

I look to the Senate for its expedited review and hope that the President will subsequently sign the measure into law. Our countries farmers deserve nothing less.

CONGRATULATING THE ROCK-
CASTLE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
LADY ROCKETS BASKETBALL
TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2011
KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL ATH-
LETIC ASSOCIATION'S STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 1, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Rockcastle County High School Lady Rockets Basketball Team who captured the 2011 Kentucky High School Athletic Association's State Championship title. Coach Chrysti Noble led the team to an incredible victory that our region will cherish for years to come.

On March 12, 2011, the Lady Rockets defeated a talented team from Dupont Manual High School, winning 62 to 60 in a game forced into overtime. With one second remaining, senior Angie Lawrence hit the game-winning shot.

The state title is the realization of a dream come true, especially for the team's seniors. As teammates in the fifth grade, the girls experienced success as Rockcastle County's first team to earn a trip to the Amateur Athletic Union's national tournament. After tasting victory, they decided their next goal was to win the Kentucky State Championship in high school. Heart and determination have always separated this team from the competition.

In addition, I commend the tournament's most valuable player, Kentucky's first-ever McDonald's All American, Sara Hammond, for the leadership she demonstrated throughout her career at Rockcastle County High School, both on and off the court. Sara has been a prominent advocate for Operation UNITE, spreading a drug-free message to the youth in southern and eastern Kentucky.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chrysti Noble and the 2011 Lady Rockets as the KHSAA State Champions. Coach Noble and her student-athletes have demonstrated outstanding dedication, teamwork, unselfishness and sportsmanship throughout the course of the season in achieving this great honor. I congratulate them and wish them all the best in the years to come.

ARTHUR GAGNON TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 1, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker it is a wonderful privilege to stand and pay tribute to celebrate the extraordinary life of Mr. Arthur Gagnon. Sadly, he passed away on March 24th, 2011, and his loss will be felt by all who knew this

inspirational person. Mr. Gagnon was a man that had many passions, and had a lifetime of wonderful achievements on a professional and personal level. Above all else he was a man that was truly devoted to his family, faith and country.

Mr. Arthur Gagnon was born and raised in Albany, New York, and he lived there until he enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1950. Mr. Gagnon enjoyed a successful career in the Air Force that lasted two decades, and took him to all corners of the globe. He retired as a Senior Master Sergeant and always claimed to love the work he did and the people he met along the way. After twenty years of moving around the country Mr. Gagnon and his family moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado, which allowed him to continue civilian work with the Air Force at the Air Force Academy Visitor Center. Mr. Gagnon was also endlessly committed to doing all he could to assist his fellow veterans, and he did so as a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Retired Enlisted Association and Disabled American Veterans. Mr. Arthur Gagnon was a man that had a true sense of the meaning of service.

For all of his deeds in his service to America, Mr. Arthur Gagnon was even more committed to his family. He married his wife Delores in 1953 and they enjoyed a 58 year marriage. Mr. Gagnon also had three children, and was a grandfather and great-grandfather. Many in the Gagnon family looked to the lessons they learned from their father and grandfather as an example of how they should live their own life. His son James Gagnon served as an officer in the Air Force, and one of his grandsons, Joseph Gagnon is currently a first lieutenant in the Air Force. His grandson, David Sprenger, believes that his success working in the U.S. Congress can be directly attributed to the ideals he learned from his grandfather. Mr. Gagnon clearly touched the lives of others in many ways.

Mr. Speaker, it has been an honor to stand and pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of Mr. Arthur Gagnon. He was a man that tirelessly tried to bring fulfillment into the lives of those around him, and he will be dearly missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF AREA
HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS
(AHECS)

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 1, 2011

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker: I rise today to acknowledge the contributions of the nation's Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) and applaud the vitally important healthcare workforce programs they conduct to improve access to healthcare for medically under-served individuals.

AHECs, established by Congress in 1971 as one of the Title VII Health Professions Training programs, are the workforce development, training and education machine for the nation's healthcare safety net programs. Across the nation, 56 AHEC programs and more than 235 affiliated AHEC centers collaborate with

over 120 medical schools and 600 nursing and allied health programs to improve the quality, geographic distribution and diversity of the primary care workforce.

Last year, AHECs facilitated the placement of more than 44,000 health professional students in 17,530 community-based practice settings nationwide including community health centers, rural health clinics, critical access hospitals, tribal clinics and public health departments. To address the growing shortage of health care professionals in America, over 33,000 received more than 20 hours of health career exposure, information, and academic enhancement to prepare them for health professions training programs.

The University of South Florida's AHEC Program connects students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health. The USF AHEC Program inspires youth to choose a career in the health professions with its health career camps, mentoring programs, college preparatory courses and more. USF focuses on recruiting more minority and disadvantaged youth into health careers because as the nation's population becomes more diverse, it is important that the health care workforce reflects that diversity. AHECs in the Tampa Bay area are dedicated to community service and committed to enhancing the lives of Florida's most vulnerable populations who often go without health care due to geographic isolation and economic or social status. From 2000 to now, USF AHEC and its centers, Gulfcoast North AHEC and Gulfcoast South AHEC, have placed over 13,000 health professions students, residents and providers in medically underserved sites such as community health centers, county health departments and indigent care clinics within its service area; have increased access to healthcare at these sites with approximately 3 million patient encounters; and have guided more than 10,000 youth to careers in health through student enrichment and diversity programs. Most recently, USF AHEC and its centers have also provided tobacco cessation services to over 1,600 residents of the service area in an effort to combat the nation's leading cause of disease, disability and death—to tobacco use.

Not only have AHECs supported the education of future professionals, but they have supported more than 482,000 health professionals caring for the medically under-served with programs designed to enhance their skills, knowledge, and quality of care. AHECs have awarded 1.1 million contact hours of continuing education programs to current health professionals. AHECs extend the academic resources of health professions training programs into rural and medically under-served communities throughout the United States by creating partnerships between the health science centers that train health professions students, residents, faculty, and practitioners and the local providers that care for our nation's increasing number of medically under-served citizens.

Mr. Speaker, through community-based interdisciplinary training programs, AHECs identify, inspire, recruit, educate, and retain a health care workforce committed to under-served populations. To that end, I would like to take this opportunity to officially recognize National AHEC Week, March 14 through March 18, 2011.

HONORING U.S. ARMY CORPORAL JUSTIN ROSS'S SERVICE IN AFGHANISTAN

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 1, 2011

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life and sacrifice of Corporal Justin Ross. A native of Howard, Wisconsin, Cpl. Ross died while serving our country in the Helmand province of Afghanistan.

Cpl. Ross was assigned to the 428th Engineer Company, 863rd Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve, Wausau, Wisconsin. Our hearts go out to the Ross family and our prayers will be with them all during this difficult time. Cpl. Ross deserves nothing less than the eternal gratitude of our nation. He's a hero, and his sacrifice will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, Cpl. Ross embodied the best qualities of a true American soldier. He was selfless, dedicated and brave. He is remembered by friends and family as a man with a strong, quiet spirit who put the safety of his fellow troops before his own and a man who earned the unwavering respect of his peers. Through his exemplary service, Cpl. Justin Ross has made Northeast Wisconsin and his country proud.

It is my honor to commemorate him and I urge my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life of Cpl. Justin Ross for the sacrifice he has made for the United States.

WALLACE HOPKINS RETIRES AFTER 36 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR NATION'S VETERANS

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 1, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with a mixture of happiness and sadness that I let my colleagues know of the retirement today of Wallace M. Hopkins, the Director of the Bay Pines VA Health Care System, after 36 years of dedicated and devoted service to our nation's veterans and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

It has been my pleasure to work with Mr. Hopkins for the past six years since his assignment to Bay Pines, which I have the privilege to represent. While at Bay Pines and throughout his career, Wally Hopkins' work in the field of Healthcare Systems Administration and Management has enhanced the quality of health care for our veterans for nearly four decades. He began his distinguished VA career in September 1975 as an Administrative Resident at the Iowa City VAMC. During the next 35 years, Mr. Hopkins served in increasingly more responsible administrative positions in Washington, Indiana, and Minnesota. He became the Director of the Brockton/West Roxbury VAMC in 1988 and then moved to Waco, Texas serving as Director there until 1996. Before coming to Bay Pines in 2005, he served as the Director of the Amarillo, Texas VA Health Care System.

Mr. Speaker, I am most familiar with Mr. Hopkins' leadership and commitment to the

care of our veterans while he has served as Director of the Bay Pines Healthcare System, one of the largest and most complex healthcare systems in the Department of Veterans Affairs. The numerous accomplishments and accolades that the staff at Bay Pines has earned during the tenure of Mr. Hopkins are indicative of his commitment to excellence. These awards include the 2008 Robert W. Carey Performance Excellence Award, the 2009 Robert W. Carey Performance Excellence Trophy, and 2010 Robert W. Carey Circle of Excellence Award, the three highest honors a VA hospital can earn. In 2007, 2008 and 2009, Bay Pines was ranked one of the highest of all Veterans Affairs Medical Centers in national performance measures for quality healthcare, access to services, and veteran and employee satisfaction rates. The Bay Pines Nursing Service has been nationally recognized with two 2007 Office of Nursing Service Innovation Awards and in 2009, they won the top award for the "Let's Get Certified" campaign by having the highest increase in individual nursing achievements of specialty certifications. Bay Pines received a top award from the American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association for implementing measures adhering to the two organizations' highest standards of stroke care and treatment. The Associations' Get with the Guidelines Stroke (GWTG-Stroke) Silver Performance Achievement Award recognized Bay Pines for its comprehensive system of high standard measures and for being the first VA facility to be recognized with the Performance Achievement Award. National Systems Redesign awards were also presented to Bay Pines for streamlining patient flow process in the inpatient and outpatient setting.

Bay Pines has undergone much needed growth in its services and facilities under the leadership of Wally Hopkins. These include the expansion of the emergency department with state of the art imaging and diagnostic equipment, a completely renovated and expanded suite of Intensive Care Units, numerous enhancements and expansion efforts in types of cardiology services offered, expanded high-tech equipment for radiology and nuclear medicine including a new PET CT and new Radiation Oncology and Cancer Infusion Center and a fully renovated, completely self sustaining laundry plant that supports three major Veterans Healthcare Administration facilities. His direct interest in serving the clinical needs of veterans is apparent in the number of major and minor construction projects currently taking place throughout the Bay Pines Healthcare System. At Bay Pines, these include the Mental Health Center, Inpatient Ward Renovation Project, Outpatient Surgery Center, Eye Center, Research Center and outside of the main campus the Lee County Clinic and the expansion of services and the nearly doubling the amount of Community Based Outpatients Clinic space throughout the system's ten county catchment area.

Wallace Hopkins' commitment to caring for our Nation's veterans comes from the heart. He is a highly decorated veteran himself having served in Vietnam as an Air Force F-4 reconnaissance pilot. He earned a Master of Science degree in Health Care Administration in 1976 from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. Prior to his graduate studies, he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Southwest Texas State University

in 1968 and he is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Mr. Speaker, as I said at the outset, it is with some degree of sadness that we say goodbye to Wally Hopkins as the Director of the Bay Pines Healthcare System. He has led the staff there to the pinnacle of quality care for the veterans of our community. But I know that the skill and dedication with which he has led will pass down to the next leadership team and will continue to ensure that our veterans receive the highest quality of care which they have earned and which they deserve.

And I am happy for Mr. Hopkins and his wife Susan, who has been a true partner in his life-long service to veterans, as he retires from a career in which he has excelled. He is a true patriot as anyone who has heard him speak on Memorial Day can attest. And I am happy that he will remain a part of our community in which he has been active in many important areas since arriving in Pinellas County six years ago. Please join me in saying thank you to Mr. Wallace M. Hopkins for a job and a career well done and wishing him and his wife all the best in their retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 1, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on April 1, 2011, I was absent from the House and missed rollcall votes 215 through 224.

Had I been present for rollcall 215, agreeing to the amendment, Adam B. Schiff of California Amendment No. 29 to H.R. 658, the FAA Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2011, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 216, agreeing to the amendment, Pete Sessions of Texas Amendment No. 20 to H.R. 658, the FAA Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2011, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 217, agreeing to the amendment, Steven C. LaTourette of Ohio Amendment No. 21 to H.R. 658, the FAA Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2011, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 218, agreeing to the amendment, Bill Shuster of Pennsylvania Amendment No. 24 to H.R. 658, the FAA Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2011, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 219, on a motion to recommit with instructions H.R. 658, the FAA Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2011, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 220, on passage of H.R. 658, the FAA Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2011, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 221, on a motion to order the previous question on the rule for H. Res. 194, Providing for consideration of H.R. 1255, the Government Shutdown Prevention Act of 2011, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 222, on agreeing to H. Res. 194, Providing for consideration of H.R. 1255, the Government Shutdown Prevention Act of 2011, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 223, on a motion to recommit with instructions H.R. 1255,