

Girls Basketball Team on their history-making 2011–2012 season.

The Blue Waves of Riverhead, New York went all the way to the state Class AA Final Four tournament in Troy, New York, a first in the team's history and a truly remarkable achievement. Along the way they won the 2012 Long Island Championship in a 56–50 victory over the Baldwin Bruins amidst waves of cheering fans known as the "Blue Krew." They also won the Suffolk County Class AA championship, and the Suffolk County Section XI championship, finishing the season with a 23–2 record.

Their coach, Dave Spinelli, was named Suffolk County Coach of the Year, and senior guard Jaylyn Brown was named a first-team All-Long Island player. The team was named a New York State Scholar Athlete team for the seventh consecutive year with a team grade-point average this year of 93.1.

Hailed as hometown heroes, the athletes were honored with a parade down East Main Street sponsored by the Riverhead Central School District and the Town of Riverhead on April 29th, and the entire day was designated a day of celebration. Riverhead School Board vice president Greg Meyer said the team acted as a catalyst for the entire community. "The girls played their hearts out for their team and for this community, and the residents of Riverhead and the rest of the school district came together to support the team in a major way."

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have such a talented and dedicated group of young athletes in my congressional district. They demonstrated commitment, teamwork, leadership and serve as role models for their community, proving that with hard work and a good defense, dreams do come true.

HONORING MADISON WEAVER

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Madison Weaver is a senior at Clements High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. His essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

Government is defined as the political direction and control exercised over the actions of the members, citizens, or inhabitants of communities, societies, and states. In other words, the government is the ultimate source of authority in our country. However, I believe that this power should be used with restraint. I also believe that gov-

ernment should focus on protecting the people, instead of controlling the people.

Helping secure jobs and keeping companies in business is something the U.S. government has been promoting heavily in the past few years. With the passing of the 'bail-out' bill, numerous corporations, that would have otherwise failed, were saved by the government's decision to give them enough money in order to stay afloat. Consequently, millions of people were able to keep their jobs. But what does that say about our government? Is it humanitarian that our government reacts in order to save those companies and jobs? No, in fact this shows that our government is pushing forth its own agenda of what will be produced in America.

The fine line between government protecting and controlling is the difference in outcome. Protecting, will ultimately promote a healthier economy; while controlling, will produce quicker results, yet negative, long-term effects. For instance, by giving money to banks that made numerous bad loans, was essentially saying that it was 'ok' to make bad business decisions. Also, by giving money to the auto industry, was essentially saying that it was 'ok' to make products that people didn't want. Yes, the government was able to save many businesses, and countless jobs; but do we want failed businesses to operate in America? The answer is, "no"!

Instead of looking at every business failure as a sign of weakness of the government, we need to see to the failures and embrace them too. Without the fear of failure, there is no drive for success. Therefore, we need to have failures, recessions, and yes, even job losses in order to drive people to succeed and make our country better. I believe that the government has done us more harm than good in attempting to control the recession. By stepping back and letting the business cycle run its course, only then can government truly guide our country to a more productive America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 250, due to other representational obligations in Hannibal, Missouri, I had to miss this vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTING IRAN FROM ACQUIRING A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for H. Res. 568. It is imperative that the United States takes necessary steps to ensure that Iran is unable to acquire the capability to produce nuclear weapons.

The United States and all our allies must respond to this threat immediately. The stability of the entire Middle East region hangs in the balance as Iran seeks this technology. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has openly threatened both the United States and Israel in the recent past and as a result, swift and harsh sanctions must be put in place against the Iranian regime.

The United States' security and interests are clearly in danger. Satellite intelligence provides us with enough information to confidently assess that Tehran is concealing their true actions. International inspectors have been denied entry into the facilities, a troublesome act if there is nothing to hide. The containment and appeasement of Iran must not be considered. Instituting aggressive sanctions against this radical regime is a prudent and necessary course of action.

H.R. 5746, A BILL TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO MODIFY CERTAIN RULES APPLICABLE TO REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS; TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, along with my colleague from Massachusetts, Representative Neal, and Representatives SAM JOHNSON, CHARLES RANGEL, DEVIN NUNES, PETE STARK, DAVE REICHERT, JOHN LEWIS, PETER ROSKAM, EARL BLUMENAUER, JIM GERLACH, RON KIND, AARON SCHOCK, JOSEPH CROWLEY, LYNN JENKINS and ERIK PAULSEN, I rise today to introduce the Update and Streamline REIT Act (U.S. REIT Act). Congress created real estate investment trusts (REITs) in 1960, with the goal of providing Americans from all walks of life a transparent and liquid way to access the income and diversification benefits of investments in commercial real estate.

Periodically over the past fifty years, Congress has enhanced and improved the REIT rules as the real estate industry and marketplace has evolved, typically with non-controversial legislation that attracts significant bipartisan support. In that vein, the last REIT update was introduced in 2007.

A number of publicly traded REITs are headquartered in my home state of Ohio, and listed REITs as a whole have invested over \$8 billion dollars to date in Ohio malls, office buildings, health care, hotel, self-storage and other properties. This investment by REITs creates jobs, improves local economies; and helps to support and beautify our communities.

The U.S. REIT Act has been developed over a lengthy period. It has considerable bipartisan support and is largely revenue neutral. If enacted, it would increase flexibility and remove certain redundant and unnecessary restrictions on REIT activities, in order to enable REITs to continue to achieve the goals on behalf of their shareholders set for them by Congress over fifty years ago.

H.R. 5746, A BILL TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO MODIFY CERTAIN RULES APPLICABLE TO REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS; TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a bill that I'm introducing with my good friend and colleague from Ohio, Representative TIBERI, the Update and Streamline REIT Act (or U.S. REIT Act). I think it's important to note that the precursor to today's REITs began as Massachusetts business trusts over a hundred years ago. In 1960, an Act of Congress democratized investment in real estate, an asset class that had traditionally only been available to institutional investors and the wealthy, by authorizing the creation of REITs, widely-held entities that own and operate large-scale, income-producing real estate.

Since the Congressional authorization of REITs in 1960, Congress periodically has updated the REIT rules in a bipartisan manner to enable the industry to adapt to a changing marketplace and to evolve consistent with its original mandate. The U.S. REIT Act would continue that tradition.

Among other things, consistent with a provision in the Obama Administration's FY 2012 and FY 2013 Budgets, and Congressional repeal of a similar rule for publicly offered mutual funds in 2010, the U.S. REIT Act would repeal the preferential dividend rule for "publicly offered" REITs. Publicly traded REITs as a whole have invested over \$18 billion to date in a variety of Massachusetts properties, including malls, office buildings, health care, hotel, self-storage and other properties. As a former mayor, I recognize that these companies and their tenants are the bedrock of local economies, improving communities, advertising locally, and generating property and sales taxes that support local schools districts and first responders.

I am proud to have been a co-sponsor of legislation over the years that have refined the REIT rules to ensure that REITs can continue to provide the benefits envisioned by Congress to investors from all walks of life, and I am proud to co-sponsor this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the U.S. REIT Act.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHARLES W. COLSON

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to a man we remembered just a few short hours ago at the National Cathedral here in Washington, DC.

The Good Book says, "Render therefore to all their due. . . honor to whom honor." Charles W. Colson is certainly worthy of honor and esteem.

The earthly life of this consequential American has come to an end and I mark this occasion with a sense of profound personal loss.

Chuck Colson rose to the heights of political power and fell to the depths of disgrace. But in his fall, he found redemption in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Given a second chance, Chuck Colson devoted his life to carrying the Christian message of second chances to those in prison, and he saw countless lives changed by his compassion and example.

His voice of moral clarity was an inspiration to millions of Americans and made him an invaluable counselor to leaders in government and business. I will always count it a privilege to have been able to call him my dear friend and mentor. His dedication to moral integrity, serving his fellow man and his steadfast faith have always and will always be an inspiration to me and my family.

Karen and I offer our deepest condolences to Patty, the whole Colson family and to all who mourn the loss of Chuck Colson.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES OF MORRIS AND SUSSEX COUNTY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children of Morris and Sussex Counties as they celebrate their 25th anniversary.

Court Appointed Special Advocates, CASA, was created in 1977 to address the issue of abused and neglected children within the court system. The founder, David Soukup, a Seattle Superior Court Judge, raised concerns over making decisions on behalf of abused and neglected children without enough information. To gain more knowledge he called for volunteers to investigate the cases, make recommendations and speak on behalf of the child about what would be in his or her best interest.

It quickly became clear that CASA volunteers provided the abused or neglected children a constant adult presence that supported them by advocating for their needs within the court system. According to the CASA mission statement, CASA's intent is to "speak up for the best interests of children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect. We recruit, train, and supervise community volunteers who provide a voice in court to assure each child a safe, permanent, and nurturing home."

CASA of Morris County began in 1987 by the National Council of Jewish Women and later merged with the Sussex County chapter in 1996. In the last fiscal year the CASA of Morris and Sussex Counties served 354 children helping 108 reach permanency, which includes reunification with birth parents, adoption, kinship legal adoption, or independent living. Out of the 15 CASA chapters in New Jersey, the Morris and Sussex Counties chapter serves the largest percentage of children in out-of-home placement.

For 25 years, the CASA of Morris and Sussex Counties has kept children from falling through the cracks of the court system and helped them gain a stable family structure. In the past year, CASA lists among their accom-

plishments helping four siblings reunite with their parents in a safe environment with two of the siblings attending summer camp on scholarships, a four-year-old child who spent the first three years of her life in five different foster homes was able to be adopted into a loving family, and an abandoned 16-year-old was able to find a part-time job, educational assistance, and a path to independent living.

CASA of Morris and Sussex County's is proud that their 25 years of work has always focused on the tenet of "every child can thrive in the safe embrace of a loving family." CASA has been able to provide the opportunity for abused and neglected children of Northern New Jersey to overcome their circumstance and mature into successful and caring adults.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing Court Appointed Special Advocates of Morris and Sussex Counties on their 25th anniversary.

HONORING THE ORIGINAL FLORIDA HALL OF FAME HIGHWAYMEN

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Original Florida Hall of Fame Highwaymen. They are a group of 26 named and listed landscape artists who have been called "The Last Great American Art Moment of the 20th century." These self-taught and self-mentoring African American Artists were able to define themselves against the many racial and cultural barriers of the time in which they painted, and created a body of work of over two hundred thousand paintings.

The Original Florida Hall of Fame Highwaymen, from Fort Pierce, Florida, began painting in the early 1950s and created large numbers of relatively inexpensive landscape paintings, which were done using construction materials rather than art supplies. As no galleries would accept their works, they sold them in towns and cities and along roadsides throughout Florida, often still wet, out of the trunks of their cars.

Following the death of one of their members in 1970, the remaining members created fewer works and productivity waned. However, after being re-discovered in the 1990s, they have become celebrated for their idyllic landscapes of natural settings in Florida.

In 2004, the 26 Original Florida Hall of Fame Highwaymen were inducted into the Florida Artist Hall of Fame. In addition to becoming part of Florida's culture and history, they have also received international recognition.

Eight of the original members are now deceased, but the remaining members, most now into their 70s and 80s, continue to paint, to this day. Despite racial barriers and obstacles, their success and longevity are remarkable.

Please join me in honoring the Original Florida Hall of Fame Highwaymen, for their dedication to their craft and their contributions to art in the State of Florida and around the world.