mitchel Anderson, Shaun Norum, and Kevin Ryan.

The Broncos players, coaches, and staff are outstanding representatives of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, one of the finest and most diverse public universities in the country. Cal Poly is the pride of Eastern Los Angeles County and is widely recognized for its applied research programs and hands-on education.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Broncos for playing with great sportsmanship and pride throughout the season, and showing tremendous dedication to their school and appreciation for their fans.

HONORING MICHAEL J. ABATE-MARCO, U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM SEMIFINALIST

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2010*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent Michael J. Abatemarco and congratulate him as he is named a semifinalist in the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program 2010. The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program honors some of the most distinguished graduating high school seniors from across the country. Michael is one of 550 semifinalists.

As the valedictorian of Garden City High School, Michael's superior academic achievements include; National Merit Finalist, AP Scholar with Distinction, Rensselaer Medalist, and Siemens Science Contest semifinalist. In addition to Michael's academic successes, his extracurricular activities reflect a well-rounded student and member of the community through his involvement as drum major of the High School Marching Band, third degree karate black belt, principal baritone saxophonist in the wind ensemble and jazz ensemble, and varsity swimmer and diver. Michael also serves on his school's executive board of Peer AIDS Educators.

As a senior member of the Education and Labor Committee, I am truly impressed by Michael's accomplishments. I am pleased to see that Michael not only values his education, but also shows dedication to community service. Michael is an Eagle Scout with Bronze, Gold, and Silver Palms—awards given only to scouts who have demonstrated spirit, leadership and ability. He also serves as captain and organizer of a Swim Across America team to raise awareness and funds for cancer research. Michael will be working with a non-profit organization this summer as part of the Bank of America Student Leaders Program and will be attending Harvard University in the fall.

Madam Speaker, it is with pride and the utmost admiration I offer my congratulations to Michael J. Abatemarco and commend his dedication to education and community service.

HONORING KARIN WALSER

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2010*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Mr. LYNCH, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. KIND, Mr. MARKEY and Mr. TIERNEY to pay tribute to Karin Walser. Karin is the founder of Horton's Kids, a nonprofit that provides comprehensive services to the