

there. In addition to organized searches, this will help manage and control the spread of pythons and other large constrictor snakes.

I would not be introducing this bill if the dogs were ever in any danger, Mr. Speaker. At no point do the dogs approach the snakes. Instead, once a dog indicates that a snake is in the area, it is taken to a safe distance while a human handler captures the snake.

Unfortunately, these snakes have already destroyed much of the wildlife of the Everglades. This program alone will not bring them back. Nor will it completely eradicate the snakes that are already breeding, as there are simply too many snakes that are too widespread.

However, these dogs are useful for keeping the snakes where they are and stopping them from spreading to other areas. We should, therefore, quickly establish a full-time dog detection team so that we have the ability to respond with the best tools available in order to prevent what happened in the Everglades from happening anywhere else in the United States.

TEA ANDERSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Tea Anderson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Tea Anderson is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Tea Anderson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Tea Anderson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to being unavoidably detained, I missed the following rollcall vote: No. 357 on June 6, 2012. If present, I would have voted: rollcall vote No. 357—Bishop (NY) Amendment, “nay.”

TRIBUTE TO THE TOWN OF OAKHAM ON THE OCCASION OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 250th anniversary of the town of Oakham, Massachusetts. Beginning in 1742, Scotch-Irish Presbyterians began to buy land in what was then called “Rutland West Wing” in the hopes of incorporating their own town under a Presbyterian form of government. After two failed attempts, Oakham was finally incorporated on June 7, 1762.

In early colonial times, the present town of Oakham was a virgin forest occupied by bands of Nipmuk Indians who made seasonal camps in the area for hunting, fishing, and agricultural purposes. During King Philip's War (1675–1676) a 150 square mile area known as Naquag, which includes the land presently known as Oakham, became a stronghold for Native Americans. The Native Americans were on the losing end of the conflict and many of them then left central Massachusetts looking for new homes. Those who remained were forced to live in four “Indian Towns” under close supervision by the colonists. This left the entire area of Naquag open for colonial expansion.

In 1686, five Nashaway Indians, who claimed ownership of Naquag, sold the territory to a group of land speculators from Lancaster, Massachusetts for “25 pounds hard cash.” By 1722, Scotch-Irish immigrants began to buy lots in the area and the town of Rutland was soon incorporated with a Congregational minister. Oakham's founding would be another 40 years in coming.

By the beginning of the Revolutionary War, Oakham's population had grown to nearly 600 people. The town was strongly pro-revolution so loyalists in town were forced to leave their property behind and flee to British strongholds in Boston and Canada. The town raised a company of Grenadier to prevent a British attack on Boston during the War of 1812 and also sent nearly 100 volunteers to serve during the Civil War. Nearly one fifth of these soldiers would not live to see Oakham again.

The sixth Massachusetts Turnpike was built between Pelham and Shrewsbury in 1799. This 43 miles toll road followed Old Turnpike Road in Oakham and remained in service until 1828, making travel to and from Oakham much easier and faster. In 1877, The Central Massachusetts Railroad opened providing quick transportation for both people and goods throughout the northeast. A depot in town helped Oakham grow and prosper, but by the early 20th century population began to decline as people began to leave farms and move to industrial centers.

Today, Oakham has settled into a quiet bedroom community. Recreation has become Oakham's economic focal point with two campgrounds and an 18-hole golf course. An abundance of state land in town provides open space that can be enjoyed by residents and visitors all year long.

From ice fishing, cross country skiing, and snowmobiling in the winters to hiking, biking, horseback riding, and hunting in the warmer

months, Oakham is a relaxing retreat for many.

On the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the town of Oakham, Massachusetts, I congratulate its citizens and praise their dedication and perseverance throughout the town's history. It has been an honor to represent this great community and I wish the people of Oakham a healthy and prosperous future.

SVETLANA MIKHAYLOVA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Svetlana Mikhaylova for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Svetlana Mikhaylova is an 8th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Svetlana Mikhaylova is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Svetlana Mikhaylova for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE'S MEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the University of California, Irvine's (UCI's) men's volleyball team for winning the 2012 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Men's Volleyball National Championship. This is UC Irvine's third national championship in six years, which makes them one of only five programs to have won more than two men's volleyball titles.

UC Irvine won the 2012 championship with a 3–0 (25–22, 34–32, 26–24) victory over USC. Senior Carson Clark was named the Most Outstanding Player (MOP) after recording a match-high 22 kills, hitting .465, and added eight digs and three service aces. Clark joined Ryan Ammerman (2009) and Matt Webber (2007) as the only Anteater players to have earned MOP distinction. Kevin Tillie, Chris Austin, and Connor Hughes were named to the All-Tournament team along with Clark.

The Anteaters concluded the year ranked No. 1 in the country in the final AVCA Coaches Poll. The Anteaters were ranked No. 1 or No. 2 all but two weeks this season. UCI was ranked No. 1 for five weeks this season which was the most weeks at the top of the poll by any school in the country this year. The Anteaters have been ranked No. 1 in five different

years (2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012) under head coach John Speraw. Additionally, the Anteaters have been ranked in the nation's top 10 for 118 consecutive weeks, including No. 1 for 26 of those weeks.

UCI ended the year 26–5 overall, which ties Lewis (26–11) for the most wins in the country this season. The Anteaters finished in a tie for second in the MPSF with a 17–5 record. The 26 wins is the fourth most in school history, while the 17 MPSF wins were tied for third most in school history. UCI was 9–4 at home, 12–1 on the road and 5–0 on neutral courts. They also ranked fourth in the country in attendance with 1,224 fans per match.

Furthermore, UCI captured the 2012 MPSF title with back-to-back 3–2 victories over No. 1 USC and second-seed Stanford. UCI topped fifth-seed UCLA, 3–1 in the quarterfinals. Senior Carson Clark was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player, while Kevin Tillie and Dan McDonnell were selected to the all-tournament team. It was the second time in program history (2007) that UCI won the MPSF Championship title.

Carson Clark and Kevin Tillie were named first team American Volleyball Coaches Association All-America. It is only the second time in program history that UCI has had two players on the first team in the same season. UCI ranked first in the country in hitting percentage (.354), assists (13.32) and win/loss percentage (.839). The Anteaters ranked second in kills (14.0) and aces (1.67). Carson Clark was third in the nation with a 0.55 ace average. Jeremy Dejno was ranked 11th nationally with a 0.38 mark. Kevin Tillie ranked third in the country in hitting percentage (.387), while Dejno is sixth (.347) and Clark was 13th (.324). Tillie was also 11th in kills per set (3.80) and Clark is 12th (3.73).

Additionally, Carson Clark became the first player in MPSF history to be named to the league's first-team all four years. He also made UCI history becoming the first Anteater to earn AVCA All-American all four years. Clark was named first team All-American as a senior and sophomore, while garnering second team as a freshman and junior. Kevin Tillie and Jeremy Dejno joined Clark on the All-Mountain Pacific Sports Federation first-team, while Dan McDonnell was a second team All-MPSF honoree. It is the first time in the program's history that three Anteaters have been selected to the MPSF first team in the same year. UC Irvine joins UCLA as the only two teams to have three first-team MPSF honorees. This is the first MPSF honor for Tillie, Dejno and McDonnell.

Senior Carson Clark left his mark in the UCI record books. This season he became UCI career leader in kills (1,861), attack attempts (4,042) and aces (183). He recorded 61 service aces this season, bettering his previous school mark of 50 set in 2010.

Kevin Tillie was the last Sports Imports/AVCA National Player of the Week (Apr. 24) honoree after his 20-kill performance against UCLA in the MPSF quarterfinals. It is Tillie's second national award this year, taking the honor on Jan. 31 as well. Carson Clark was named Sports Imports/AVCA Men's Division I–II National Player of the Week on Mar. 19. UCI players have been named a Sports Imports/AVCA Player of the Week 20 times overall with Clark also garnering the award on Apr. 4, 2011 and Apr. 12, 2010. This year, Clark was named MPSF Molten Player of the Week

on Mar. 12, while Tillie earned it on Mar. 5 and Jeremy Dejno was recognized on Jan. 9.

Congratulations to head coach, John Speraw, and the men's volleyball team of the University of California, Irvine, for winning the 2012 NCAA Division I Men's Volleyball National Championship. I am proud to recognize the achievements of the players, coaches, students, alumni, and staff who were instrumental in helping the University of California, Irvine win the national title.

It is an honor to represent UC Irvine, under the leadership of Chancellor Michael V. Drake, M.D., as it continues to establish itself as a world-class research university, and as one of the top universities in the Nation.

CONGRESSWOMAN HONORS THE
CAREER OF CHIEF MASTER SER-
GEANT JOHN A. ELDER, RETIR-
ING FROM THE UNITED STATES
AIR FORCE

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary career of Chief Master Sergeant John A. Elder, a great military leader in the United States Air Force. After thirty years of exceptional service to the Air Force, we celebrate Chief Elder's retirement and reflect back on a career of distinguished accomplishments.

Originally from South Boston, Virginia, in July 1982, Chief Elder enlisted in the Air Force and reported for Basic Military Training to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. After graduating from the Biomedical Equipment Maintenance Technician (BMET) course and completing his first operational assignment at Blytheville Air Force Base, Arkansas, he relocated to the Department of Defense's largest contingency hospital located at Royal Air Force Little Rissington in England. There, he played an integral role in establishing the first Contingency Medical Equipment Repair Center which serviced all contingency hospitals in Europe.

In 1990, Chief Elder was selected as an Air Training Command technical training instructor at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. There, he taught basic and advanced BMET courses before being selected as a curriculum developer. Chief Elder was then selected as the Air Force representative for tri-service consolidation of BMET training. He was instrumental in the successful consolidation of Army, Navy and Air Force BMET training and the design and construction of a new, first of its kind, \$16 million Department of Defense BMET training facility.

During his assignment at Sheppard Air Force Base, Chief Elder received several honors including Air Education and Training Command READY Augmenter of the Year, 882d Training Group NCO of the Year, 384th Training Squadron NCO of the Year, and DoD Biomedical Equipment Technician of the Year. Additionally, Chief Elder earned his international certification as a Biomedical Equipment Technician and was awarded the Airman's Medal for heroism for his lifesaving actions during an off-base house fire.

After serving in Alabama and Virginia, in 2007, Chief Elder arrived at Fairchild Air Force

Base in Spokane, Washington to serve as the 92d Medical Group superintendent. One of Chief Elder's most notable achievements was during his time as superintendent of the 332d Expeditionary Medical Group, Joint Base Balad, Iraq, where he led 357 members at the Air Force Theater Hospital to a 98% survival rate during combat operations. His leadership and dedication was instrumental to unit moral and the medical care rendered to our wounded warriors.

Additionally, since his arrival at Fairchild Air Force Base, the 92d Medical Group has been recognized with numerous Air Force, Command and individual awards. Chief Elder also provides strategic guidance, direction and leadership on all issues affecting the professional development, mentorship, and proper utilization of assigned enlisted personnel in support of 30,000 beneficiaries in the greater Spokane area.

So, today I urge all of my colleagues to join me in thanking Chief Master Sergeant John A. Elder for his service and celebrating his lifelong commitment to the United States Air Force and the 92d Medical Group at Fairchild Air Force Base. We are all grateful for John's unwavering dedication to our country and for all of his accomplishments—he is a true American patriot.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
SUFFIELD HALL OF HONOR IN-
DUCTEES

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations to the six distinguished graduates of Suffield High School who were inducted into the Suffield Foundation for Excellent Schools' 2012 Hall of Honor on May 18, 2012. The Hall of Honor is a highly competitive program established to put the spotlight on graduates of Suffield High School who have achieved noteworthy success in their careers in very diverse endeavors. It is no coincidence that such an impressive group came from Suffield High School, a school that actively recruits high quality teachers and staff members. The town of Suffield itself has a proud tradition of supporting the high quality learning environment at Suffield High School, which has been essential to its success. The Hall of Fame is a part of that effort. It seeks not only to celebrate past graduates but also seeks to give students who are presently enrolled or who will be enrolled, inspiration and role models for their own studies and future careers.

Mr. Charles R. Waterman is a nuclear power and turnaround expert, who served as President of Electro Mechanics, Sensor Engineering, and Delas-Weir. Ms. Robbi Gorman D'Allessandro is a writer of stage and screen plays, and founded the Artist's Donor Initiative to encourage artists to donate blood and bone marrow. Mr. James Remington currently serves as the Lieutenant Commander of the U.S. Navy and has supported U.S. missions in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Afghanistan, and Iraq. Mr. Toby J. Moffett, Jr., served four terms as Congressman for Connecticut's Sixth District and now serves as chairman of