

our young men and women in the military and their families make to the cause of freedom. For 75 years, the Airmen of the 3d Weather Squadron have exemplified this sacrifice as they stood alongside their Army brethren in support of a long list of military operations. In just the past 20 years, the 3d Weather Squadron has deployed for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Operation Allied Force, Operation Unified Response, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn.

When activated on 1 July 1937, the 3d Weather Squadron was a part of the U.S. Army, as the Air Force had not yet been established. Today the squadron continues a proud history of faithfully providing Battlefield Weather support to the Army, both in garrison and in combat. The stated mission of 3d Weather Squadron is to "deliver superior weather capability when called upon to support any worldwide land component tasking." True to this mission, the Airmen of the 3d Weather Squadron have sustained a continual, unbroken deployed presence in Southwest Asia dating back to 2003 alongside numerous Army units including III Corps, 1st Armored Division, 1st Infantry Division, 1st Cavalry Division, and 4th Infantry Division. On any given day, approximately 25 percent of the squadron is deployed with the Army.

Mr. Speaker, the 75th Birthday of 3d Weather Squadron also affords us the opportunity to celebrate the extraordinary life of the squadron's first commander and a singularly heroic warrior, General Leon W. Johnson. Leon W. Johnson was born in Columbia, MO, in 1904. He spent his boyhood in Columbia and Moline, KS. He later graduated from the U.S. Military Academy and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in June 1926. Lieutenant Johnson decided he'd "have to know something about weather if he intended to be a leader in the Air Force," so he enrolled at the California Institute of Technology and earned a Master's Degree in Meteorology in 1936. The next year he became one of the Army Air Corps Weather Service's first 22 weather officers and assumed command of the 3d Weather Squadron when it was activated on 1 July 1937. General Johnson subsequently took command of the 44th Bomb Group during World War II and earned the Medal of Honor for his role in the strategically crucial raid on the Ploesti oil fields in Rumania. General Johnson served in a wide variety of critical positions with both the Army and the Air Force throughout his 34 years of service.

Mr. Speaker, I will close by asking my colleagues to join me in recognizing the heroic Airmen of the 3d Weather Squadron as they mark the 3d Weather Squadron's 75th birthday and that we also honor an American patriot and hero, Medal of Honor Recipient General Leon W. Johnson.

HONORING MIKE JONES

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Mike Jones' years of dedicated service to the Economic Council of Palm Beach County. Mike leaves behind a strong

legacy of working with business and community leaders to create progress in our community.

Founded 35 years ago, the Economic Council of Palm Beach County is a non-profit advocacy organization that works to help foster an environment where businesses can grow and thrive. As president of this vital organization, Mike has worked for over a decade in order to achieve that goal. He understood that pragmatic solutions come from bringing more people to the table. That is why he led a forum of 30 business groups to help discuss the development of a strategic plan for the county, and worked to create a regulatory climate more conducive to business practices.

Mike's impact in South Florida extends beyond the business world. During his tenure, he worked with the entire community to help advocate for better schools and educational opportunities, and prioritized ethics reform by pushing the county to create an Office of the Inspector General and an Ethics Commission.

I congratulate Mike Jones, his wife Dee, and their son, as they celebrate Mike's retirement. Mike's dedicated leadership has made a positive impact on the South Florida community, and it is an honor to represent him here in Washington.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HEROICS OF FOUR GREAT OAKS STUDENTS

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of four Great Oaks Vocational School students: layie Viassy, Wade Aills, Brandon North, and Austin Salisbury. I am proud to recognize these four young men for their brave heroics in helping 53 Miami Trace elementary school children off an overturned bus on March 12, 2012.

At 4:16 p.m. on March 12, a school bus transporting children home from school veered off the road and rolled onto its right side into a ditch. With the passenger door pinned against the ground, Wade Aills made the decision to kick open the emergency rear door. The four boys then proceeded to aid the elementary children in exiting the bus and keeping everyone calm until emergency personnel could arrive. When EMS units arrived on the scene, all of the children had been evacuated safely, with only a few children that suffered minor injuries.

Recently, these young men were honored and recognized by the Fayette County Sheriff's Office and the Miami Trace elementary school for their actions.

Thus, today I ask my colleagues to join me and the constituents of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District in recognizing four true heroes: layie Viassy, Wade Aills, Brandon North, and Austin Salisbury.

LARRY DECKER TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Larry Decker of Pueblo, Colorado.

After earning his education and serving in the U.S. Navy Mr. Decker moved to Pueblo. Always a strong leader in the community, Mr. Decker was frequently involved in Veterans activities and organizations. He was a proud member of American Legion Post 207 and served a leadership role among his peers. As the senior vice commander of Post 207, Mr. Decker was highly respected not only in the American Legion but also in the Pueblo community.

As enthusiastic as he was with helping others in the community, his real passion was his family. He leaves behind his wife Joan who has been by his side since 1964. Together they raised a loving family that includes two daughters and three grandchildren. On April 5th, the city of Pueblo and the State of Colorado lost a great man.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Larry Decker. I rise today to thank him for his work on behalf of the citizens of Pueblo, and for his service to our nation. May he rest in peace.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY WILDCATS MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2012 NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to rise today to commend and congratulate the University of Kentucky Wildcats men's basketball team on winning the 2012 NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Championship.

By now, any basketball fan is familiar with the legacy of the Wildcats. The "Greatest Tradition in College Basketball," Kentucky is the winningest program of all-time, both in total wins and total win percentage, and the first team to break the 2,000 win threshold. Kentucky has fifteen Final Four appearances, and now eight national championships, second only to UCLA.

Even measured against this pedigree and the impossibly high expectations of the Big Blue Nation, this batch of 'Cats was something special. "The Undeniables," as they are known, were ranked number one in the nation for most of the year, losing only two games on their way to setting the NCAA record of thirty-eight wins in a single season. During their remarkable NCAA tournament run they won each game by an astonishing average of ten points, never trailing in a second half. While the title was the ultimate goal, the Final Four victory over instate rival the University of Louisville may have been even sweeter, as the highest stakes game ever played in the historic rivalry and the most important single sporting event in the history of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

This team achieved greatness against extraordinary competition because of the players' love and respect for one another. It is telling that a team led by three freshmen and two sophomores all forecast to be first round NBA draft picks, and all used to scoring 25 points a night in high school, were known first and foremost for their defense. Their willingness to

support each other on the defensive end translated into selflessness in their offensive attack, with a different player leading all scorers on any given night. The senior anchor to these young 'Cats was Darius Miller, one of Kentucky's favorite sons and a high school Mr. Basketball from Mason County. During his freshman season, Kentucky failed to make the NCAA Tournament for the first time in 18 years. After that disappointment, Miller has been a mainstay of teams under Coach John Calipari that have gone undefeated at home for three seasons, earning two Final Fours, an Elite Eight appearance, and a National Championship. Over his career, Darius played in more games than any Kentucky player in history and was one block and thirteen rebounds from having a career stats sheet with some 1,200 points, 500 rebounds, 250 assists, 100 blocks, and 100 steals.

That Miller was the sixth man on this Kentucky squad demonstrates the explosive athleticism of Big Blue's younger stars. Leading the way was Anthony Davis who, with 186 blocks bested most entire teams in that statistic, cleaned up nearly every individual award for which he was eligible, including Freshman of the Year, SEC Player of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year, and the Naismith and Wooden National Player of the Year awards. Though ending the season with a 62% field goal percentage, he was scoreless in the first half of the National Championship Game and yet was Most Outstanding Player for his defensive abilities and capacity to ignite the UK offense. Davis along with fellow freshman point guard Marcus Teague started in a record forty games for UK and were the distributors for an extremely quick and highly efficient offense that was a perpetual threat in transition. Leading that attack were sophomore and freshman forwards Terrence Jones and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist, dangerous whether around the rim or breaking free for an open jump shot, combining for an average 24 points a game. Sophomore Doron Lamb was the team's often unsung hero and clutch shooter, averaging 37% from the three point line during his career and killing the momentum behind several opponents' would-be comebacks. I could go on-and-on celebrating these leaders and the other players who made this team championship caliber. "The Undeniables" will be regarded as one of the greatest all-around teams in college basketball history and that eighth NCAA Championship banner now hanging in Rupp Arena will forever stand as testament to their place in the hearts of the Big Blue Nation. I wish all of these players the best as they continue their careers, whether at Kentucky or at the professional level.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the boundless energy and enthusiasm of Head Coach John Calipari, who forged a timeless team out of young freshmen and sophomores. Before Coach Cal's arrival, UK basketball was lost in the woods. In a single season he made the Wildcats into a perennial championship contender once again. But more importantly, he has worked selflessly to promote the University nationally and internationally, even more closely involved the community in the basketball program, and pursued philanthropic goals both through the University as well as with his private charity. This winning environment in Lexington is a result of the seamless teamwork and support of the coaching and training staff, Athletic Director

Mitch Barnhart, and University of Kentucky President Eli Capiluto who, in his first year as president, is now one-for-one in national basketball championships.

In closing I would like to once again join the Big Blue Nation in congratulating the team, everyone affiliated with the University and UK fans around the world on a terrific season and our eighth national championship. What a banner year it has been!

RECOGNIZING PROFESSIONAL
GOLF ASSOCIATION TOUR PRO-
FESSIONAL BUBBA WATSON AS
THE WINNER OF THE 2012 MAS-
TERS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Northwest Florida's Gerry Lester "Bubba" Watson, Jr. as the winner of the 2012 Masters Tournament on Sunday, April 8, 2012 at Augusta National Golf Club.

Winning a Masters Tournament, professional golf's most prestigious event, is the dream of every tour professional and aspiring amateur. This win—his fourth on the PGA tour—elevated him to the number four position in the world golf rankings, and to number two in the FedEx Cup rankings.

Bubba's humble, small-town upbringing in Bagdad, Florida included no formal golf lessons, save one provided by his father at an early age. He taught himself to play golf by hitting wiffle balls around his house with a cut-off club his father gave him.

Not an inexperienced winner, Bubba won the Divot Derby—a longstanding junior golf tournament in Pensacola, Florida—an astounding 10 years in a row. He continued golfing during his years at Milton High School, where he also excelled as pitcher on the school's baseball team. Despite his significant baseball talents, golf remained his passion. At Faulkner State Community College, he was named First Team Junior College All American. Later, after transferring to the University of Georgia, he led the Bulldogs to an SEC Championship title in 2000. He turned professional when he joined the Nationwide Tour in 2001, and later joined the PGA tour in 2006. Known for his aggressive shot-making abilities and his exceptionally long tee shots, he has quickly established himself as a favorite among golf spectators.

Bubba is not shy about sharing his Christian faith, and he possesses an unwavering commitment to family—most recently demonstrated when he and his wife, Angie, adopted a baby boy just two weeks before his win at Augusta. In addition to his commitment to family, Bubba is actively involved in a number of philanthropic activities, serving as an honorary board member and generous sponsor of The First Tee of Northwest Florida and making significant contributions to the Ronald McDonald House in Pensacola. He has also hosted free golf clinics for children, provided scholarships for Milton High School golfers, and committed to funding the Divot Derby for the next five years, ensuring that children do not need to pay the registration fee to participate in the event.

Bubba's strong character, athletic prowess, and commitment to family and community make it all the more enjoyable to call him "Masters Champion." His nail-biting win after two playoff holes on Sunday afternoon may be his first in a major tournament, but it will likely not be his last.

On behalf of the United States Congress and the citizens of Northwest Florida, I congratulate Bubba for his extraordinary victory. My wife Vicki joins me in offering our best wishes to Bubba; his wife, Angie; and their son, Caleb, for their continued success.

HONORING THE ROCK BRIDGE
HIGH SCHOOL LADY BRUINS
BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Rock Bridge High School Lady Bruins Basketball team for winning the Class 5 Missouri State Championship on March 10, 2012.

The young women and their coaches should be commended for all their hard work throughout their stunning season. In the championship game against Blue Springs, the Lady Bruins prevailed 52 to 41, marking the team's first title since 2008. The Lady Bruins had come to win starting with a 14 to 0 lead and then never letting their opponent come closer than five points.

I ask that you join me in recognizing the Rock Bridge High School Lady Bruins for a job well done.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF
MIKE WALLACE

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to Mike Wallace, a man whose determination and tenacity shaped investigative reporting as we know it today.

Mr. Wallace died on April 7, 2012, surrounded by family in New Caanan, Connecticut. He was 93.

Mr. Speaker, Mike Wallace was one of the original correspondents for the news program, 60 Minutes, and his reporting helped to cement the show's reputation for hard-hitting but fair journalism. He interviewed world leaders and celebrities, never shying away from difficult and often confrontational lines of questioning. Nevertheless, his impeccable research and balanced approach made him as respected as he was feared.

The list of persons interviewed by Mike Wallace over the past half century reads like a Who's Who of the leading figures of the twentieth century: reverend and activist Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; famed surrealist painter Salvador Dali; former Palestinian leader and Nobel Prize Laureate Yasser Arafat; former Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini; civil rights