

The Hematites earned this distinction by going undefeated during the regular season, winning all nine games. Ishpeming also defeated Mancelona, West Iron County, Lake City, and Harbor Beach to advance to the state championship in Detroit. The Hematites earned their second consecutive championship by defeating the Detroit Loyola Bulldogs 22 to 12. This is the fourth championship earned by the Hematites in school history.

After facing adversity and challenging circumstances last year, the Hematites were able to overcome these daunting circumstances and win the Division 7 championship. I am proud that Ishpeming High School has been able to repeat their stellar performance. On behalf of the residents of Michigan's First Congressional District, I salute the team and its players: Dominic Suardini, Kyle Selmsner, Ozzie Hakkarinen, Tyrus Millimaki, Derek DeCaire, Thomas Finegan, Alex Briones, Noah Olgren, Bobby Zhulkie, Nick Comment, Nate Meyer, Adam Prisk, Dylan Giuchin, Halen Carello, Marcus Antilla, Ozzy Corp, Shawn Peterson, Matt Malone, Mitch Laurin, Jeffrey Matthews, Benjamin Hilliger, Luke Kuliu, Dylan Sundberg, Chandler Nault, Dan Thornton, Jordan Tounsignant, Christian Tounsignant, Isaac Olson, Jordan Burton, Nick Bertucci, David Simula, Joseph Nault, Jake Quayle, Andrew Bennett, Alec VanHorn, Cody Johnson, Devin Kent, Austin Hanninen, Gage Laitinen, Brandon Steve, Arnold Coffie, Hunter Schultz, and Fred Sidh.

Also to be commended are head coach Jeff Olson, assistant coaches Scott Syrjala, Brad Waters, and Tony Marietti, the dedicated parents and all who made the long days of training and travel possible, Ishpeming High School, and the city of Ishpeming on winning the championship for a second consecutive year. Their hard work and determination stand as examples for all citizens of Northern Michigan.

THE PRIMITIVE QUARTET

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize six outstanding constituents who together form the vocal ensemble the Primitive Quartet. The Primitive Quartet is a gospel music group formed by two sets of brothers in 1973.

The quartet is currently comprised of Reagan, Larry and Mike Riddle; Norman Wilson; Randy Fox; and Jeff Tolbert. Together they play over 150 shows per year spanning more than 50,000 miles. The Primitive Quartet's contributions to blue grass and gospel music in Buncombe County span forty years. To celebrate this anniversary, the Board of Commissioners in Buncombe County, North Carolina, proclaimed October 12, 2013 to be "Primitive Quartet Day".

The Quartet's commitment to excellence and passion for spreading the Gospel should be commended. As such, I am proud to honor the Primitive Quartet and its members, both past and present.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF CHAD PREGRACKE

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chad Pregracke of East Moline, Illinois, who was recently named CNN's "Hero of the Year."

Chad grew up in the Quad-Cities, only 15 feet from the Mississippi River. He spent his free time on the river with his family and worked as a shell diver and fisherman during summer breaks, where he was struck by the amount of waste and debris he saw on the river. In 1998, when Chad was 23, he founded Living Lands & Waters to clean up and support the nation's waterways. Over the last 15 years, Chad has worked with 70,000 volunteers to remove 7 million pounds of debris from rivers all over the country. Additionally, Living Lands & Waters organizes floating classrooms, bringing high school students to rivers and teaching them about the importance of river ecosystems and the damage pollution causes. They are also halfway through their goal of planting one million trees along Midwestern rivers.

Chad Pregracke has received many awards for his work, notably the Jefferson Award in 2002, which was created to be an American Nobel Prize for community and public service. In 2011, Chad was recognized as a Service Hero and invited to speak to all four living ex-U.S. Presidents at the Points of Light Tribute in Washington, D.C. He was chosen CNN's "Hero of the Year" this November by a public vote, winning a \$250,000 award for Living Lands & Waters to continue its important work. Chad has also pledged a portion of his prize to the other people in CNN's "Hero of the Year" top ten to support their worthy programs.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Chad Pregracke for his extraordinary work in our community and across the country, and I am proud that Illinois celebrated Chad Pregracke Day this December 1st.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on November 20, 2013, I was absent from the House and missed rollcall vote 597.

Had I been present for rollcall vote 597, on agreeing to the Amendment offered by Representative POLIS to H.R. 1965, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING JOSE ORTEGA ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Jose Ortega on his retirement and

to congratulate him on a career spanning 40 years of both military and federal civil service.

Mr. Ortega's service began in September 1972 with the United States Army. After 20 years of exemplary active duty military service, Mr. Ortega continued making contributions to this country's defense with an additional 20 years in support of the Department of the Army as a civilian employee. As an Information Technology expert for the Department of Defense, Mr. Ortega has been dedicated to supporting several highly complex programs that will have a lasting impact on the readiness of the Army.

In his final assignment as Technical Director for the Product Director of Enterprise Email, Mr. Ortega provided acquisition oversight of Enterprise Email, the Army's number-one IT initiative. Enterprise Email is a service that provides cloud-based email to the Department of Defense. While allowing agencies to share information easily and effectively, Enterprise Email also reduces the cost of operations and maintenance. During Mr. Ortega's two years as Technical Director, the Army successfully migrated over 1.6 million classified and unclassified users from legacy email systems to the Department of Defense Enterprise Email service. Mr. Ortega has played an instrumental role in keeping the operations of DoD agencies secure and is recognized not only for overcoming obstacles and setting specific objectives in his work, but also for displaying exceptional character and serving as a mentor to others. In recognition of his many accomplishments, I am pleased to say that Mr. Ortega has been recommended for the Superior Civilian Service Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Jose Ortega for his dedication and service. I also thank his family—his wife Sharon and son William—for their support and sacrifices, which have enabled Jose to contribute so greatly to our country.

RECOGNIZING PUEBLO OF ACOMA CODE TALKERS

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, November is Native American Heritage Month, and I rise today to honor the many contributions that Native Americans have made—and continue to make—to our nation's proud history and culture.

Earlier today, we awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to 25 tribes whose members served as Code Talkers during World War I and World War II, including the Pueblo of Acoma, which is one of 22 Native American tribes that call New Mexico home.

The Pueblo of Acoma has been in existence for over 800 years and their original village, known as "Sky City," sits atop a breathtaking mesa west of Albuquerque. To commemorate the Pueblo of Acoma's service, the United States Mint has produced a specially-designed gold coin. One side depicts Code Talkers carrying out communications tasks, while the other side features the Pueblo of Acoma flag.

The Code Talkers proudly served our country with great honor and distinction. They

transmitted vital information during some of the most dangerous battles, including every assault the Marines conducted in the Pacific from 1942 to 1945. Major Howard Connor, 5th Marine Division signal officer, had six code talkers working around-the-clock during the first two days of the Battle of Iwo Jima. He said if it weren't for the Code Talkers, "the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima." Without the Code Talkers, the World Wars would have lasted longer and America would have suffered many more casualties.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that the Pueblo of Acoma and the other Code Talker tribes are officially getting the thanks and recognition they deserve from a very grateful nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF PEDRO
GONZALEZ

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Pedro Gonzalez, the mayor of South San Francisco, for his twelve years of service on the city council. Pedro has been a tireless advocate to improve the quality of life for all residents of South San Francisco where he has lived for 43 years. I am honored to call him a colleague and dear friend.

His proudest accomplishment during his tenure on the city council was to help establish ferry service to South San Francisco. The modern, state of the art terminal opened the doors to faster and scenic commutes for Bay Area residents and visitors. Additionally, Pedro played an active role in long list of projects, including the BART Linear Park master plan, the expansions of the Community Learning Center and the pre-school program in Westborough Park, the implementation of the loan art program at Orange Memorial Park, the development of a 100 space child care facility, the Oyster Point overcrossing and hook ramp project, the Terrabay sound wall design project, the Lindenville-Colma Creek rehabilitation project, the adoption of a green food packaging ordinance, and the implementations of a neighborhood response team and a BLS ambulance service.

From this incomplete list of accomplishments you can see Pedro's love for the outdoors and parks. He started his public service on the Parks and Recreation Commission in 1987. He served as the chairman in 1992 and continued to be on the commission until 1995. He was instrumental in the expansion and renovation of Bur i Bur i Park, the development of a master plan for all recreational facilities in South City and the renovation and improvements of Orange Memorial Park.

Pedro came to the United States from Mexico in 1954. While living in Los Angeles, he became a U.S. citizen in 1967. Three years later he moved to South San Francisco. He worked in the meat business and managed a music store in San Francisco until he retired in 1996.

Pedro is deeply woven into the fabric of South San Francisco. You will see him at every official or social function, be it the ribbon cutting for the ferry terminal, the grand opening of the South San Francisco BART station or the Chestnut Creek senior housing facility,

the ground breaking of the Gateway YMCA child care facility, Concert in the Park, Bay Trail Clean Up or the Centennial celebrations in 2008. No matter where he goes, he listens to residents looking for ways to help—always with a soft smile and a twinkle in his eyes. You will be hard pressed to find an elected official who takes his responsibilities as seriously as Pedro does.

He has supported countless local programs such as the Grand Avenue Library Leery Appender, a Spanish-language story time, League of Women Voter Spanish language ballot workshops, Youth Government Day, the 50th anniversary of the Boys and Girls Club of North San Mateo County, and the South San Francisco School District Positive Attendance Campaign. He even hosted his own show on PEN TV titled *El Mundo Latino de Pedro Gonzalez*.

Pedro has been married to his wife Eldie for 55 years. They raised their three children, Prudencia, Silverio and Sara, in South San Francisco.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Pedro Gonzalez for his outstanding service and his lasting contributions to the city of South San Francisco. In his well deserved retirement, I have no doubt that residents will continue to see him at many official and social events, and to hold him closely in their hearts.

ON THE PASSING OF CHRIS
BATTLE

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness to remember my good friend Chris Battle, who passed away on August 8, 2013, at the age of 45 after a four-year battle with kidney cancer.

Chris received both his bachelor's degree and his master's degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. After a short stint as a reporter for the Northwest Arkansas Times, he served as Deputy Chief of Staff and Communications Director for then-Representative Asa Hutchinson for nearly four years. He went on to manage the editorial page of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, our state's most-read newspaper. During the George W. Bush Administration, he held public affairs and management positions at the Drug Enforcement Administration and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. He returned to Arkansas to manage a gubernatorial campaign, and then became a Partner at Adfero Group in Washington, DC, where he continued to work after being diagnosed with cancer.

I first met Chris and his wife, Dena, when I was working as staff on Capitol Hill. Chris was a funny, brilliant, thoughtful and caring friend who impacted the lives of many for the better.

I have fond memories of spending time with Chris and Dena in both Washington, DC, and Little Rock. Chris is missed. Rest in peace, Chris.

Along with Dena, Chris wrote about his struggle with cancer on a blog called "The Kidney Cancer Chronicles." Chris was funny and reflective, and he wrote about his love for his family, Dena and daughters, Kate and Josie.

Those that knew Chris or read his blogs will tell you he was an intelligent and thoughtful human being. An incredible writer, he turned some of his darkest hours into encouragement for others also suffering from this deadly disease.

In February, Chris recounted how his situation had taken a turn for the better, all things considered, writing: "Never give up, never lose faith. I can't know whether this reprieve will last, but, given this new life, I plan to embrace it while it does."

Chris embraced life with vigor, even as his faded. As our thoughts and prayers remain with the loved ones he left behind, let us always remember the example that he set and keep his words close in our hearts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, on December 2, 2013, I missed rollcall votes No. 612–614. My flight to Washington was delayed due to mechanical difficulties. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall No. 612: "aye";
Rollcall No. 613: "aye";
Rollcall No. 614: "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, December 2, I missed a series of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on No. 612 and No. 613. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote No. 614.

RECOGNIZING BOB DREWEL ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Bob Drewel, long-time civic, community and education leader in the Puget Sound region, on his retirement after over 20 years of public service.

From his most recent tenure as Executive Director of the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), and his more than twelve years as Snohomish County Executive, Bob's leadership and reputation serve as a model for all those who wish to pursue a career in civic service.

During his time at the PSRC, Bob effectively worked to build partnerships between the private and public sectors and is well known for his leadership in promoting regional solutions to the many challenges facing western Washington. While at the helm of the PSRC, Bob