

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Delanie Pritchard on her achievement and her exemplary service in the Washington County School District. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Mrs. Pritchard, and we wish her and her family all the best.

**HONORING UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS' WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM**

**HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 19, 2012*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 2011 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Women's Volleyball Team.

This talented group of young women truly represents the epitome of athleticism, dedication, and perseverance as the team placed 2nd in the country in the Division I NCAA Tournament. This marked the first time in history that this Illini organization has made it to the finals of this competition.

I would like to also congratulate Kevin Hambly, the head coach, as well as his fellow coaches and staff members who helped guide the 2011 Women's Volleyball Team to accomplish greatness. Mr. Hambly was recently named the National Coach of the Year by Volleyball Magazine. In addition, this publication named Michelle Bartsch as a first-team All-American and Colleen Ward as a second-team All-American. I would also like to note that 11 of the young women on the 2011 Women's Volleyball Team placed among the top 60 in each of their recruiting classes.

It is undeniable that the women on this team all serve as role models for community that I represent, and it is honors such as these that make me incredibly proud to call the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign my alma mater.

**BLACK JANUARY IN AZERBAIJAN**

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 19, 2012*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as the Co-Chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I rise today to join with the people of Azerbaijan to commemorate the tragic events of "Black January."

On January 19, 1990, approximately 26,000 Soviet troops stormed Azerbaijan's capital city of Baku in tanks and armored vehicles. That night, the Soviet military bulldozed innocent Azeris and opened indiscriminate fire on peaceful demonstrators, including women and children. According to Azerbaijani sources, as a result of these merciless acts 131 people were killed, 611 were injured, 841 were arrested, and 5 went missing.

The Human Rights Watch report "Black January in Azerbaijan" states that "among the most heinous violations of human rights during the Baku incursion were the numerous attacks on medical personnel, ambulances, and even hospitals." The report concludes that the vio-

lence used by the Soviet Army constituted an exercise in collective punishment and that the punishment inflicted on Baku by Soviet soldiers may have been intended as a warning to nationalists, not only in Azerbaijan, but in other Republics of the Soviet Union.

In their honor, every January 20, thousands gather in Martyr's Cemetery in Baku to honor the dead and the nation's commitment to independence and freedom. In doing so, it is clear the victims of "Black January" did not perish in vain.

Far from crushing the spirit of Azeris, the atrocities of Black January instead consolidated the rising independence movements in the country and united the Azerbaijani nation in its quest for freedom. Today, Azerbaijan is a critical and strategic ally of the United States and is preparing to celebrate 20 years of diplomatic relations with the United States.

It is my honor to thank the Azerbaijani people for their friendship and to offer my thoughts and prayers to the families of those who gave their lives for the independence of Azerbaijan. I encourage my colleagues to visit the very moving memorial to Black January in Baku that honors the memories of those killed in these attacks by the Soviet military and to join with me today in standing with Azerbaijanis as they commemorate this tragedy.

**RECOGNIZING CHRISTY PIPPIN AS THE 2012 WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL RELATED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 19, 2012*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christy Pippin as the 2012 Washington County School District Related Employee of the Year. Christy Pippin is a Teacher's Aide for Kate M. Smith Elementary School in Washington County, where she has proudly served since 2000.

Mrs. Pippin's childhood dream was to teach, and at the early age of fifteen her passion was further ignited when she began work at a daycare. She continued inspiring and educating others throughout high school and college. In 2000, her dream to become a full time paraprofessional came to fruition as she began her work at Kate M. Smith Elementary School.

Christy Pippin's passion for and dedication to the students has impacted the lives of many. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Mrs. Pippin, and we wish her, her husband Chris, and their two children, Sarah-Grace and Riley, all of the best.

**DISAPPROVAL RESOLUTION RELATING TO DEBT LIMIT INCREASE**

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 18, 2012*

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, it comes as no surprise that my colleagues on the other

side of the aisle are opening the second session of the 112th Congress by once again driving us to the brink of default. By voting to disapprove of the debt limit increase, the Majority is ignoring essential actions like extending the Payroll Tax Cut and unemployment benefits. The American people have called on Congress to create jobs, reduce the deficit, and grow the economy. Today's resolution does none of these and hurts the American economy by politicizing the debt limit increase. Now is the time for the House Majority to bring to the floor critical pieces of the President's American Jobs Act that would spur small business growth, rebuild our school and transportation infrastructure, and prevent layoffs in crucial jobs like teachers, firefighters, and police officers.

Vote "no" on this irresponsible legislation.

**HONORING MS. ALEX VAN HOOF'S CLASS 1A CROSS COUNTRY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 19, 2012*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of a talented individual from Bloomington, IL. Alex Van Hoof recently placed 2nd in the class 1A Illinois cross country state meet. She finished the 3 mile course in an astounding 17 minutes and 18 seconds. This time also breaks her old record, which was the school record, by 9 seconds. I would also like to congratulate her coach Tom Engelhorn for his hard work with his team and with Alex. This young lady has represented herself, her school and her community in an exemplary fashion and I want to join with all the members of this House in wishing her continued success in her athletic and academic endeavors.

**THE PULMONARY FIBROSIS RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT**

**HON. JASON ALTMIRE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 19, 2012*

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a cause of great importance, the fight against Pulmonary fibrosis. Pulmonary fibrosis is a disorder of the lungs that, over time, deprives its victims of their ability to breathe normally. An estimated 200,000 Americans currently suffer from Pulmonary fibrosis, and 48,000 additional cases are diagnosed each year. Sadly, the disease claims 40,000 lives every year, yet there is no known cause, and even worse, no cure. Despite the prevalence of Pulmonary fibrosis, it remains virtually unknown to the public.

That is why I was proud to cosponsor the Pulmonary Fibrosis Research Enhancement Act in the past, and why I believe it is important to do so again in the 112th Congress. This bill would require the creation of a National Pulmonary Fibrosis Registry to collect data, expand research for prevention, and generate much needed awareness for the individuals who suffer from Pulmonary fibrosis,

and the loved ones who care for them. It would also create a national advisory board that would report to Congress, convene a national summit, and foster greater coordination among federal agencies to better facilitate information in an effort to better understand the disease.

The Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis is a group of dedicated individuals who together

are working to raise awareness in the hopes that one day we can discover the cause of Pulmonary Fibrosis, as well as a treatment and cure. In August 2011, the Coalition held an inaugural walk/run to raise money for Pulmonary Fibrosis in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The event was a great success. Over 270 people participated, and they raised over \$28,000.

The Pulmonary Fibrosis Research Enhancement Act is a crucial step in the fight towards increasing public awareness and understanding of the disease. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this worthy cause, and this important piece of legislation.