

that attaches all possible value to citizens rather than making each citizen a mere agent, a mere number; a Democracy that seeks equality in Liberty rather than in restraint and servitude.

Mr. Speaker, there is a great political awakening taking place in our country today. The roots of which are solid stock and American made, they are visionary individuals who understand the moral foundations of a Constitutional Republic, the benefits of free markets, and individual liberty. May they continue to strive valiantly and dare greatly.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few short minutes to give this testimony in support of a truly American grass-roots organization.

RECOGNIZING JERRY TARKANIAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jerry Tarkanian or "Tark the Shark," for being inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Nationwide, Jerry is most recognized for his achievements as the basketball coach for University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), but in California's 16th Congressional District, we know Jerry as California State University, Fresno's (Fresno State) spirited and energetic former head basketball coach. Fresno State is Jerry's alma mater, and the community is very proud to say so.

Jerry was born in Euclid, Ohio, and is the son of Armenian immigrants. He moved halfway across the country to get an education and play basketball. In 1955, he graduated from Fresno State, and later earned his master's degree in Educational Management from the University of Redlands.

Jerry began his coaching career at San Joaquin Memorial High School in Fresno. He then went on to coach high school basketball in Southern California, and then coached at Riverside City College from 1961–1966 and Pasadena City College from 1966–1968. Jerry was successful at the city college level, and brought four consecutive teams to the California Junior College Championships.

Jerry coached his first Division I team at California State University, Long Beach from 1968–1973. As a coach during the late 60's, he defied some of the social norms of the time by becoming one of the first coaches to start more than three African-American players. He is also one of the first coaches to recognize the advantages of coaching junior college athletes. Jerry took a personal interest in his players and wanted them to succeed on and off the court. He reached out to young men who lived in inner-cities and normally would not have access to a higher education.

In 1973, Jerry moved to Nevada to become head coach at UNLV. During his tenure, he made four Final Four appearances, and in 1990 won the NCAA Division I National Championship. For many years to come, Jerry would be recognized as the individual who turned around the basketball program at UNLV and made it into a winning program. When his career ended at UNLV, Jerry returned to Fresno and coached at his alma

mater from 1995–2002. For six years in a row, his teams had 20-win seasons.

Jerry coached 42 players who were drafted by the NBA, including 12 first-round selections. Some of his most notable players include: Larry Johnson, Stacey Augmon, Armen Gilliam, and Sidney Green. He also coached Roscoe and Clifton Pondexter also known as the Pondexter brothers who were a powerhouse at San Joaquin Memorial and have since left a legacy at the high school.

Due to the efforts made by Jerry and the "Stadium Builders" in the mid 1990's, The Savemart Center was built. For years, there had been discussions regarding an on-campus arena at Fresno State, but it was not made into a reality until Jerry began his successful coaching career at the university. When he finished his coaching career, Jerry worked as the Senior Development Consultant for the Savemart Center.

Jerry is appreciated by individuals throughout our nation, but he is especially treasured in Fresno, California. Central Valley residents take pride in Fresno State, and it was an honor to have Jerry leading our Bulldogs on the basketball court.

Jerry is married to Lois Tarkanian and they have four children and 11 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize Coach Jerry Tarkanian as he is recognized for all of the contributions that he has made to the game of basketball.

RECOGNIZING THE EIGHTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILLION MAN MARCH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I remember eighteen years ago today, watching hundreds of thousands of Black men flood the National Mall in Washington, DC to promote unity and family values that would instill a sense of pride and personal responsibility in the community. Since that uplifting day, I am pleased to say that the Black community has made great strides in achieving the goals of the Million Man March, and honor that effort as we continue to strive for social and economic progress for all.

It was most inspiring to hear many prominent leaders encourage and empower husbands, fathers and sons all across the nation to "go back home" and reclaim prosperity and success for their lives, families and communities. Following the March, an impressive 1.7 million Black men registered to vote and many became more active in promoting civil rights. Since then, we have a larger middle class, more college graduates, and more Blacks are holding political offices. Our two-term President Barack Obama is a testament to how far we have come.

While I am proud of what the Black community has accomplished, there is much more to be done. Blacks still face crippling obstacles that make it difficult for them to remain in or join the middle class. At 12.6 percent, the unemployment rate for Black men and women is disproportionately higher than that of the overall population. In addition, the median wealth

of Black households is 20 times less than that of non-Hispanic whites. Blacks are still trapped by poverty in urban neighborhoods plagued by drugs, crime and violence.

As we commemorate the 18th Anniversary of the Million Man March, the words and ideas conveyed on October 16, 1995, must continue to resonate among leaders and activists today. As a nation we look not at our differences, but at what we can do to uplift our communities and come together to take pride in all we have accomplished as we improve income equality, equal opportunity and the realization of the American Dream for everyone.

LAWRENCEBURG BABE RUTH BASEBALL TEAM SOUTHEAST REGIONAL CHAMPIONS

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the Tennessee Seventh Congressional District is home to many young talents. Whether in the music, technology, health care, or artistic communities, America's youth find success. I'm please today to rise and add one more group to the list of outstanding young talent: baseball players.

Led by coach David Weathers, the young men from Lawrenceburg left Babe Ruth Baseball League 13-year-old World Series as the Southeast Regional Champions. Dedicated to athletics, sportsmanship, and the great sport of baseball, these 13 young men represented Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, and the Southeast Region with great pride.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in celebrating the hard work, perseverance, and dedication of Ben Stagg, #43; Bradley Huckaba, #6; Clay Gambel, #9; Jacob Hallmark, #7; Jacob James, #10; Jacob Laws, #23; Jett Beasley, #1; Kendall Franklin, #88; Koltar Houser, #14; Lance Pope, #4; Ryan Weathers, #25; Sam Crane, #5 and Sawyer Turnbow, #18.

I join with their friends, parents, coaches, and supporters in celebrating their wonderful season.

AMERICAN HERO GETS A HOME: IN HONOR OF MARINE SERGEANT KEN KALISH

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American patriot on a day worth remembering. Today, the Dallas Builders Association joined Operation Finally Home, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, on their mission to honor and serve our wounded and disabled veterans and their families as they transition from combat to civilian life. Their mission today is to present Marine Sergeant Ken Kalish with the keys to a mortgage free, custom-built home in Grand Prairie, Texas as a way to thank him for his honorable sacrifice and selfless service to our country.

Sergeant Ken Kalish, born on December 11, 1988 in Independence, Missouri, grew up understanding the core of what it means to be

an American. Seeing his grandfather serve as an Army Ranger and his dad in the U.S. Navy, Ken always knew one day he would follow his family's legacy and join the ranks to serve his county. After graduating from Hutch High in 2007, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and reported shortly after to Camp Pendleton for boot camp.

After completing the necessary training, he joined the Combat Engineering battalion to serve overseas in Iraq. Following his first tour of duty, Ken returned stateside and trained as a dog handler to seek out IED (improvised explosive devices), also commonly referred to as

"roadside bombs." Specifically, Ken trained a black Labrador retriever named Flynn, and in October of 2010, Ken and Flynn deployed to Afghanistan to detect these destructive mine-like devices. With only 30 short days left on his second tour, Ken stepped on an IED a few moments after loading Flynn into the accompanying vehicle. Ken was severely wounded in the explosion.

Despite the difficulty, Ken refuses to allow his injuries to define his present and his future. In his words, "there's no point in being sad over this" but instead focus on "what I have to do next." His resiliency of spirit,

unending courage, and commitment to service over self make 24-year-old Ken a patriot and a hero. Men like Ken embody the best of America. He stands as a shining example to us all, and we owe him and his family our deepest gratitude.

Ken, thank you for your sacrifice to preserve and protect the freedoms we enjoy each and every day. Without your willingness to serve, we would not have the privilege to call America the land of the free and home of the brave. This newly built home could not go to anyone more deserving.

God Bless you and I salute you.