

The national independence movement had reached a remarkable momentum with hundreds of thousands demonstrating for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. The emerging democratic groups and protesters called for independence from the Soviet Union and removal of Communists officials. On the night of January 19–20, more than 130 people died, 611 were injured, 841 were arrested and 5 went missing. In the days after the invasion, thousands of Azerbaijanis surrounded Communist Party headquarters demanding the resignation of the republic's leadership. Soviet troops were eventually withdrawn from Baku, but political control was maintained for almost another 2 years until Azerbaijan's parliament declared independence in October 1991. The Republic of Azerbaijan has maintained its independence for more than 17 years.

Today, Azerbaijan has developed into a thriving country with double digit growth, in large part due to a freely elected president and parliament, free market reforms led by the energy sector, and, most importantly, no foreign troops on its soil.

Mr. Speaker, let us remember those who sacrificed their lives and those who stood against communism and dictatorship on the monumental "Black January" day on January 20, 1990.

HONORING THE CARROLL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL DRAGON FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the Carroll Senior High School Dragon football team for winning the 2011 Class 5A Division I Texas State Championship title.

The Dragons finished the season with a perfect 16–0 record and the program's eighth state championship. Carroll High School competes in the University Interscholastic League Class 5A, the most competitive athletic class composed of the largest schools in Texas.

Carroll had a thrilling 2011 season, winning three playoff games after being behind in the second half. The state championship was especially exciting where the Dragons played Fort Bend Hightower High School at Cowboys Stadium with an attending crowd of 42,822.

Hightower had a 29–28 lead over Carroll starting the fourth quarter. In Hightower's first possession of the fourth quarter, Carroll linebacker Will Davis caused a fumble that was recovered by the Dragons on Hightower's 29-yard line. With key positioning in Hightower territory, Carroll quarterback Kenny Hill led the offense to a touchdown with five plays. Carroll then scored a two-point conversion giving them a lead of 36–28.

With 9:18 left in the fourth quarter, the Carroll defense shut down the Hightower offense. On a second down, cornerback Sabian Holmes made a pivotal play breaking up a pass near the end zone, and on the third down, linebackers Will Davis and Jeff Miller sacked the Hightower quarterback, forcing a punt. Following the punt return, the Dragon of-

fense shrewdly ran down the clock to win the state championship title.

I am extremely proud of the entire Carroll football team. I would like to take a moment to recognize all of the players who contributed to this championship:

Drew Ahmuty, Derek McLemore, Ryan Weigel, Jared Bales, Ray Crockett, Peyton Williams, Cameron Feuchter, Ben Sego, Connor Dyer, Corey Kemp, Tanner Jacobson, Austin Miller, Kyle McKinney, Blake McWhirter, Sean Dickson, Brandon Viohl, Kenny Hill, Conner Combs, Tyler Hunter, Ian Moss, Tyler Barnes, Kellen Day, David Stroope, Tanner Hutyr, Britton Wallace, Michael Stephens, Anthony Custable, Matthew Zauber, Chris Swart, Luke Kissick, James Noetzel, Sabian Holmes, Reid Hall, Roy Peryea, Robert Harless, Jeremy McClellan, Zach Hernandez, AJ Ezzard, Nick Melocik, Aaron Hoagland, Carter Bishop, Adaryan Jones, Matt Swoyer, Travis Martin, Derek Kalata, Hunter Westmoreland, Drew Brown, Will Davis, Conner Owens, Alex Johnston, Sam Downey, Joseph Formella, Steven Bergmark, Nash Neu, Dillon Rake, Jacob White, Landon Howard, Christian Poucket, Jeff Miller, Brian Bonacci, Nick Arst, Jackson Mitchell, Korbin Wayton, Edgar Gonzalez, Hunter Lackey, Michael Gavin, Nicholas Berman, Austin Tyrone, Dustin Flegle, JJ Prince, Alec Deutsch, Brady Stallings, Kyle Arpaia, Patrick Mundlin, Raymond Proietti, Ryan Hauser, Caleb LaCombe, Kyle Rae, Jack Proskovec, Evan Brown, Clay Hochstrate, Avery Hill, Connor Chase, Andrew Olear, Gabe Callan, Matt Jackson, Holden Sheehan, Connor Wakeham, Grant Drewelow, Cam Manning, Chad Kwong, Garrett Hale, Keaton Duhon, Joe Heineman, Sammy Silver, Haydn Billman, Caden Carlton, Brandon Gordon, Hunter Peck, Jesse Martinez, Cenani Lalani, Luke Timian, Blake Collins, Jake Webb, Al Tolbert, Matt Watford, Davin Campbell, Connor Page, James Hagerman, Scott Marks, Brock Sales, Ty Cummings, Joseph Depinto, Nash Dickey, Spencer Sunstrum.

Of course, no championship team is complete without those behind the scenes. Head Coach Hal Wasson; Asst. Coaches Clayton George, Tim Wasson, Mike Loveless, Tony Holmes, Austin Cranford, Aaron Lineweaver, Robert Drake, Brad Skinner, Kirk Rogers, Rob Royer and Brandon Murdock; Team Managers Colt Meachem, Nick Foster, Nick Bromley and Brendon James; Athletic Trainers Derek Abell, Allison Loftin and Carrie Saulters; and Student Trainers Sye Noble, Cameron Spence, Ragan Sims, Scott Miritillo, James Sarandis, and Brad Mason were all key contributors to Carroll's 2011 championship.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the Carroll Senior High School Dragons football team for its victory in the 2011 Class 5A Division I state Texas state championship.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT L. TURNER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Mr. TURNER of New York. Mr. Speaker, because of travel delays due to inclement weather,

I missed the two votes on January 23, 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on House Resolution 3117, the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2011 (Rollcall 5) as well as House Resolution 1141, the Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Study Act (Rollcall 6).

I understand the responsibility of representing the residents of the Ninth Congressional District of New York and I regret missing these two votes.

CONGRATULATING BACARDI ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bacardi on its 150th anniversary. The company was founded by Don Facundo Bacardi Massó in Santiago de Cuba on February 4, 1862, and overcame multiple adversities to become the largest privately-held spirits company, one that today sells more than 200 brands and labels in more than 150 markets globally, and the third largest spirits company in the world. Family-owned and run for seven generations, the Company employs nearly 6,000 people around the world. Bacardi has a significant presence and history in the United States.

As its business grew in Cuba, Bacardi capitalized on growing opportunities abroad and expanded outside of Cuba as Cuba's first multinational company. In 1916, the Company established a bottling facility in New York City. Bacardi rum is distributed by Bacardi U.S.A., Inc. based in my home district of Coral Gables, Florida. Having toured the offices recently, I've seen first hand the energy and excitement in the employees about the company.

I congratulate the Bacardi rum brand on its 150th anniversary and commend the Bacardi Company for 150 years of business perseverance and commitment to continue sustainable business practices, fairness to employees and generosity to the community at large that built Bacardi during the past 150 years.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ST. IGNATIUS FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the St. Ignatius Football Team, which won the 2011 Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) Division I State Championship.

St. Ignatius High School was founded in September of 1886 on Cleveland's West 30th

Street. At the time, it was the twentieth secondary school sponsored by the Jesuits in the U.S. An all male college preparatory high school, the Wildcats continue to live by the school motto, "Men for Others." Academically, St. Ignatius is one of Ohio's most prestigious high schools. It is St. Ignatius great emphasis on academic achievement which produces scholars and which translates to success both on and off the field. Each year 99% of its students go on to four-year college programs.

Led by Coach Chuck Kyle, the St. Ignatius Wildcats took to the field at 7:07 p.m. on December 3, 2011 against the Pickerington Tigers. The Wildcats gained an early lead in the first quarter, highlighted by a 45 yard touchdown pass by Eric Williams to Tim McCoy. The first half ended with the Wildcats ahead, thanks to two Tim Shenk field goals and a Tim McVey rushing touchdown, by a score of 20-13. The second half was dominated by the Wildcats defense, which did not allow the Tigers to score again. The Wildcats offense continued to produce; Tim McVey ran for another touchdown and Eric Williams threw a 40 yard touchdown to Jake Mooney. At 10:03 p.m., the St. Ignatius Wildcats left the field as OHSAA Division I State Champions for the 11th time in 12 state championship appearances with a score of 34-13.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating the 2011 OHSAA Division I State Champions, the St. Ignatius Football Team.

RECOGNIZING MRS. ALMA R. HOLLINS-RUCKER FOR HER DEDICATION TO SERVING OTHERS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mrs. Alma R. Hollins-Rucker. Mrs. Rucker was born and raised in Yazoo City, Mississippi. She is the daughter of Mr. Arnett Hollins and the late Ms. Carrie Mae Wright. She is a pillar of her community for not only holding reputable positions within her church, but by also promoting a positive image and reputation through her service to others in the community.

Mrs. Rucker started serving the Lord at an early age at Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church where she is still a member and serves as President of the Pastor's Aide Club and Chair of the Trustee Board.

She graduated from Yazoo City High School in 1970 and attended Draughon's Business College. After attending Draughon's Business College, she became the Assistant Librarian at Lamar Library and retired four years later in management due to an acquired disability.

Despite her handicap, Mrs. Rucker continues to serve her community through countless acts of servitude. She volunteers at several food pantries and nursing homes and provides donations to various organizations throughout her community. Mrs. Rucker is the mother of five children and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Alma R. Rucker for her dedication to serving others in need.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed three votes on the afternoon of January 18, 2012, which included rollcall votes 2, 3, and 4.

If I had been present, I would have voted against rollcall vote 2, Representative SCOTT's (SC-01) bill, H. Res. 515.

If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 3, Approval of the Journal.

If I had been present, I would have voted against rollcall vote 4, Representative TOM REED's (NY-29) bill, H.J. Res. 98.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND DEDICATION OF A HUMAN RIGHTS CHAMPION: DOUGLAS A. JOHNSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the inspiring career of Mr. Doug Johnson, an international leader and voice for human rights, on the occasion of his retirement from the Center for Victims of Torture (CVT).

When the Center for Victims of Torture opened in Saint Paul, Minnesota in 1985 it was the first center of its kind in the United States and only the third torture treatment center in the world. Doug Johnson became its Executive Director in 1988 and served in this role for the next 23 years. Today, because of Doug's extraordinary leadership and commitment to eradicating torture, CVT is helping thousands of torture survivors from over 60 countries at centers in Minneapolis, Saint Paul, the District of Columbia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Jordan, Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Thanks to Doug Johnson's vision, CVT has become a global leader in the treatment of torture. Doug and CVT have received numerous awards for their pioneering work, including the National Crime Victims Service Award, which is the highest civilian honor awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice. CVT is also a leading advocate for torture victims. Doug worked closely with former Minnesota Senator Dave Durenberger to pass the original Torture Victims Relief Act in 1998, which authorizes federal funding for torture survivor rehabilitation programs in the U.S. and abroad. The United States is the world's largest donor to torture survivor rehabilitation thanks to leaders like Doug Johnson.

CVT's central and steadfast conviction that torture is a crime against humanity—a crime against all of us—is one that I share. It is a weapon of terror, intimidation and cruelty that seeks to dehumanize its victims and traumatize their communities. Torture victims face debilitating and unimaginable physical, social, emotional and spiritual scarring. Unfortunately, thousands of our brothers and sisters around

the world have experienced this horror and are struggling each day to live with its aftermath. That is why the work of the Center for Victims of Torture is so incredibly important.

While it is easy for many of us to point fingers at foreign governments when human rights are abused and torture is used to coerce, silence, or intimidate, it takes the courage of one's convictions to stand up to one's own government when abuses are exposed. During the past decade, Doug was a voice for America's best and highest ideals of due process and respect for human rights. When the American people learned of torture as a sanctioned interrogation technique by our own government in Iraq, Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay, or other clandestine prisons, it was Doug Johnson who spoke out loudly and fearlessly. He rallied human rights leaders and policy makers to condemn these abuses and sought to expose them for what they were—torture. Doug influenced the debate in Congress and helped elevate torture as an issue of national significance.

CVT is a Minnesota treasure and it has been my pleasure to work closely with Doug Johnson over the past eleven years. The legacy of Doug Johnson will live on in CVT's work providing hope for survivors of torture around the world and bring us ever closer to a world free from torture.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND JOSEPH LEE JOHNSON

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Joseph Lee Johnson, a dynamic leader of the religious community and a founder of the Police Chaplains Program in the City of Richmond, California—and to mark his passing on January 9, 2012, at the age of 93.

Born in Westdale, Louisiana on September 3, 1918, to the late Adeline and Bill Johnson, J.L. Johnson was one of twelve children. In December of 1937, he met Ida Mae Gilliom—they were married two weeks later on January 11, 1938. He and Ida Mae remained happily married for nearly 74 years.

In September 1943 he and Ida Mae moved to Vallejo, California, where he worked at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard. It was there that he united with Union Baptist Church where he served on the Deacon Board until 1950, when he was ordained and became Pastor of St. John Missionary Baptists Church in Vallejo. He continued to pastor at St. John Church for over 21 years. Reverend Johnson organized the Baptist Ministers Union of Vallejo, and was elected its first president. In addition, he was president of the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance for many years, organizing local clergy around issues such as promoting civil rights, ending hunger, and curbing violence.

Reverend Johnson also started one of the first food programs in Richmond where he was instrumental in working with government agencies to provide cheese, butter and other food to local churches to feed low-income families.

He was a peacemaker. During the social unrest of the 1960s, the Bissell property where Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church is now located was, at the time, the local headquarters