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CONGRATULATING THE SPANISH
FORT TOROS FOR WINNING THE
ALABAMA CLASS 5-A FOOTBALL
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my congratulations to the Spanish Fort High School Toros for their decisive 45–14 victory over McCalla's McAdory High School Yellow Jackets in the Alabama High School Athletic Association's (AHSAA) 5-A football championship on December 6, 2012.

Spanish Fort's already impressive gridiron record of capturing two state championships in seven seasons is all the more noteworthy since the Toro's young football program only debuted in 2006.

According to the Mobile Press-Register, both teams brought impressive records into the championship game at Auburn University's Jordan-Hare Stadium. "Spanish Fort had the pinball offense averaging 39.5 points per game. McAdory had the swarming defense that forged an unbeaten season through 14 games."

However, in the end it was Spanish Fort who dominated the field on both offense and defense, with 377 total yards, while holding the Yellow Jackets to just 187 yards.

The Press-Register further noted, "Spanish Fort (14–1) extended a school record for points in a single season to 598 with its 45–14 win."

The Toros took an early lead in the game with two touchdowns before the Yellow Jackets answered with seven points. The Toros then fired back with a vengeance—adding 31 points to the scoreboard.

Senior quarterback Joel Poe was named the Class 5-A MVP after completing 17-of-24 passes for 177 yards and running for a 10-yard touchdown.

The Toros's 5-A victory placed an exclamation point on another season for the record books for Spanish Fort.

Congratulations to Head Coach Mark Freeman, and Assistant Coaches Duane Davis, Shawn DeFoor, Joseph German and Greg Crager, as well as to the Toros players—Sammy Tolbert, Edward Autry, Maxwell Goodwin, Samuel Harris, Myles York, Joel Poe, Matthew Hall, Devonte Patrick, Deon Johnson, Blain Crain, Ronald Smith, Jonathan Cook, Darren Tate, Gunner Hendrix, Chason Milner, Tyler Johnston, Eugene Leach, Ryan Brooks, Trey Shabel, Kristian Cotton, Kylan Cotton, Cameron Harrison, Caleb Valrie, Jacob Goodwin, Tony Mitchell, Javon Brown, Dominique Woodward, Miguel Restrepo, Preston Hall, Alexander Theodore, John Campbell, Deonte Cyprian, Caleb Hughes, Stephan Holcombe, Keland Dotch, Marcus Walton, Stephen Wilson, Hayden Falkenberry, Brady Vincent, Delong Harrison, John Williamson, Thomas Johnston, Keion White, David Keener, Drew Kitchens, Jeremy Murray, Braxton Armstead, Justin Murray, Jacob Clark, Matthew Thompson, Todd Shetler, Robert Riley, Iverson Diego Delapena, Samuel Howard, Davoris Thomas,

Maurice Cole, Chase Holliman, John Stockton, Cody Shultz, Grey Curtis, Taylor Murray, Logan Mangum, Victor Dunning, Chase Rowe, Christopher Morehouse, Tyler Brentzel, Brad Andre, Grant Horst, Michael Eubanks, Owen Betts, Trevor Pfeil, Kaleb Hall, Ian Bjuro, Brandon Prince, Hamilton Biggs, Austin Grobe, Wilton Cox, Deandre Townsend, Robert Rella, Mitchell Meador, William Petersen, Jimmy Ogletree, Lawton McGahey, Hunter Wood, Roger Lawhon, Tyler Howell, William Nelson, Darius Johnson, Bryan Williams and Jonathan Hoover.

RECOGNIZING TIMOTHY HOLABIRD

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the many contributions Timothy Holabird has made to Modoc, Lassen, Plumas, and Sierra counties located in northeastern California.

Tim has combined experience and knowledge of the lands and people that define the region with a steadfast determination to help these rural communities. Federal agencies administer more than 80 percent of the land, and Tim has aggressively championed interests of people versus the seeming indifference and neglect of the bureaucracies. Bringing all parties together, establishing common goals and objectives, and actually solving problems has been his hallmark.

As four fires ravaged the area this summer, Tim pursued the interests and concerns of local citizens to the point of his own physical exhaustion. He personally bridged the communication gap with agencies attacking the fires and the communities immediately threatened. In the devastating aftermath of the fires, Tim worked with all parties to restore and salvage. In particular, he has been relentless resolving the immediate, critical issue of thousands of acres of lost grazing land.

Tim understands the appropriate role of government in land and resource management and has personally sacrificed to uphold the public's interests. Mr. Speaker, while it seems the aim of our government agencies is to restrict access and the productive use of our federal lands, Timothy Holabird remains a steadfast advocate for access and use by the very best stewards of this land—the local citizens.

REMEMBERING THE LIVES LOST
IN THE 1862 U.S.-DAKOTA CON-
FLICT

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of those who lost their lives in the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the conflict, reminding us of this tragic era in Minnesota's history, and how it has shaped the lives of the Dakota people to this day.

It is easy to consider history as a list of dates—a discovery, a war, a proclamation, an

election. We forget the complex human interactions that shape the past and continue to affect our communities today.

What has come to be known as the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 has its roots in the rapid expansion of Minnesota's population by white settlers, and the subsequent treatment of indigenous peoples. From 1850–1860, the numbers of white settlers in Minnesota grew from 5,000 to more than 170,000; in that same decade, Native Americans went from the majority of people in Minnesota to being outnumbered by whites 5–1. Treaties made between the Dakota people and the U.S. government pushed native communities off their ancestral lands with promises of money, food, and commodities. Forced assimilation policies further marginalized tribes by requiring the adoption of European style dress, hair, and culture. Tensions escalated when the government failed to pay promised annuities, a drought decreased the supply of food leaving many Dakota families hungry, and the U.S. government took back land set aside for Indian reservations, reducing the remaining reservation size drastically.

The first violent acts of the conflict occurred on August 17, 1862, when four young Dakota men killed five people at a farm near Acton, Minnesota. These murders divided the Dakota community; some argued it was time to go to war with the settlers who now claimed ancestral Dakota land, but much of the community wanted to maintain peace. Nevertheless, Dakota leader Little Crow led his Nation to War, understanding that the greater power of the U.S. government would most likely prevail.

The weeks of violence that followed in Southern Minnesota led to over 1,000 deaths. The U.S.-Dakota War is one of the bloodiest conflicts between a Native tribe and the U.S. government, surpassing both the conflicts of Little Big Horn and Wounded Knee. The War's end was marked by the largest mass execution in U.S. history, when 38 Dakota men were convicted in kangaroo courts and hung on December 26, 1862. Originally 303 Dakota men were tried and sentenced to death, but President Lincoln personally reviewed the cases and stayed the execution of those whose conviction was based on questionable testimony. Two additional Dakota warriors were forcibly returned from Canada and hanged at Fort Snelling in 1865.

Although the day of the execution stands out in history, the suffering of the Dakota people continued throughout the winter and into the coming years. Those Dakota who had surrendered to U.S. forces, many of whom opposed the war, were forced to march to an internment camp at Fort Snelling and suffer through a brutally cold winter filled with disease, food shortages, and assaults by soldiers and civilians alike. Hundreds perished over the winter, and those who survived were forcibly relocated to Western reservations where similar conditions led to more deaths. Some 6,000 displaced members of the Dakota community relocated to Canada and Western states and territories, and by the end of the decade a majority of the Dakota tribe had left its ancestral lands.

The U.S.-Dakota War reminds us of how the events of the past continue to reverberate to this day. Dakota tribe members are still dispersed over several states and into Canada as a direct result of this conflict. Most unfortunate, the Dakota Expulsion Act of 1863, a federal law making it illegal for Dakota people to

live in Minnesota, has yet to be repealed. In August of this year, members of the Dakota community took part in a walk through South Dakota to the Minnesota border, symbolizing the unjust forcible removal of all Dakota people from Minnesota in 1863.

The healing from the War is ongoing; honoring those we lost and remembering our complicated past should not be limited to anniversaries of the conflict. We should use this year of reflection to inform a more inclusive view of history, an appreciation of how far we've come, and recognition of all we must do to continue to support our Native communities today.

CONGRATULATING MR. GREGG POLLACK, RECIPIENT OF THE GOVERNOR'S INNOVATORS UNDER 40 AWARD

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Gregg Pollack, winner of the Governor's Innovators Under 40 Award. Mr. Pollack is the founder and CEO of Envy Labs, a technology consulting company based in Orlando, Florida.

Envy Labs, which Mr. Pollack founded in 2009, specializes in website and mobile application design and development, and works on a broad variety of projects from web development to branding to user interface design. Through an open and creative work environment, Envy Labs focuses on producing excellent products and services while investing in their employees' personal and professional lives.

The Governor's Innovators Under 40 Award is one of Governor Rick Scott's 2012 Innovators in Business Awards, which are designed to recognize outstanding contributions toward growing and diversifying Florida's economy. The Innovators Under 40 Award is presented to Florida residents under the age of 40 who own or lead a Florida company with annual revenue of \$1 million or more and who have created at least 10 jobs since January 2011.

Through Mr. Pollack's direction, Envy Labs has grown and expanded to include a school with courses in coding and web design called Code School. Envy Labs is also active in the Orlando tech community, hosting tech events and camps downtown. Mr. Pollack is to be congratulated for the hard work and innovation he has demonstrated, and for the contributions to Florida's economy that this award honors. He is well deserving of this recognition. May his work inspire others to follow in his footsteps.

HONORING THE HOUSTON TEXANS ON WINNING THEIR 2ND STRAIGHT AFC SOUTH DIVISION TITLE

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Houston Texans

on clinching their 2nd straight AFC South Division Title. The Texans are a relatively new franchise, established in 2002. They currently lead the AFC race for home field advantage throughout the playoffs. As an avid Texans fan, I am proud to honor the Houston Texans on this great achievement.

I would like to submit the following article: "Texans Cement Supremacy in Division and Look Beyond" by Tom Spousta, printed in The New York Times, December 17, 2012:

HOUSTON—Arian Foster and Dwight Freeney embraced at midfield and, after a few heartfelt words, began pulling their shoulder pads over their heads. They exchanged jerseys, Foster giving up his Houston Texans No. 23 and Freeney handing over his Indianapolis Colts No. 93—one that will hang in Foster's collection to commemorate Houston's second consecutive AFC South division title.

The Colts officially acquiesced Sunday to the supremacy of the Texans, who own the AFC's best record at 12-2 but whose dominance somehow still remains questioned as the playoffs approach.

They beat Indianapolis, 29-17, in spectacularly efficient fashion before a raucous crowd at Reliant Stadium. A modest locker room celebration followed, but the Texans know a greater validation of their season will come with a top seed and home-field advantage for the postseason.

"You always have to bask in the moment of winning a division championship, but I think the expectations we put on ourselves and everybody puts on us are much bigger than that," said Foster, who had 27 carries for 165 yards, 131 of those coming in the second half. "We're proud of what we've done here, but we've got more to go."

Indianapolis (9-5) lost a chance to earn a wild-card berth with two games to play, including the season finale at home against the Texans, who gave the Colts plenty to fix before then.

Matt Schaub was 23 of 31 passing for 261 yards and guided an offense that did not commit a turnover. Eleven of those completions went for 151 yards to Andre Johnson, who caught a touchdown pass and surpassed 11,000 yards for his career.

Shayne Graham kicked five field goals, and Bryan Braman blocked a punt for a touchdown. Houston's defense atoned for its poor performance in last week's 42-14 loss at New England, allowing only one third-down conversion and sacking Andrew Luck five times, three of those coming from J. J. Watt.

Luck finished 13 of 27 for 186 yards behind an offensive line missing two starters. He threw a 61-yard touchdown pass to T. Y. Hilton and an 8-yarder to Dwayne Allen. But a key Colts drive in the second quarter resulted in their costliest error, when Mewelde Moore fumbled at the Texans' goal line after being hit by Watt and the ball was recovered by Tim Dobbins.

"We got back to what we are as a football team," Texans Coach Gary Kubiak said. "Protecting the ball, running the ball, playing solid defense. That's how we win."

Watt, who paid tribute to the shooting victims in Newtown, Conn., by writing the town's name on one of his gloves, finished with 10 tackles and now has an AFC-leading 19.5 sacks.

The Colts owned an odds-defying 8-1 record this season in games decided on the final possession, so there was no cause for panic after the Texans grabbed a 20-10 halftime lead. But Indianapolis generated little momentum in the second half and finished with 272 total yards, compared with 417 yards for the Texans.

"It was a tough loss for us," Bruce Arians, the Colts' interim coach, said. "We came

here with one idea and that was to win the division and we're not going to win the division. They did it, and my hat is off to the Texans, and we'll see them in a couple weeks."

RECOGNITION OF CYPRUS' PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. SIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic of Cyprus as their first rotating European Union (EU) Presidency comes to a close. The past six months have been lauded as a very productive presidency and I would like to honor the importance of this accomplishment for a small—yet still occupied and divided—country like Cyprus. Some of the most notable accomplishments show a continued commitment to human rights and democratic governments.

During Cyprus's presidency they oversaw the implementation of Iran sanctions—the toughest EU measure to date. The EU was also awarded the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of its longtime commitment to promoting peace, as well as reconciliation, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. Furthermore, the EU focused on steps needed to eradicate human trafficking during the sixth EU Anti-Trafficking Day conference entitled, "Working Together Towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings: The Way Forward."

Mr. Speaker, as a friend and ally of the United States, I would like to congratulate Cyprus on a productive EU presidency. This is an important moment in the history of Cyprus and as a stable democracy dedicated to human rights and religious freedom; I wish to honor this significant event.

RECOGNIZING FUN SPOT ACTION PARK OF ORLANDO, FLORIDA, RECIPIENT OF THE 2012 BRASS RING AWARD FOR THE BEST FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT CENTER IN THE COUNTRY FROM IAAPA

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. John Arie and his family on Fun Spot Action Park of Orlando, Florida having received the 2012 Brass Ring Award for the Best Family Entertainment Center in the country from the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions. This is a prestigious award and deserves special recognition for the hard work and dedication that went into this outstanding accomplishment.

The Arie family is well deserving of this recognition for their unfailing dedication and leadership in the family entertainment center industry. In receiving this award, they have demonstrated many character qualities, including enthusiasm, diligence and remarkable