

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MERCER COUNTY GOLDEN EAGLES FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by the Mercer County Golden Eagles against the Alhoff Crusaders in the 2A Illinois state football championship game this past month.

The game was a defensive battle with both sides tied at 7 in the second half. During the third quarter Mercer County linebacker Devin Morford recovered a fumble at his own five yard line, and returned it 95 yards for the game winning touchdown. It was the type of moment that seemed as if it was straight from a movie!

I congratulate the Golden Eagles for winning the Illinois 2A state championship. This hard fought victory by Mercer County gives the school its fourth state title. The school and the entire community should be very proud to see such a hard earned trophy added to their case.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Mercer County football team, both on and off the field, and I am honored to salute them today.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT ALEX BARRETT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alex Barrett of Boy Scout Troop 188 in Ankeny, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. For his project, Alex constructed and installed duck nesting platforms at the Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt in Polk County. The work ethic Alex has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Alex and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him on obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

A TRIBUTE TO KENTUCKY RIGHT TO LIFE

HON. GARLAND “ANDY” BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to recognize my friends and members of the Kentucky Right to Life Association, who in 2013 will celebrate 40 years of nobly and steadfastly defending the rights of all human life, born and unborn, young and old, regardless of ability or disability.

The Kentucky Right to Life Association came together 40 years ago in response to the 1973 Roe vs. Wade U.S. Supreme Court decision which disregarded the ethical traditions of countless Americans by superseding the traditional prerogative of states and local communities to protect life. Today, the Kentucky Right to Life Association is comprised of thousands of individuals working together to restore the law to protect the lives of the unborn and the most vulnerable among us, and to uphold the belief that every human being has a right to live—a belief that I strongly share. Right to Life is comprised of individuals of different faiths, political beliefs, and backgrounds, all united in one purpose. Their special union sets a strong example of organizational leadership for other movements and causes of moral consequence.

Today, I congratulate my friends with the Kentucky Right to Life Association for their 40 years of leadership on this, the most consequential moral issue of our time. I also would like to personally welcome those members joining me in Washington, DC this Friday, January 25, 2013, to participate in the annual March for Life on the National Mall. I hold each and every one of you in the highest regard and firmly stand behind you in this great endeavor.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JAMES HOOD: A CIVIL RIGHTS PIONEER

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the life and legacy of Dr. James Hood, one of the first African-Americans to attend The University of Alabama, who passed away Thursday, January 17 at the age of 70. Dr. Hood was a trailblazer in the quest for civil rights and equality. I am deeply saddened by his passing but I am comforted in knowing that his legacy will live on.

Dr. Hood was born on November 10, 1942 in Gadsden, Alabama. He attended Gadsden public schools and he enrolled at the University of Alabama in 1963.

On June 11, 1963, Dr. Hood along with fellow student Vivian Malone attempted to enroll at the University of Alabama. Upon his arrival to the Tuscaloosa campus, then Alabama Governor George Wallace physically blocked Dr. Hood from entering Foster Auditorium to register for classes. As the world watched,

Gov. Wallace's efforts to block Dr. Hood and Ms. Malone were recorded in our Nation's history as “The Stand in the Schoolhouse Door.” Later that day, Dr. Hood, with the support of a federal court order and members of the Alabama National Guard, was eventually allowed to register for classes and pursue his degree.

However, despite his bravery and courage, Dr. Hood's time as a student at the University of Alabama was short. On August 11, 1963, Dr. Hood left the University after numerous threats and constant harassment. He would later return to the University of Alabama in 1997 to obtain a doctorate in interdisciplinary studies.

After his short time at the University of Alabama, Dr. Hood went on to obtain a bachelor's degree from Wayne State University and a master's degree from Michigan State. Dr. Hood also studied at the University of London. He later served as deputy police chief in Detroit and as a chairman of the police science program at the Madison Area Technical College in Wisconsin before retiring in 2002. During his extraordinary life, Dr. Hood was also a devoted father to five children and nine grandchildren.

Today, as we mourn the passing of this American hero, we are reminded of his sacrifices for our Nation. Dr. Hood's courage was a testament to his commitment to education and equality. On behalf of a grateful Nation, we honor Dr. Hood's personal sacrifices and commit to sharing his story with future generations.

Today, “The Stand in the Schoolhouse Door” is remembered as a pivotal moment in the Civil Rights Movement. Dr. Hood's quest for educational equality served as a catalyst for the opportunities that many of us enjoy today. As a benefactor of Dr. Hood's contributions, I am humbled by this opportunity to further solidify his place in American history. As the first African-American woman elected to Congress from the state of Alabama, I know that my journey would not be possible without the contributions of foot soldiers like Dr. Hood. Let his life serve as a testament to the courage and strength of one individual's ability to change the trajectory of our Nation. On behalf of the 7th Congressional District, the State of Alabama and this Nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Dr. James Hood.

RECOGNIZING MRS. PURA DELGADO ANDINO

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Pura Delgado Andino, a shining example of leadership and inspiration to us all. Mrs. Delgado's distinguished career in community advocacy deserves our acknowledgement.

Mrs. Delgado was born in Yabucoa, Puerto Rico on February 2, 1931. At age sixteen, she moved from Puerto Rico to New York. There Mrs. Delgado met her late husband, Jose Caraballo, and became a mother to two wonderful children.

In 1967, Mrs. Delgado moved to Connecticut, where her lasting commitment to civic

engagement and community participation began. Mrs. Delgado was instrumental in the creation of the Hill Health Center for Children and Youth at Yale University. Recognizing the need for a youth-oriented and minority-focused health care center, Mrs. Delgado obtained a grant to better serve these children and her community. Because of her leadership on this issue, Mrs. Delgado served as Health Education Assistant to the Center's Director.

Working alongside the Dean of the Yale School of Medicine, Mrs. Delgado helped guide the school's implementation of its affirmative action program. At the time, affirmative action policies were often limited to African American students, but Mrs. Delgado encouraged the school to extend their efforts to other minority communities, such as Puerto Ricans and Mexicans. Thanks to Mrs. Delgado's involvement, the school graduated twenty-five minority students. One of these students who went on to serve his community is the Honorable Judge Wilfredo Martinez of Orlando, Florida.

Drawing again on her intimate knowledge of the community and innate ability to express its needs, Mrs. Delgado obtained another grant to begin operation of the Fair Haven Health Clinic. This clinic recently celebrated its forty-third anniversary.

Though Mrs. Delgado retired at age seventy-two, her record of accomplishments in the physical and mental health areas remains impressive. She has served on a variety of public service and community advisory boards, including on the Board for Progressive Action, which aimed to empower low-income communities through education, counseling, and occupational training.

In 1991 Mrs. Delgado relocated to Irma Shores Lake in Orlando, Florida, where she began several small businesses and became an active member of the community. Mrs. Delgado served as a Regional Field Operator for President Bill Clinton in 1996 and helped coin the term "I-4 Corridor".

Mrs. Delgado is a proud member of the Asociación Borinqueña de la Florida Central and currently serves as Vice Chair for the Black-Latino and Puerto Rican Alliance for Justice of Florida.

Please join me in recognizing Mrs. Delgado's lifetime of civic achievement and community involvement.

HONORING MONA REIS

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mona Reis, a courageous advocate for women's reproductive freedom. Ms. Reis runs the Presidential Women's Center in West Palm Beach, Florida which has provided quality individualized health care for thousands of women since its founding in 1980. Without this exceptional resource, many women in South Florida would go without needed wellness and reproductive health care services.

Today, as we commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision, which affirmed a woman's right to reproductive choice, I thank Mona Reis

for her compassionate, dedicated, and unrelenting pursuit of women's reproductive freedom.

THE DEDICATION OF A MONUMENT HONORING NAVY SEAL AARON VAUGHN

HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Navy SEAL Aaron Vaughn, whose memory was recently honored by a monument being dedicated in tribute to his service and sacrifice at the Sailfish Splash Water Park in Stuart, Florida.

It is most appropriate that the memorial is located at the Sailfish Splash Water Park. As Aaron's mother, Karen Vaughn, described at the memorial service, it is "most fitting since inside those gates there will always be living, breathing representations of the things Aaron held most dear—love, laughter, family, friends and fun."

Aaron Vaughn grew up in Florida's 18th Congressional district, where he attended Martin County High School and was a member of the football team. Aaron then received his Associate's Degree from Indian River State College, studying turf grass science. Aaron later enlisted in the Navy and became a member of the elite Navy SEALs.

Aaron bravely served as a Navy SEAL, a lifelong dream of his. Aaron's father, Billy Vaughn, said that "the commander of SEAL Team Six said he was a fearless leader who was headed to the top." In August 2011, Aaron lost his life when his helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, Aaron Vaughn dedicated his life to this country and I am proud that the city of Stuart has recognized his service by dedicating this memorial in his honor. It is truly humbling to recognize his life and his great service to our country here today.

THE INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 12, THE VOTER EMPOWERMENT ACT

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Voter Empowerment Act.

I am proud to be joined by my friends and colleagues—the Gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), the Gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the Gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY), the Gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), and over 160 of our Democratic colleagues in sponsoring this landmark legislation. Our good friend, Senator GILLIBRAND, is also introducing the companion to the Voter Empowerment Act in the Senate.

Today, January 23rd marks the 49th anniversary of the 24th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. This is the amendment which ended poll taxes, a tool used to undermine the right to vote for millions of African Americans. On this day, we must recommit ourselves in

mind, body, and spirit to fight both overt and covert impediments to the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democratic society.

The right to vote is precious, almost sacred, yet millions of Americans are still not registered to vote. How can we continue to be global leaders in promoting democratic values and principles, when so many citizens still face barriers to participating in an electoral democracy?

When my colleagues and I introduced this legislation last year, we urged prompt action to ensure access, accountability, and integrity in our nation's electoral system. Last November, we all watched aghast as Americans stood in line for hours on end determined to cast their vote. Some were able to weather the difficulties, while others were forced to give up. Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable. Earlier this week, the President stated in his inaugural address that, "Our journey is not complete until no citizen is forced to wait for hours to exercise the right to vote."

The Voter Empowerment Act responds to that call to action with a plan. H.R. 12 modernizes the voter registration system in this nation. It helps voters with disabilities, members of the military and young people to fully access their right to vote and to have their vote counted.

The VEA also restores the integrity of the voting system, by providing well-informed, well-trained poll workers who know the law, and ensuring that election officials don't have a vested interest in the outcome of political campaigns. This bill protects voters from deceptive practices and intimidation and prohibits voter caging, and will ensure that every vote is counted. H.R. 12 creates a national hotline so that problems are reported, corrected and prevented in real time, and it reauthorizes the Election Assistance Commission, the only agency with election administration expertise, to ensure the highest standards are being met nationwide.

People sacrificed their lives for this precious right. We have a duty to honor this legacy and the lives that were lost by ensuring this sacred right. We must all come together to guarantee open, fair, free access to democracy in our great country. I hope that each and every one of my colleagues will join me in support of this landmark legislation.

THE INTRODUCTION OF CENTER TO ADVANCE, MONITOR, AND PRESERVE UNIVERSITY SECURITY ACT OF 2013

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Center to Advance, Monitor and Preserve University Security ("CAMPUS") Safety Act of 2013. The CAMPUS Safety Act previously passed the House of Representatives by voice vote as a standalone bill in the 110th and 111th Congresses and was included in the House-passed versions of the College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2008 in the 110th Congress and the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2012 in the 112th Congress. It is my hope that the CAMPUS Safety Act will be signed into law during the 113th Congress.