

opportunities to the people of Guam and the Western Pacific region. I also commend the UOG Board of Regents, UOG President Dr. Robert Underwood, and all administrators, faculty, and staff, for their commitment to the mission of the University. I look forward to the continued growth and expansion of UOG for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING STACIE SMITH AS
THE 2012 OKALOOSA COUNTY,
FLORIDA SCHOOL DISTRICT'S
EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Stacie Smith as the 2012 Okaloosa County, Florida School District's Employee of the Year. I am honored to recognize her achievements and her dedication to the students and faculty of Northwest Florida.

While serving the Okaloosa County School District, Ms. Smith has worked in myriad capacities. Her career began as a secretary, and through her exemplary work ethic and business acumen she was immediately delegated additional responsibilities, such as handling clerical duties, open enrollment, and retiree benefits. Currently, Ms. Smith serves in the integral role of Insurance Ombudsman for the Okaloosa County School District, where she advocates, assists, and provides active and retired employees solutions to their claims. Never one to remain stagnant or settle for mediocrity, Ms. Smith continuously accepts new challenges. This characteristic, coupled with her superior demeanor, professionalism, and dedication, is responsible for her promotions through the ranks and the award she is receiving.

Teachers, administrators, and supporting faculty play a vital role in guiding and encouraging the positive growth of America's youth, and they deserve our utmost gratitude and appreciation. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Ms. Stacie Smith as the 2012 Okaloosa County School District Employee of the Year. Her passion for the students and faculty is laudable and her dedication to the education profession is exemplary. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Ms. Smith, and we wish her all the best for continued success.

NATIONAL MEDIA'S BIASED
COVERAGE OF RISING GAS PRICES

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a recent study by the Business and Media Institute found that news coverage of rising gas prices are four times less likely during the Obama administration than the previous Bush administration.

The study found that news sources—such as ABC, CBS, and NBC—only covered the ris-

ing prices 21 times during the Obama administration compared to 97 times under the Bush administration.

The quantity of coverage was not the only difference. The tone of the coverage was different as well. Under the Bush administration, gas prices were "skyrocketing" as people's "wallets were running on empty." Now, "gas prices creep up."

The national media owe it to Americans to provide the facts and let the people make their own decisions. Democracy is threatened when the national media report in a biased manner.

"SHARE YOUR BREAKFAST"
CAMPAIGN

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, what did you have for breakfast today?

We all know that a great breakfast can lead to a great day.

That's why it is so important that our children receive a healthy, nutritious breakfast to prepare them for a productive school day.

It is hard to believe that today, one in five children live in a home where food is not always available and don't have access to this important meal.

This week is National Breakfast Week—a time for Americans to join together to give more children the opportunity to start their day with the nourishment they need to reach their potential.

To celebrate National Breakfast Week, I am participating in the "Share Your Breakfast" campaign—an initiative by Kellogg's and Action for Healthy Kids to help ensure more children have access to breakfast.

The "Share Your Breakfast" campaign seeks to provide one million breakfasts to kids by increasing participation in school breakfast programs across the country.

Now in its second year, the program has assisted nearly 100 schools in 26 states—including 7 in my congressional district—and is setting its sights much higher for the future.

I salute the "Share Your Breakfast" campaign as one of the many initiatives now underway to address the issue of childhood hunger in America.

Through the power of breakfast, we can make a difference in the lives of children in need.

HARRY C. MCPHERSON JR.

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harry C. McPherson, Jr., a fellow Texan. For many years, he worked for President Lyndon B. Johnson while he was in the White House and previously on his Senate staff. Mr. McPherson passed away on February 15th and The New York Times printed his obituary, written by Robert D. McFadden. In honor of Mr. McPherson, I would like to submit the text into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Harry C. McPherson, Jr., an influential White House counsel and speechwriter for President Lyndon B. Johnson from 1965 to 1969 and the author of a classic insider's memoir on Washington-style politics, died on Thursday in Bethesda, MD. He was 82.

His death was from complications of cancer, his wife, Mary Patricia McPherson, said. A liberal from Texas who read literature and history for pleasure, Mr. McPherson went to Washington in 1956 "to do good," by his own account, a naive, idealistic young lawyer who, like many Americans, thought political integrity meant making decisions based on sound principles and standing up for your convictions.

Then he went to work for Lyndon Johnson. Thirteen years later—after a realpolitik education as Johnson's aide in the Senate, as a Pentagon and State Department official and as a presidential confidant and wordsmith—he looked back on the battles for civil rights, the crises of American cities and the corrosive war in Vietnam with a keener appreciation for the arts of horse-trading and compromise, and for Johnson's Machiavellian ways of getting things done.

Mr. McPherson helped draft bills that became the Civil Rights Act of 1957. Later, with Joseph A. Califano, the president's special assistant for domestic affairs, he helped shape Johnson's Great Society programs, the most sweeping social legislation since the Roosevelt era, including antipoverty and equal opportunity laws covering employment and housing, Medicare, Head Start and scores of other innovations.

For years, he supported the military policies in Vietnam, but by 1968, Mr. McPherson had come to believe that the war was unwinnable. And as antiwar demonstrations swept the country, he and Defense Secretary Clark M. Clifford helped persuade the president to scale back the bombing of North Vietnam.

It was Mr. McPherson who drafted Johnson's landmark address to the nation that spring, announcing the cutbacks of United States bombing, although the stunning conclusion of that speech—disclosing the president's decision not to seek re-election that fall—was drafted by another Johnson aide, Horace Busby.

After leaving the White House in early 1969, Mr. McPherson became a partner in Verner, Liipfert & Bernhard, a prominent Washington law firm and one of the capital's most successful at lobbying. His clients included businesses, foreign governments and nonprofit organizations.

Among other cases, Mr. McPherson helped to negotiate the 1998 master settlement in which major tobacco companies and 46 states agreed on advertising limitations, partial immunity from lawsuits and payments of hundreds of billions of dollars to the states to cover the costs of treating smoking-related illnesses.

Mr. McPherson also served on presidential commissions, including the 1979 panel named by Jimmy Carter to investigate the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania, and another named by Bill Clinton to recommend the closing of military installations to streamline the Defense Department.

Mr. McPherson wrote numerous articles on foreign and domestic policies for The New York Times, The Washington Post and other publications.

His memoir, "A Political Education" (1972), was well received and has become a perennial favorite of students of Washington's crafty, duplicitous political merry-go-round and of Johnson's years in the Senate and the White House.

Reviewing it for The Times, Anatole Broyard called it "a lesson not only for Harry McPherson, but also for most of us,"

adding: "To put it bluntly, few Americans have a realistic idea of how our government works. We have instead a series of naive assumptions. If the message of this book were common knowledge, much of the sound and fury that currently caricatures our politics and our national image could be averted."

Harry Cummings McPherson Jr. was born on Aug. 22, 1929, in Tyler, Tex., the son of Harry and Nan Hight McPherson. He attended Southern Methodist University and graduated from the University of the South in 1949. He intended to be a writer and poet and enrolled in a graduate program in literature at Columbia in 1949. But when the Korean War broke out in 1950, he enlisted in the Air Force and served as an intelligence officer in Germany, assessing Soviet troop deployments.

His first marriage, to Clayton Read in 1952, ended in divorce. He married Mary Patricia DeGroot in 1981. Besides his wife, he is survived by two children from his first marriage, Coco and Peter, and a son from his second marriage, Samuel.

He earned a law degree in 1956 at the University of Texas. At the urging of a cousin who worked for Johnson, who was then a senator, Mr. McPherson went to Washington and was hired by the Democratic Policy Committee, which fashioned the legislative agenda for Senate Democrats. Johnson, the majority leader, was its chairman. Over the next seven years, Mr. McPherson rose to general counsel of the committee, serving under Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana after Johnson became vice president in 1961.

He was appointed deputy under secretary of the Army for international affairs in 1963 and assistant secretary of state for educational and cultural affairs in 1964. Nearly two years after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, Mr. McPherson joined President Johnson's White House staff in 1965, and over the next four years, he became one of Johnson's most trusted advisers.

In 1966 he helped organize a White House conference on civil rights, a gathering that included the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; Thurgood Marshall, who was then the solicitor general but would become America's first black Supreme Court justice a year later; and representatives of almost every major civil rights group in the country.

Mr. McPherson also became Johnson's chief speechwriter, shaping all of the president's major addresses from 1966 to 1969.

In 2008, he was honored with a lifetime achievement award by American Lawyer magazine.

It is with great respect, I honor Harry C. McPherson, Jr. for his service to the country under President Lyndon B. Johnson and his many wonderful accomplishments upon his death.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fort Walton Beach High School Cheerleaders on their achievements as Class 2A FHSAA Competitive Cheerleading State Champions and most recently as Universal Cheerleaders Association's National Cheerleading Champions.

No single component by itself renders a champion, but rather to be a champion requires a combination of discipline, desire, focus, and determination. The Fort Walton Beach High School Cheerleaders have found the perfect blend of each element and serve as an example for other teams in the area. At the beginning of the season, the Fort Walton Beach High School Viking Cheerleaders said, "It's our year." Their words have come to culmination as they proved that this year was theirs to shine taking home the gold from UCA Nationals.

The Fort Walton Beach High School Cheerleaders strive for perfection in everything they do. In cheerleading, not one person stands out or wins the overall competition. Rather, it requires uniformity and working together as a collective group. As they prepared to compete in UCA Nationals, they sought to perform their routine to the best of their abilities as a team. This commitment to excellence defines a true champion; however, their excellence extends far beyond the title. Whether it is car washes, 5k runs, or even performing for Florida's Governor, Rick Scott, this team goes above and beyond what is asked of them, and I commend their active role in the Fort Walton Beach community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the Fort Walton Beach High School Cheerleaders on their accomplishments and their continuing commitment to excellence at Fort Walton Beach High School. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating them and everyone who has played a supportive role in guiding their team to victory. We wish them all the best for continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN DONALD PAYNE

SPEECH OF

HON. JON RUNYAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Mr. RUNYAN. Madam Speaker, on March 6th, the state of New Jersey, and more specifically Newark and its surrounding communities, lost a dedicated public servant, Congressman DONALD PAYNE.

Congressman PAYNE truly lived a life of service, first as an educator in the Newark and Passaic public school districts, an Essex County Freeholder, a member of the Newark Municipal Service, and finally as the first African-American Congressman from the state of New Jersey. Representative PAYNE's public service record was also dedicated to helping people through his volunteer work. His involvement with the Newark YMCA and Boy's and Girl's Club, showed his passion for helping children.

In Congress, Representative PAYNE played an instrumental role as an advocate in the treatment of AIDS and drug-resistant tuberculosis. His actions in Congress were always based on how he could best serve his constituents. Congressman PAYNE served as a role model for not only his district, but the entire State of New Jersey.

His love of service was only outdone by the love he had for his family, from his late wife, to his children, grandchildren, and great-

grandchildren. Congressman PAYNE will be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, on March 7, 2012, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall #103-106. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall #103: Yes—Himes of Connecticut Amendment No. 3

Rollcall #104: Yes—Ellison of Minnesota Amendment No. 5

Rollcall #105: Yes—Waters of California Amendment No. 6

Rollcall #106: Yes—Connolly of Virginia Amendment No. 9

ABILENE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I bring good news from West Texas. The 2011-2012 Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) 2A State basketball champions are the Abilene Christian High School Panthers.

In a close game that was covered by the national media, the Panthers beat Beren Academy 46-42 on March 3 in Waco, Texas to win the championship. Both schools are strong religiously based institutions. An Orthodox Jewish school from Houston, Beren Academy was a tough opponent made up of wonderful, religiously committed young men that kept the game close to the end.

The Panthers were led by 22 year-old Michael Bacon, a first-time head coach and college senior at Abilene Christian University. He coached the team along with Nick Smith and Colby Carr, all full-time college students and best friends. While some college students hold part-time jobs on the side, I suspect that most don't involve coaching a state championship-winning high school basketball team. Michael, Nick, and Colby are outstanding men and leaders that have a promising future ahead of them.

The championship caps a whirlwind season for the Panthers that ended with a 25-4 record. They played with discipline, determination, and tenacity the entire season. Michael Bacon said about the team: "We played like we were the smallest dog in the fight all season, and ended up the biggest." In every practice and game, the team gave their all and, in the end, it paid off.

The members of the team are Michael Avila, Ben George, Avron Payne, Trey Hampton, Clint Bruton, Samai Massaquoi, Harrison Hancock, Daniel Austin, Trevor Tyson, Bryton Fernandez, and J.D. Dos Santos. These fine young men are model Christian athletes. Strong in both body and spirit, their success on the basketball court reflects the deep commitment to their faith.