

baseball focusing on the basics: error-free defense, smart base-running and simply putting the ball in play. The Saints were able to keep the pressure on their opponents and force them to commit untimely mistakes which they were able to capitalize upon.

This was true in the state finals when the team scored two runs on wild pitches en route to a 4–1 victory over Grand Rapids Christian. The Saints consistently exhibited the intangibles like heart, discipline and a positive attitude. They were never afraid to get their gloves and jerseys dirty to make a play.

In addition, the Saints also compiled an impressive final record of 33 wins and only one 1 loss, with 31 wins coming straight in a row. I applaud the entire coaching staff for their efforts to prepare this team both mentally and physically for competition.

Here I think it is worth mentioning our hometown Detroit Tigers who are post-humously honoring former Manager Sparky Anderson by retiring his Number 11 jersey this season. I think Sparky put it best when he said, “Baseball is a simple game. If you have good players and if you keep them in the right frame of mind then the manager is a success.” I am sure Coach McElreath would echo that same sentiment.

In commend the Saints for staying energized and hungry each time they crossed the white chalk to face-off against their opponents. This is an extremely difficult task, considering the various pressures and distractions high school student-athletes face on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the hard work and sacrifices displayed by all the members of the 2011 St. Clair High School Baseball Program. I congratulate the coaches, staff, teachers, parents, students and fans for their assistance in making this a season no one will ever forget.

Despite the hardships, set-backs and obstacles, the Saints showed they had the skills, will power and fortitude to rise to any challenge and accomplish their ultimate goal—a State Championship! Teamwork, perseverance and friendship all contributed to this title as well. I know the City of St. Clair, St. Clair County and the East China School District take great pride in what these young men were able to accomplish.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I share that same pride and express my personal congratulations and best wishes. All the accolades, awards and trophies won by this team are rightfully deserved. This baseball squad exceeded expectations and established a tradition of winning for future teams to follow. Way to go Saints!

RECOGNIZING HILLARY BERKOWITZ

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a student of the Month from the Sixth Congressional District of New York.

Hillary Berkowitz is the valedictorian of the 2011 class of Benjamin Cardozo High School. She will be attending Barnard College in the

fall. She challenged herself with the most rigorous of college preparatory courses that Benjamin Cardozo High School have to offer, and has attained a grade point average of 103.13.

In May 2010, Hillary was the proud recipient of the Queens College Presidential Excellence Award granted to the “best junior” in each Queens high school, and she is currently a 2011 National Merit Semifinalist. She is a dedicated member of the school and actively participates in school events. She is the treasurer for her leaders club, volunteers in tutoring other students, and always helps her teachers in whatever way she can.

Her college counselor has deemed her “Benjamin Cardozo High School’s finest” and is an exceptional young woman. She has a great love for academia and the arts, and hopes that she can attend law school in the future. Her hard work and dedication to success have earned her the respect of her peers, her teachers, and the community. I know that she has a bright future ahead of her.

THE FASTER ACT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Facilitating American Security Through Energy Resources Act—The FASTER Act. This legislation will require the Department of the Interior to increase and accelerate the approval of high-potential onshore oil and gas permits located on Federal lands.

The current Administration has delayed, canceled, and reduced domestic energy production. The proof is in the numbers: in 2008 there were over 2,400 new oil and natural gas leases issued on Bureau of Land Management land and 2.6 million acres leased for production, but in 2010 the number of new leases issued dropped to 1,308 and acres leased dropped to 1.3 million. In exchange for this massive reduction, Administrative officials only offer distant hope for renewable resources. This is extremely troubling.

My bill would require Department of the Interior officials to identify, in consultation with industry, leases that have the highest energy potential and expeditiously move them through the permitting process.

The Bureau of Land Management claims that it takes, on average, 206 days to process a drilling permit application, but in reality the actual waiting time for many businesses is closer to two years. With the price of gas hovering around \$4 per gallon in this fragile economic recovery, the economic damage caused by that wait time is completely unacceptable.

Just this week the President acknowledged the energy crisis we are facing, and moved to open up the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. But this is the shortest of short term solutions, and will do nothing to address the structural problems facing our need to secure our national energy supply.

The combined recoverable oil, natural gas, and coal resources of the United States are

the largest in the world, and much of it is on Federal land. Our country’s abundant natural resources represent not just tens of trillions of dollars, but also millions of high-paying jobs.

I served two combat tours of duty in the Middle East with the Marine Corps and saw firsthand how volatile this region was then. It’s even less stable now. We cannot afford to be dependent on these increasingly unstable nations for so much of our energy, particularly when we have such vast resources here at home. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JESSE OTIS BEALL

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Jesse Otis Beall of DeBary, Florida who passed away on Thursday, June 16, 2011.

It was my honor and privilege to have known Jesse who, as the “unofficial” historian for the City of DeBary, has been involved in city events and organizations since moving there following his service in the Navy during World War II.

More than his service to our nation, we can never repay or adequately recognize the sacrifice Jesse, his wife, Arbutus, and his family made with the loss of their son and loved one, Charles Richard Beall.

Their son was killed while serving in Vietnam in 1968. It was my honor to help grant Jesse Beall’s request to have our main transportation artery through DeBary, Florida named in his son Charles Richard Beall’s name. I will never forget the day I stood with Jesse as work crews placed that sign honoring his son on that DeBary thoroughfare. Jesse was a patriot and an American Father who we will always remember and hold dearly in our hearts.

Jesse loved the outdoors and could often be found hunting, fishing or even wrangling alligators. But most of all, Jessie loved his adopted home of DeBary. As the town’s historian, Mr. Beall often found himself the collector of all things DeBary. Members of the community would often transfer to him possessions or other items they found knowing that Mr. Beall would keep them for posterity sake. His collection continues a reminder of our area’s past and proud history on which Jesse left an indelible mark.

Jesse is survived by his wife of 54 years, Arbutus; his son Roger; his daughter Rebecca Genest; his brother Gene; five granddaughters; and one great-granddaughter. To them, we offer our deepest sympathy and condolences. Jesse also had a daughter, Rochelle, who passed away in 2003 and his son, Charles, who was killed while serving in the Vietnam War and for whom U.S. 17–92 in DeBary is named.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Jesse Beall’s contributions to our nation and the great State of Florida. I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives of the 112th Congress to join me in remembering this great American.

A TRIBUTE TO THE ARCADIA HIGH SCHOOL BAND

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Arcadia High School Band from Valley County, Nebraska. On May 26, 2011 the band visited Washington, D.C. for a special concert at the National World War II Memorial. Performing 12 patriotic anthems at the memorial, the talented group of students captured an audience from around the world who were visiting our nation's capital.

The Arcadia High School Band traces its roots back to 1930 when 17 students joined. Today, 77% of the student body plays in the band. Throughout the years, the band has regularly performed outside of the Arcadia community from Mount Rushmore, South Dakota to Grand Island, Nebraska. For 8 of the last 10 years the band received the highest rating at District Music Contests, including a standing ovation and superior ratings from all three judges.

Led by Mr. Randall Warner, the Arcadia High School Band exemplifies a long standing commitment to excellence in musical performance and high academic standards. The band makes their community and the State of Nebraska extremely proud.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the exceptional talent and dedication of the Arcadia High School Band.

TRIBUTE TO PIKEVILLE MEDICAL CENTER

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a world class hospital and the American Alliance of Healthcare Providers' 2010-2011 "Hospital of the Year," Pikeville Medical Center.

Each year, the American Alliance of Healthcare Providers selects a recipient of its hospital of the year award. This year, Pikeville Medical Center became the Nation's only repeat winner over hundreds of applicants from across the country. I am proud to report that this top notch institution in the heart of Eastern Kentucky was judged to be the nation's most patient friendly hospital.

This distinguished honor truly reflects an unwavering commitment to world class treatment by every one of Pikeville Medical Center's over 2,000 employees and 250 physicians. The honor of being named "Hospital of the Year" for the second consecutive year is simply the latest example of the Pikeville Medical Center's stellar reputation among its peers and fellow medical professionals; in fact, the hospital has been named the #1 hospital to work for in Kentucky in Best Places To Work for three straight years, and has been nationally recognized for best practices and out-

standing doctors by numerous organizations. Needless to say, the Pikeville Medical Center is clearly committed to their noble mission of being a "quality, regional health care in a Christian environment."

For 86 years, Pikeville Medical Center has served as a beacon of healing for the people of Pike County, Kentucky and the surrounding regions. Since its humble beginnings in 1924, the hospital has expanded numerous times to meet regional needs. Today, the Medical Center complex boasts many specialties and services such as its award winning cancer center, state-of-the-art Diagnostic Equipment, 4-D Echocardiograms, a cardiac rehabilitation center, a sleep studies laboratory, and a neonatal intensive care unit. The Pikeville Medical Center has also fashioned a teaching program that is second to none and will ensure that our talented young medical professionals will not have to leave Eastern Kentucky to learn and develop their skills.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a fine example of patient care and community wellness, the Pikeville Medical Center. I congratulate the Center on this latest achievement and wish the employees and hospital leadership many more years of success.

H.J. RES. 68 AND H.R. 2278

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today the House considered two bills that focused on United States involvement in Libya. Both failed to adequately address our role in that country.

H.J. Res. 68 is the less objectionable of the two. I reluctantly supported this Resolution because it reaffirmed the United States limited participation in an international coalition to deal with the humanitarian crisis in Libya and bars all funds from being used to deploy, establish, or maintain a presence of Members of the Armed Services or private security contractors on the ground. It also sets a clear deadline for U.S. involvement there.

What I would have liked to see offered was the Resolution sponsored by Senators KERRY and MCCAIN. The Kerry/McCain Resolution goes further and clearly defines our interests and objectives in the region.

It makes clear that it is the sense of this Congress that we will support the Libyan people and political reform in the country; it clearly defines our goal in Libya as the removal of Mummur Qaddafi and his family from power through the NATO mission outlined by U.N. Security Council Resolution 1973, which includes diplomatic and economic pressures; and that we must support the Libyan people transition to a representational democracy.

H.R. 2278 would prevent the Department of Defense from using any funds to support NATO in its mission to stop the slaughter of civilians by a dictator who has time and again made clear his disregard for the lives of innocents.

Of equal concern is the fact that H.R. 2278 sets an unfortunate precedent and undermines

key global institutions by turning our backs to a unified call for intervention.

Preventing U.S. action would endanger the recent display of democratic aspirations by so many in the region and only emboldens the other despots of the world such as Syria, Iran, and Yemen, suggesting there are no consequences for murdering peaceful protesters.

As I have said from the start, I would support thoughtful legislation that acknowledges the U.S. has chosen to answer the cries of the innocent Libyan people, but makes clear that our commitment to their aspirations of self governance is not open-ended, and which clearly defines our goals and—more importantly—limits. That is why I voted for H.J. Res. 68 and look towards the Kerry/McCain Resolution to carry the day because it sets the right tone.

STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT OBAMA'S MAY 19 SPEECH ON U.S. POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address a very important issue which has generated much debate and misinformation in recent weeks. When President Obama articulated his vision for U.S. policy in the Middle East on May 19th at the State Department, he laid out an historic call to support the democratic aspirations of people living under decades of autocracy and tyranny.

President Obama also reaffirmed our commitment to finding a peaceful solution to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. He restated the need for a negotiated settlement, and he opposed the Palestinian attempt to unilaterally seek UN recognition of their statehood. He also called for a resolution of the disputed lands based on the "1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps."

President Obama's call to use the borders that existed before the Six Day War as a basis for future borders was also made by President George W. Bush and President Bill Clinton. This is an almost two-decade old U.S. position. This policy position is well understood as the mainstream position by every diplomat, pundit, and scholar familiar with this issue.

The position is shared by Israel's own Defense Minister, and by Israel's former Prime Minister. It is shared by Israel's Opposition Leader, and it is shared by a majority of the Israeli public.

The issue of a negotiated peace settlement between Israelis and Palestinians is far too important to cede to those who criticize the President for their own political aims. We must emphasize the facts. Support for Israel as a secure Jewish democratic state is a bipartisan priority, and this Administration has done at least as much as any other to expand and improve our security cooperation and diplomatic ties with her.

I call on each of my colleagues to refrain from distorting or misrepresenting this issue, and to join together in support of a negotiated settlement that will bring peace and prosperity to a region riddled with conflict for far too long.