

HONORING NATALIE DELL AND
CHRISTA HARMOTTO FOR MAK-
ING THE USA OLYMPIC TEAM

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring two outstanding athletes selected to the United States Olympic Team from the 9th Congressional District of Pennsylvania: Natalie Dell and Christa Harmotto.

Natalie Dell, raised in Clearville, PA was a standout track star throughout her high school career. Upon attending Penn State University, Dell decided that she had reached her full potential in track and field and wanted to pursue another competitive sport. She chose to begin rowing where she quickly fell in love with the sport. After graduation, she continued to hone her strength and technique and joined the Riverside Boating Club in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Although Natalie was less experienced than the rest of her peers, her talent and status advanced rapidly as she soon became a member of the U.S. National Rowing Team. Her rigorous training and the perfection of her skill proved to be well worth the effort. Dell achieved a position on the 2012 Olympic Women's quadruple skulls boat and is the first alumnus from Penn State to row for the USA National Rowing Team. Her six day per week, two-a-day training has aptly prepared this courageous woman to represent the United States and the 9th district of Pennsylvania.

The second great Olympian from our district is Christa Harmotto. Harmotto was brought up in Hopewell Township, PA where she excelled at sports from a young age. In high school, as a multiple year letterman for volleyball and basketball, Christa won the Pennsylvania Gatorade Player of the Year. She then transferred her high school success to that at Penn State, where she chose to continue her pursuit of volleyball. Her student athlete career was one of great success and achievement, as she acted as an integral member of a two-time national championship team, while simultaneously attaining All-American status for four straight years. A prominent figure on the squad as a middle blocker, Christa makes her Olympic debut in 2012. I am positive she will fight valiantly and work hard for her side in their journey to win the gold medal.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate these two heroes of Pennsylvania's 9th district. With their effort and determination, these two women are destined to do great things for our country and the 9th district of Pennsylvania. I am very proud of their hard work and determination to win for the United States Olympic Team. I hope you join me in wishing them and the rest of our Olympic athletes well in their respective competitions at this year's Games.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 125th Anniversary of the

Historic Town of Eatonville, the Oldest Incorporated African American Municipality in America. Eatonville is a source of pride for the entire State of Florida and it gives me great pleasure to represent them in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Eatonville is a town rich in black history, tucked away just north of the city of Orlando and home to more than 2,000 people.

Eatonville is known as one of the first incorporated black towns and was formed after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Eatonville is named for Union Army Captain Josiah Eaton. He owned the land and sold it to a group of African-American men who wanted to start their own city.

On August 15, 1887, twenty-seven registered voters—all African-American men—met and voted to incorporate their parcels of land, creating the first African-American town in America.

The city thrived in music and arts and in 1897, the Robert Hungerford Normal and Industrial School was founded. For years, the school was the most important school for blacks in the state of Florida. Boys and girls from all over the state came to Eatonville to learn about great poets, writers, painters, and composers.

It stayed a private school until 1950 when the courts gave it to Orange County as a public trust, and is now known as Robert Hungerford Preparatory High School—Orange County's first all-magnet high school.

Eatonville hosts the annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival. Indeed, the Zora Neale Hurston Festival of Arts and Humanities in Eatonville, Florida is simply a prize for Eatonville and for the State of Florida.

People come from throughout the country and from around the world to visit and to participate in this great annual event, to celebrate not only the legacy of Zora, but of the cultural contributions made by African Americans around the globe. There have been twenty-three annual festivals and I have yet to miss one!

Please join me in honoring the Town of Eatonville, and I look forward to celebrating this town and its rich history for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO UNIVERSITY OF ALA-
BAMA ATHLETIC DIRECTOR MAL
MOORE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Coach Mal Moore, the respected, longtime Athletic Director of The University of Alabama who was recently named the 2012 recipient of the John L. Toner Award from the National Football Foundation (NFF) and the College Hall of Fame.

The Toner Award is presented annually by the NFF to an Athletic Director who has demonstrated superior administrative abilities and shown outstanding dedication to college athletics, particularly college football.

For those who closely follow University of Alabama athletics, there is little doubt that Mal Moore deserves this tremendous honor. As

Alabama's Athletic Director since 1999, he has guided the University's sports program to a new era of success, made improvements to athletic facilities and overseen numerous conference and national championships. This year alone, under his leadership, Mal Moore has been instrumental in the Crimson Tide winning four national championships in football, women's gymnastics, women's softball and women's golf.

Long a prominent figure in the "Alabama family," Coach Moore played quarterback under legendary head football coach Paul "Bear" Bryant, beginning in 1958, and was a member of the 1961 national championship team. A secondary and, later, quarterbacks coach for Coach Bryant's Crimson Tide, Coach Moore became a fixture on the 'Bama coaching staff until Coach Bryant's retirement in 1982 when he was hired to be an assistant coach at The University of Notre Dame. In 1990, he returned to Alabama to serve as offensive coordinator under Coach Gene Stallings. All total, Coach Moore has been a part of nine of Alabama's 14 national championships.

As Athletic Director, Mal Moore directs a \$100 million budget and 21 men's and women's varsity sports teams. His record of leadership speaks for itself. Since 1999, the University has notched countless NCAA championships and even more SEC championships. Also during Coach Moore's tenure as Athletic Director, the Crimson Tide football team has won two national championships (2009 and 2011), posted six 10-win seasons, a 5-4 bowl record, appearances in four Bowl Championship Series (BCS) bowl games and SEC championships in 1999, 2009 and 2011.

Winning is not his only legacy; however, the face of the University of Alabama campus has also been transformed during Coach Moore's tenure with more than \$200 million in improvements to the athletic infrastructure. Alabama has erected new stadiums for soccer, softball and tennis; new facilities for women's basketball and volleyball; a new golf clubhouse; and improved facilities for every other sports team, in addition to the renovation of the Bill Battle Center for Athletic Student Services and Coleman Coliseum. In 2007, The University of Alabama Board of Trustees officially dedicated the facility formerly known as the Football Building as the Mal M. Moore Athletic Facility. Coach Moore also oversaw the expansion of Bryant-Denny Stadium in 2006 and 2009, pushing the venue's capacity to 101,821, which ranks fifth nationally.

Mal Moore will be officially honored at the 55th NNF awards dinner at Waldorf-Astoria in New York City on December 4, 2012. He was elected to the State of Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in 2011.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Alabama and the entire Alabama Congressional Delegation, I would like to commend Coach Mal Moore for his exemplary leadership and congratulate him for receiving the John L. Toner Award. I know Coach Moore's daughter, Heather, his granddaughter, Anna Lee and grandson, Charles, as well as his many, many friends and associates around the country share in this proud and well-deserved honor.

THE UNFINISHED WAR

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleague a recent article by my good friend Richard Leone, the former President of the Century Foundation. In his article "The Unfinished War" Leon reminds us all that "by ignoring the poor we undermine the welfare of everyone in the 99 percent living from pay check to pay check." As Congress debates taxes, government investments, and countless other issues, I hope all of my colleagues will keep his sage words in mind.

[From the Huffington Post, July 6, 2012]

THE UNFINISHED WAR

Nearly 50 years ago President Lyndon Johnson rallied the nation in support of a "War on Poverty." It was a goal widely accepted as necessary and realistic. While total "victory" might not have been unachievable, the effort was embraced and pursued by many leaders of both parties. The Nixon administration, for example, played a key role in advancement of the earned income tax credit and Ronald Reagan reached an agreement with the then Democratic Speaker of the House, Tip O'Neill, to strengthen Social Security's finances for another generation (today, about half of the nation's elderly would fall below the poverty line without Social Security).

While Johnson's initiatives and subsequent policies didn't end poverty, they sure made a dent in it. Americans began the 1960s with 22.4 percent of the population living in poverty, but by the early 1970s that percentage had been cut in half. Not unconditional victory, but a major policy triumph nonetheless. Since that time the poverty rate has fluctuated between about 11 percent and 15 percent, reaching the upward proportion during the Reagan years and the lower end of the range during the administration of Bill Clinton. This may seem like a fairly narrow band—unless you're one of the millions who fall into poverty as the nation moves from the bottom of the range to the top. Right now, as we struggle to recover from the financial crisis of 2008–2009, the share of Americans living in poverty is back to levels not seen since 1993.

So is a renewal of the war against poverty in the offing? The current balance of political forces suggests that, rather than muster all the weapons we have to fight for the poor, many are willing to settle for uneasy neutrality. This is one "war of choice" we choose not to wage. Austerity is the watchword of the day defined somewhat differently but accepted by the mainstream of both parties as the bedrock of policy for the foreseeable future.

With lower expectations of growth projected for the next several years and continuing competitive pressures from abroad it is hard for most observers to see an optimistic scenario in which recovery accelerates to the point of leading to a new 1990s style period of prosperity. While this clearly sets limits on what is possible, it also opens up opportunities for those who wish to use the current difficulties as a lever to win arguments that are geared to their core values. Deregulation, weakening of unions, and further cuts in taxes for the wealthy and corporate America are all part of an ideological agenda that seems practical only because of the shifts of political forces and the imperatives of the financial weakness. To be sure there will be resistance to cuts in education,

reductions in infrastructure spending, the weakening of Medicaid, and other radical departures from previous policies. But the defenders of the social contract seem at a distinct disadvantage. And what is not present in the debate, indeed has become virtually invisible in the media, is the issue of poverty.

In fact, the United States has proven over several decades to be more tolerant of poverty and of homelessness and other associated ills than is the case in other industrialized countries. One can only conclude from the current reality that even discussing the issue of reducing poverty is a luxury. Like support for the arts, it is off the table during these difficult times. Workers have largely lost their past generous instincts about social programs after a generation of stagnant wages. Slightly further up the ladder, families who were until recently considered themselves solidly middle class now are scrambling to maintain their standard of living—and even their jobs.

Yet, the United States is still a wealthy country, by all measures among the wealthiest in the world. And it clearly has the resources to provide a decent standard of living for its workers and citizens, its children and elderly. Other countries do so without much fuss. We, on the other hand, have rationalized increasing concentrations of wealth and income as somehow producing results that will be better for everyone. At the same time, our expenditures on the things that might change the circumstances of average Americans are meager by international standards. Elementary and secondary education, an historical strength, is being squeezed by budgetary problems at the state and local level. College aid and support for public higher education is shrinking. And, retraining programs for those who have lost their jobs due to the globalization of manufacturing and markets are nowhere close to what is available, for example, within the European Union.

Overall, the United States has achieved levels of inequality not seen for generations and now ranks near the top among industrial nations in inequality. These are not trivial statistics for they reflect very different perceptions of what is important in the world of politics and government. Perhaps it's not a coincidence that those who can afford it pay for our campaigns and reap the rewards while average citizens, frustrated and angry, turn against their government because they don't see it helping them. Facts seem irrelevant; the U.S. has lower tax rates than almost all of the other industrialized countries and government employment has dropped sharply in the past few years, yet the explanation for hard times is that the government is taxing too much and spending too much. In this hostile environment it may be no wonder that new programs to help the poor get short shrift. In this Darwinian environment, we simply can't afford to help them.

It's past time to connect the dots and see that by ignoring the poor we undermine the welfare of everyone in the 99 percent living from pay check to pay check. We must revive our generous national nature. And more selfishly come to see that we might find ourselves in their shoes. It may be that the poor will always be with us, but that doesn't mean it's OK to ignore them.

HONORING THE NATIONAL CHAMPION UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the University of Alabama's softball team which captured its first national championship during a down to the wire late night victory on June 6, 2012.

The Tide was able to triumph over the Oklahoma Sooners after a rain delay brought out a special determination on the part of the ladies from Alabama to take home the trophy. Down early, Alabama came back to score four runs, and at 12:31 a.m., Alabama pitcher Jackie Traina struck out a Sooners player to end the game.

With its 5 to 4 win in the Women's College World Series in Oklahoma City, the Crimson Tide softball team also garnered the University of Alabama its fourth national championship of the year—a school record. Alabama also made history as the first Southeastern Conference team to clinch the national softball title.

Since the creation of the Southeastern Conference (SEC) softball tournament in 1997, Alabama has claimed five SEC titles, including the 2012 season. The team ended their year with an impressive 60–8 record overall; 23–5 in the SEC.

This was the eighth time the University of Alabama has traveled to the Women's College World Series. This year's team is dominated by freshmen and sophomores who proved that heart and hard work can make the difference.

The victorious 2012 team members are Chaunsey Bell, Catcher; Jackey Branham, Infielder; Kayla Braud, Outfielder; Courtney Conley, Infielder; Keima Davis, Outfielder; Kendall Dawson, Catcher; Jennifer Fenton, Outfielder; Olivia Gibson, Catcher; Danae Hays, Infielder; Kaila Hunt, Infielder; Ryan Iamurri, Infielder; Leslie Jury, Pitcher; Amanda Locke, Utility; Jazlyn Lunceford, Outfielder; Jordan Patterson, Catcher/Infielder; Cassie Reilly-Boccia, Outfielder/First Base; Danielle Richard, Infielder; Lauren Sewell, Pitcher; Jacy Spencer, Utility; and Jackie Traina, Pitcher/Utility.

The coaching and support staff is led by Head Coach Patrick Murphy. Assisting him are Alyson Habetz, Associate Head Coach; Stephanie VanBrakle, Assistant Coach; Adam Arbour, Volunteer Assistant Coach; Kate Harris, Director of Operations; and Nick Seiler, Athletic Trainer.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and my colleagues in the Alabama delegation, I wish to extend personal congratulations to Coach Patrick Murphy, the coaching staff and the ladies of the University of Alabama Softball Team for their tremendous accomplishment. Along with a large fan base that traveled to Oklahoma City to cheer on the Crimson Tide was University of Alabama Athletic Director Mal Moore and Interim President Dr. Judith L. Bonner. Roll Tide!