

COMMENDING THE HUNTERDON
CENTRAL REGIONAL HIGH
SCHOOL VARSITY CHEER-
LEADING SQUAD

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hunterdon Central Regional High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad for winning the 2012 Universal Cheerleaders Association High School National Championship. After a week of competition in Orlando, Florida, this talented group of young women defeated the defending national champions to become the first team from Hunterdon Central Regional High School to bring home a national championship title.

Last year the team took second place, but the squad returned motivated this year to take home the championship. Supporters, friends and family refer to the winning performance as "The Perfect Routine." I congratulate Superintendent Christina Steffner, Principal Tim O'Brien, Head Coach Heather Buterbaugh and Assistant Coach Julie Strober for their hard work and dedication to the team. This marks another proud accomplishment for the Hunterdon Central Regional High School Athletics Department.

These talented young women should be proud of their hard work and I congratulate them on the outstanding achievement of bringing their "Perfect Routine" to the national stage.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 90TH
BIRTHDAY OF ROSARIO PEREZ-
PENA

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commemorate the 90th birthday of Rosario Perez-Pena, who was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico on February 28, 1922.

Rosario was married to the late Luis-Perez Soto, who was an accountant, writer, poet, playwright, musician, artist and actor. Together, they had four children, and she is now the proud grandmother of eight and great-grandmother of 18. She has spent most of her life in Puerto Rico, but also lived in New York for 24 years. She has designed and made most of her own clothes, and has been an active reader and voter throughout her life.

I join her family in wishing her a very happy birthday on this special day.

A TRIBUTE TO HIS EXCELLENCY
AMBASSADOR HAN DUK-SOO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer thanks and respect to His Excellency Han Duk-soo, who is departing Washington after

three years as Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the United States.

Before his appointment in March 2009, Ambassador Han had served as his country's Prime Minister. The fact that President Lee Myung-bak chose a man of such distinguished credentials to be his country's Ambassador to Washington demonstrates the high regard with which he holds the longstanding friendship of South Korea and the United States.

In addition to his service as Prime Minister and Ambassador to the United States, Ambassador Han has also been Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economy, Ambassador to the OECD, and a senior diplomat in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The three years of Ambassador Han's tenure in Washington have been marked by great success and achievement in strengthening the U.S.-Korea alliance.

Last October, at the invitation of this body, President Lee addressed a joint meeting of the House and Senate. It was emblematic of not only the importance of our bilateral alliance, but a reflection of Ambassador Han's diligence and the many friends he has cultivated on Capitol Hill.

Mr. Speaker, nearly six decades have come and gone since the armistice that ended the Korean War, and the United States and the Republic of Korea remain partners dedicated to peace, freedom, democracy, and global stability. Our two countries' soldiers have fought side by side not only in Korea but also in Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

In recent years, the Korean government has sponsored visits by American veterans to the place where they served and fought. Many Korean War veterans are getting up in years. There will not be many opportunities for them to revisit the battlefields of sixty years ago. The Korean people are most generous, and most gracious, in making these trips possible.

Ambassador Han has made a point of visiting with groups of Korean War veterans as he travels the United States. His personal expressions of gratitude have been touching, and most appreciated.

The friendship of the United States and Korea goes well beyond a military alliance, and well beyond our shared past on the battlefield.

Our countries are major trading partners. Our students study in each other's universities. We share numerous cultural exchanges. Ambassador Han has done much in his time here to strengthen and deepen the longstanding relationship between the United States and Korea. He will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Ambassador Han Duk-soo, wishing him well in his future endeavors as the Chairman of the Korea International Trade Association. I thank him for his service and most especially his friendship.

HONORING CAPTAIN ROBERT C.
GRANT

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Robert C. Grant, and to congratulate him on his retirement. Captain Grant

is an outstanding individual who served as the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Seventh Coast Guard District since coming on Active Duty in April of 1998.

Captain Grant first entered military service as a medic in the U.S. Air Force Reserve in December 1966, serving at both Tyndall Air Force Base near Panama City, FL and Homestead Air Force Base in South Florida. In April 1974, he received a Direct Commission in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve and served as a drilling Reservist in various Coast Guard Reserve Units in the Seventh District until coming on Active Duty in April 1998. Most notable of his Reserve Unit assignments was his three year tour as Commanding Officer of U.S. Coast Guard Reserve Unit Marine Safety Office Miami, during which the majority of the 90-member unit was activated in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

During his tenure as Deputy Chief of Staff, Captain Grant served as a senior advisor to eight Admirals. He was the primary District liaison to Congressional Members and their staffs from South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Puerto Rico. His efforts assisted Congress in passing legislation that has proved instrumental in addressing new maritime smuggling tactics that constitute a threat to the United States.

Among his many achievements, Captain Grant was active in strengthening the relationship between the Coast Guard and the South Florida Hispanic and Haitian communities through a dedicated public outreach initiative. In the wake of the devastating 2010 earthquake near Port-au-Prince, Haiti, he also supported such large-scale responses as Operation Unified Response and Operation Southeast Watch—Haiti, which led to the evacuation of over 1,150 US citizens, 250 medical evacuations, the transport of over 715 first responders, and the delivery of over 1.1 million pounds of critically-needed relief cargo and equipment by Coast Guard aircraft.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Captain Robert C. Grant for his continued service to our nation, and more specifically South Florida and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding individual.

RECOGNIZING THE SPOTSYLVANIA
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many achievements of the Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center (SRMC). Since the hospital opened in June of 2010, its staff and volunteers have served their community selflessly, assisting patients with everyday illnesses as well as after tragic incidents such as the August 2011 earthquake that was centered just 25 miles from SRMC. With over 50,000 total hours of volunteer service performed in less than two years, these individuals have shown an extraordinary devotion to their community, and their compassion and friendly service certainly played a part in SRMC's high patient satisfaction ratings in 2011.

In a perfect world, there would be no need for hospitals; however, it is reassuring to know

that there are great medical centers such as SRMC should we ever require medical assistance. I'd like to commend the doctors, nurses, administrators, and volunteers who make up the impressive team at SRMC on their stellar performance in the brief amount of time since the hospital's inception, and I look forward to following the continued service of the great folks at the Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall vote 73. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted "yes" on the Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 347.

IN CELEBRATION OF AMERICA'S BLOOD CENTERS' 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, America's Blood Centers is North America's largest network of community-based, independent, non-profit blood centers. I congratulate ABC on its half-century anniversary and applaud its continued mission to help member blood centers serve their communities.

BloodSource is the blood center in Northern California. A regional, non-profit organization, BloodSource provides blood and services in ten counties within California's Second Congressional District and sixteen other counties in the state. In my district, BloodSource operates two major regional blood centers and one community donor center. Every day BloodSource conducts multiple blood donor drives to assure a safe and plentiful blood supply for the people who receive care in thirteen hospitals I represent.

I am proud to be a BloodSource blood donor and honored to represent 90,000 BloodSource blood donors. I have had the privilege of sponsoring BloodSource blood drives for several years. I applaud the efforts of BloodSource to make certain that every patient has the blood and blood components needed, wherever and whenever the need.

I join BloodSource in celebrating the 50th anniversary of ABC. Together with its members, ABC provides half of the American and a quarter of the Canadian blood supply to more than 150 million patients who receive care in 3,500 hospitals and healthcare facilities across North America. The work of ABC members impacts all of us.

Congratulations to America's Blood Centers. Because of their work, lives are being saved in cities and towns across the nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF DALE MINAMI

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dale Minami who today is receiving the 2011 Silver Spur Award from San Francisco Planning and Urban Research (SPUR). This award recognizes a lifetime of civic achievement of a San Franciscan.

Mr. Minami is one of the country's pre-eminent attorneys recognized for his civil rights leadership. He is best known for heading the legal team in *Korematsu v. United States*, the legendary Supreme Court case that overturned the wrongful criminal conviction of Fred Korematsu who refused internment during World War II.

Mr. Minami is a personal injury attorney with Minami Tamaki LLP and has made significant contributions to the advancement of the rights of Asian-Americans. Minami is a co-founder of the Asian Law Caucus, the Asian-American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area, the Asian Pacific Bar of California and the Coalition of Asian-Pacific Americans.

Other landmark decisions he was involved in include *United Filipinos for Affirmative Action v. California Blue Shield*, the first class action employment lawsuit brought by Asian-Pacific Americans on behalf of Asian-Pacific Americans; *Spokane JACL v. Washington State University* which established an Asian American Studies program at the Washington State University; and *Nakanishi v. UCLA*, a claim for unfair denial of tenure which resulted in the granting of tenure after multiple hearings and widespread publicity over discrimination in academia.

Mr. Minami has been involved in the judicial appointment process and in public policy. He was a member of the California Fair Employment and Housing Commission and chaired the California Attorney General's Asian Pacific Advisory Committee. He served as a commissioner on the California State Bar Association's Commission on Judicial Nominees' Evaluation and Senator Barbara Boxer's Judicial Screening Committee. President Clinton appointed him chair of the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund in 1996. Mr. Minami specializes in personal injury and entertainment law and has represented well known clients such as Kristi Yamaguchi, Philip Kan Gotanda and Steven Okazaki. He is counsel to the Asian American Journalists Association and has also represented many of San Francisco's best known faces on television, including Sydnie Kohara, Lawrence Karnow, Vic Lee, Heather Ishimaru and David Louie.

He received his B.A. in Political Science from the University of Southern California in 1968 and his J.D. from Boalt Hall School of Law at UC Berkeley in 1971. He was admitted to the California Bar in 1972. In 1982, he was admitted to practice in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Among his many awards and recognitions, Mr. Minami received the American Bar Association's 2003 Thurgood Marshall Award, the 2003 ACLU Civil Liberties Award, and the State Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award. A dormitory at UC Santa Cruz was named Queen Liliuokalani-Minami Dormitory. Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me

to acknowledge Dale Minami's extraordinary work and lasting contributions to justice and equality in the Asian American community and our community at large.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,438,518,062,690.37. We've added \$4,811,641,013,777.29 dollars to our debt in 3 years. This is \$5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNITION OF LESLIE LEWIS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Leslie Lewis. A native of the Bronx, New York, Mr. Lewis is an outspoken highly respected advocate for the community.

Mr. Lewis was born and raised in the Bronx, New York but eventually spent a large part of his life in Scarsdale, New York. In Scarsdale, Mr. Lewis raised his two sons, Robert and Mark. Mr. Lewis first moved to Brooklyn in 1982, when he settled into a home on Wyckoff Street—between the Gowanus Housing Projects and the Wyckoff Housing Projects. Shortly after moving there, he joined the precinct community council.

Mr. Lewis worked for 30 years in the exhibition business, becoming president of the Greyhound Exposition Company in the process. Along with national trade shows, Mr. Lewis maintained his concern for minority areas. He developed his "Job Power" concept as a way to bring employers to unemployed urban minorities. This concept was recognized by then President Nixon, who transformed it into the modern day job fair.

These experiences led Mr. Lewis towards recognizing his talent for bringing the concerns of regular people to their elected officials. Upon moving to Brooklyn, he developed a relationship with the district attorney's office in an effort to improve community relations. In his capacity of police liaison, as well as council president of the 84th Precinct, Mr. Lewis serves as a switchboard between Borough President Markowitz, the Brooklyn district attorney's office, the police and his 2.5 million constituents.

Mr. Lewis gathers complaints from the public and then communicates them to the police, making sure that something gets done about them. Crime has seen a dramatic decrease in the 84th Precinct. Since 1990, it's gone down over 90%, according to NYPD statistics. Because of efforts of community leaders like Mr. Lewis, Brooklyn neighborhoods have a high