

team on an outstanding 2011 season. Yesterday, the Punchers won the Class 1A, Division I Texas state championship and ended their season with a perfect record, 15–0.

I want to congratulate the team on their dedication and hard work. It takes determination and focus to win a state championship, and the focus must be all the greater to do it on top of a perfect season. I applaud the perseverance of the team.

Coach Kade Burns, as well as all the young men on this team, deserves recognition for the accomplishment. The 15–0 season was all the greater considering this was Coach Burns' first season as head coach at Mason.

I know that many years from now, these young men from Mason will look back on this day with fond memories. I encourage them to enjoy this achievement to the utmost, as it is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

It is my honor to represent the student and families Mason and their state championship football team. Again, I congratulate the Mason Punchers on a perfect season and a state championship!

HONORING THE LIFE OF AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF JUDGE HOSEA T. "H.T." LOCKARD

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Judge H.T. Lockard, born Hosea T. Lockard on June 24, 1920. Judge Lockard was a civil rights leader, hero and pioneer who fought alongside giants to bring racial equality to Memphis, Tennessee and the surrounding area. He grew up on a small farm near Henning, Tennessee before deciding to attend LeMoyne College in Memphis in 1940.

Prior to completing his studies at LeMoyne College, Mr. Lockard chose to postpone his education to serve his country in the Army Medical Corps during World War II which included three and half years in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany. After his discharge in 1945, he continued his studies at Sorbonne University in Paris before returning to LeMoyne where he attained his bachelor's degree in 1947. After finishing at LeMoyne, H.T. Lockard was not allowed to attend a Tennessee law school due to segregation. Undeterred by challenges he faced in Tennessee, he pursued his Juris Doctorate by attending Lincoln University Law School in St. Louis, Missouri where he graduated in 1950. While in law school, H.T. Lockard observed that conditions for African-Americans in St. Louis were far better than those in Tennessee. After much debate, he made the tough decision to move back to Memphis where he began practicing law and working with the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, to improve race relations in Memphis.

Mr. Lockard once recalled how at a NAACP meeting, the topics of police brutality and segregation in public facilities were like music to his ears. He said, "... Good music, because that's what I wanted to get involved in and help bring about the change ... I was ready to roll up my sleeves and go and ready to tackle anything that needed to be tackled." In

1955, he assumed the presidency of the Memphis Branch of the NAACP and served in that position until 1958. H.T. Lockard headed up their legal committee and contributed to national efforts. During this time, H.T. Lockard was joined by Russell Sugarmon, Vasco and Maxine Smith, Jesse Turner, Billy Kyles and the late Benjamin Hooks and A.W. Willis. Together, these stalwarts of the civil rights movement fought for and won many victories including desegregating Memphis Street Railway Co., public buildings, restaurants and the University of Memphis, formerly Memphis State University.

H.T. Lockard broke significant barriers and paved the way for future African-American politicians in Memphis. In 1964, Mr. Lockard became the first African-American to hold elective office in Shelby County by being elected to the Shelby County Quarterly Court, now known as the County Commission. He then became active in local African-American political clubs and played a key role behind the scenes as an advisor on civil rights issues to President Lyndon B. Johnson. H.T. Lockard was appointed to serve as Administrative Assistant to Tennessee Governor Buford Ellington from 1967–1971 thereby becoming the first African-American cabinet member in the State of Tennessee. In 1975, H.T. Lockard became a Criminal Court judge and served until 1994.

Judge Lockard later served as a board member of the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis from 1989–1999. He gave much of his time to the Memphis Charter Commission, a non-partisan group that reviewed the city Charter and made recommendations for changes to be presented to the citizens of Memphis through voter referendums. Mr. Lockard was awarded the Benjamin L. Hooks Award by the Memphis Bar Foundation in 2010 in recognition of his lifelong commitment to social justice and his prominence on the national stage.

Some of his closest colleagues and friends recounted his dedication to the civil rights movement while he was a lawyer and president of the NAACP. The late Vasco Smith, a former Shelby County Commissioner, said "... Lockard was pretty much the whole show. He did an outstanding job, and he probably laid the foundation for a lot of things that happened later on." His wife, Maxine Smith, a former executive secretary of the Memphis Branch of the NAACP described him as the inner circle of the civil rights movement in Memphis. Former General Sessions Court Judge Russell Sugarmon commented on H.T. Lockard saying "When he put his mind to something, he was a plow. He dug in and dug in and wouldn't let up ... If Lockard was on the other side, you'd better be prepared."

Judge Lockard was an exceptional judge, leader and gentleman. I had the pleasure of meeting him in 1970 when he and I supported Senator Stan Snodgrass for Tennessee governor. In addition to the legacy he leaves behind, I will remember Judge Lockard for his service to the community and his dedication to the bench. As an admirer of classic cars, I will also remember his convertible Thunderbird.

Judge Hosea T. "H.T." Lockard passed away on December 12, 2011 at 91 years of age. He leaves to memory his wife of 49 years, Ida Walker Lockard; three brothers, Emmitt Lockard, Albert Lockard Jr. and Lorenza Lockard; and one sister, Lydia Mor-

gan. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Judge H.T. Lockard. Judge H.T. Lockard will be remembered by many. His was a life well lived.

CONGRATULATING SILVER CROSS HOSPITAL

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Silver Cross Hospital, which is located in my district, for expanding its facilities to New Lenox, IL. In this new facility, the wonderful caregivers of Silver Cross will be better able to serve the many residents of Will County. Each and every day, healthcare professionals across the country provide life saving and sustaining help to those most in need. The professionals at Silver Cross exemplify the best qualities we have come to expect from our healthcare professionals. Their distinguished history provides a tremendous example for others to follow.

I would like to highlight just a couple of their accolades as they continue construction of their new state-of-the-art 289-bed hospital. First, Silver Cross Hospital has been named a 100 Top Hospital Award recipient for seven consecutive years by Thomson Reuters Healthcare, a leading provider of information and solutions to improve the quality and cost of healthcare. Only four hospitals in the nation have won the award for the last seven consecutive years. Secondly, new programs including an enhanced partnership with Children's Memorial Hospital, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and University of Chicago Medical Center will bring new services to patients and improve the health of the community.

It is a true pleasure to represent Silver Cross Hospital. This new facility will allow the Silver Cross family to better fulfill their vision, which is "We, the Silver Cross Family, are committed to our culture of excellence, and will deliver an unrivaled healthcare experience for our patients, their families and the community."

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF JOHN SULLIVAN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Sullivan on his retirement after 40 years in public service, including 38 with the Social Security Administration.

John Sullivan began his career in public service in 1972 when he joined NASA as a Budget Specialist. Two years later, Mr. Sullivan transferred to the Social Security Administration, where he would spend the next 38 years. Mr. Sullivan started in the Social Security Administration as Mail Clerk, quickly rising through the ranks to positions including Claims Representative, Quality Review Specialist, Supervisory Resident Representative, Branch Manager, Project Manager, and District Manager.

Mr. Sullivan is an assiduous worker, and his professionalism, dedication, outstanding initiative and resourcefulness have been recognized on multiple occasions. He has been awarded more than 30 performance awards, including the Social Security Administration Regional Commissioners Citation, the Social Security Commissioner's Team Award and Biltmore's Who's Who of American Empowering Executives and Professionals.

In addition to his tireless work with the Social Security Administration, Mr. Sullivan is actively involved in his Church and local community. He has served on the St. Anne's Catholic Church Parish Council, as well as its Finance Council. Mr. Sullivan has also volunteered for more than 25 years with the Boy Scouts of America, where he is currently the Vice President of Programs Gulf Coast Council, and numerous scouts in his troop, including three of his sons, have gone on to become Eagle Scouts.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress it is my honor to recognize Mr. John Sullivan for his dedicated career as a public servant and thank him for his service to Northwest Florida. My wife Vicki and I wish Mr. Sullivan, his wife Jennie, and his sons—Richard, John, Matthew, Michael and Taylor—all the best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, due to the death of a close friend, I was absent from the House on Thursday, December 15th and Friday, December 16th. Had I been present, I would have recorded the following votes:

Rollcall 933—aye;
Rollcall 934—aye;
Rollcall 935—aye;
Rollcall 936—aye;
Rollcall 937—aye;
Rollcall 938—aye;
Rollcall 939—aye;
Rollcall 940—aye;
Rollcall 941—aye;
Rollcall 942—aye;
Rollcall 943—no.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, due to a personal family matter on December 15, 2011, I was absent from votes. As such, I am submitting these remarks to indicate how I would have voted if I were here: I would have voted No on the Journal Vote, and Yes on H.R. 886, H.R. 2719, and H.R. 443.

RECOGNIZING THE WEST SPRINGFIELD DANCE TEAM ON THEIR TREMENDOUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the West Springfield Dance Team for their incredible run on the nationally televised show, "America's Got Talent". The West Springfield Dance Team progressed to the semi-finals with their professional grade choreography, distinct style, and superb dancing talents.

Under the tutelage of their coaches, renowned choreographers Tara Perez and Jason King, and with the full support of the West Springfield High School community, including principal Mark Greenfelder and Director of Student Activities Andy Muir, the West Springfield Dance Team has received numerous awards and recognitions including back-to-back Championship titles from the National Dance Alliance, including the "Innovative Choreography" and "Best in Category" awards. West Springfield Dance Team has distinguished itself as the dominant team in local and national competitive dance, and it is now a national celebrity for its run on "America's Got Talent" and a recent appearance on "The View" Halloween episode.

Their eye-popping performances were a delight to watch, and these young people served as tremendous ambassadors not only on behalf of their dance team, but also their school, their families and our community. They and their families should be proud of these accomplishments. I know we are, and I want to congratulate the following members of the West Springfield Dance Team for their many successes in the area of competitive dance, their achievements on "America's Got Talent", and recent appearance on "The View":

WS Dance Team 2010–2011 (performers on "America's Got Talent"): Chelsea Kopf and Julian Asuncion

WS Dance Team 2010–2011 and 2011–2012 (performers on "America's Got Talent", and "The View"): Emily Barnes, Dori Shapiro, Katie Lee, Riley O'Rourke, Nicole Mobley, Breezy Thompson, Sarah Thompson, Kristen Toler, Natalie Wawrzeniak, Jordan Penrod, Hannah Ernst, Jordan Dey, Nicky Ditnoy, and May Ditnoy

WS Dance Team 2011–2012 (performers on "The View"): Ellen Abood, Madeline Diez, Victoria Diez, Brianna Burns, Lauren Rader, Danny Lora, and Collin Hensley

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the West Springfield Dance Team on their many accomplishments and awards and for making it into the semi-finals of "America's Got Talent." I thank the team's coaches, Tara Perez and Jason King, Principal Mark Greenfelder, Director of Student Activities Andy Muir, and the entire West Springfield High School community for their robust support of these exceptional students.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. HOUSE SERGEANT AT ARMS WILSON "BILL" LIVINGOOD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a man who may not be a household name in most American towns and cities but who, over the past two decades, has become an integral part of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Honorable Wilson "Bill" Livingood, our outstanding Sergeant at Arms, who will be retiring next month.

Known around the Capitol as the "protector" and "keeper of the House," Bill Livingood has etched his name in the history books for serving the third longest term as Sergeant at Arms of the U.S. House of Representatives. To most Americans, he is the man—and the voice—who for 15 seconds every year announces at the beginning of the annual State of the Union address, "Mr. Speaker, The President of the United States."

Bill was first sworn in as House Sergeant at Arms by Speaker Newt Gingrich on January 4, 1995. He is only the thirty-sixth person to hold this post since the House of Representatives first met in New York City in 1789.

Bill Livingood's remarkable record of public service is even more noteworthy because of the unique experience he brought to the position. He was the first House Sergeant at Arms to possess considerable expertise in law enforcement, an asset that has served the House well during his tenure.

Prior to his appointment, he was Senior Advisor to the Director of the U.S. Secret Service from 1989 to 1995, and a Special Agent with the Secret Service for a total of 33 years. His background includes service on then-Vice President Lyndon Johnson's security detail, as well as spending more than a decade aboard Air Force One.

As an elected officer of the House of Representatives, the Sergeant at Arms is the chief law enforcement and protocol officer of the body, and is responsible for maintaining order on the House side of the United States Capitol complex.

The Sergeant at Arms reviews and implements all issues relating to the safety and security of Members of Congress and the Capitol complex. The Sergeant at Arms also coordinates extensively with the U.S. Capitol Police and various intelligence agencies to assess threats against Members of Congress and the Capitol complex.

Every visitor to the U.S. Capitol, whether it be the President of the United States, a foreign head of state or one of our youngest citizens, can roam safely around the vast Capitol complex because of Bill Livingood's professionalism, his dedication to duty and his considerable experience.

When this most recent chapter of American history is written, it will be noted that Bill served the House during some of the most challenging times in its history, including the 1998 shootings of two U.S. Capitol Police officers, the 9/11 attacks on our country, as well as the anthrax threats to Congress that came in the wake of the 2001 terror attacks. Make no mistake, House security has undergone significant improvements over the last decade