

HONORING THE KENTUCKY HEADHUNTERS

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, what began in 1968 as family members joining together to play in an old house on their farm in Metcalfe County, Kentucky, eventually grew to become the Grammy-winning group, the Kentucky Headhunters.

Recognized by the Country Music Association, Academy of Country Music, and American Music Awards, the Kentucky Headhunters share elite company with other legends such as Bill Monroe, The Everly Brothers, and Loretta Lynn in the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame.

Like several other leading bands, the road to success for this small-town group was paved with various stumbling blocks and changes in course, but eventually they found their way and in doing so established their own brand of music.

In honor of this journey, quite fittingly, new signage will be unveiled today proclaiming Highway 640 in Metcalfe County "The Kentucky Headhunter Highway."

Also, in conjunction with this, Metcalfe County Judge Executive Greg Wilson and Mayor Howard Garrett will sign a proclamation declaring today "Kentucky Headhunter Day" in Edmonton/Metcalfe County.

As business owners and residents throughout this community come together to celebrate this occasion, I too wish to recognize the accomplishments of band members Richard Young, Fred Young, Greg Martin, and Doug Phelps.

Forty-five years after first assembling in that farmhouse in rural Metcalfe County, a permanent marker will now stand to remind travelers of the road to success for this enduring band. May it also seek to inspire others to follow their dreams and never give up on their own pursuits.

NOW THERE ARE FIVE TEAMS FROM VANDALIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL CALLED CHAMPIONS

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, Vandalia Christian School in Greensboro, North Carolina, wrapped up its spring sports season with two more championships—girls soccer and boys baseball. I say two more because this past fall, Vandalia Christian won State championships in boy's basketball, boy's soccer, and cheerleading. It is a year unlike any other, five championships for one school from the Sixth District of North Carolina.

The boy's baseball team finished the regular season with an impressive 15-game-winning streak. This was the first time in school history that the boys won championships in soccer, basketball, and baseball in the same school year. A ton of credit can be given to VCS triple threat athlete, Houston Miller, who was a part of all three championship squads and

pitched for the Vikings throughout the season. On May 10, Vandalia defeated Wilson Christian, 8–3, for the championship. This was the boy's baseball second championship in the past two years under Coach Luke Oates. Those who assisted Coach Oates included Assistant/Pitching Coach Ryan Nelson, Statistician Alyce Lentz, and Bookkeeper Laura Joyce. The team roster include the aforementioned Houston Miller, Michael Matthews, Nathaniel Hobbs, Josh McClellan, James Waggoner, Jasper White, Noah Joyce, Ethan Willis, Brayden McMillan, Jordan Mitchell; Bryson Gordon, Jacob Cable, Hunter Miller, Tyler Crook, Matt Hobbs, Henderson Lentz, and Rex Atkins.

On May 11, the Vandalia girls won the State soccer crown with their win over Wilmington Christian after the game came down to a series of penalty kicks (PKs). Katelyn Roop scored in regulation for the Vikings, while Allison Garner, Sydney Mitchell, and Laurie Powell scored the penalty kicks. The Vikings went three for four in PKs while VCS goalie Makayla Miller stopped three of four PKs by Wilmington Christian. The team was led by Head Coach Bobby Kaiser and Assistant Kristen Kaiser. The championship squad includes Katie Talkington, Laurie Powell, Melissa Pando, Ashley Pollard, Sydney Mitchell, Cristan Lewis, Abby Pack, Addy Hargett, Rene Burton, Lauren Chestnutt, Kalie Hazelwood, Elizabeth Fondow, Courtney Wood, Kara Smith, Whitney Dickens, Jill Georgevich, Allison Garner, Madison Ellis, Katie White, Makayla Miller, and Katelyn Roop.

Everyone who calls themselves a Viking should be rightfully proud of the five State championships this year. Congratulations to Principal Jeremy Cordova, Athletic Director Luke Oates, the faculty, staff, students, and particularly, the athletes of Vandalia for winning five sports crowns this year. The citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina are proud to say that we are the home of the champions from Vandalia Christian School.

HONORING CHAIM WEIZMANN

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man with considerable ties to the 8th District of Indiana and the first President of the State of Israel, Chaim Weizmann.

Weizmann was born in Poland in 1874 and became an accomplished chemist. While lecturing in England in 1916 he was asked by Winston Churchill to help Britain meet its acetone shortage.

In an effort to meet this request, Weizmann created a new process of acetone production through the fermentation process, which came to be known as the Weizmann Process and greatly outpaced previous production processes. As a physician with a strong background in organic chemistry, I can appreciate this work.

This breakthrough led to the issuance of U.S. Patent on the Weizmann Process, and in 1917 Weizmann established his first U.S. acetone plant on the Wabash River in Terre Haute, Indiana, a city in my home district.

The profits from his Terre Haute plant, Commercial Solvents Corporation, ultimately aided

Weizmann in realizing his dream of establishing the State of Israel.

I am glad to honor President Weizmann for his contributions to the establishment of the State of Israel and to the 8th Congressional District of Indiana.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY CIPOLETTI

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nancy Cipoletti for her twenty-two years serving thousands of West Virginia families affected by Alzheimer's disease through outreach and support programs.

Nancy Cipoletti began her work with the Alzheimer's Association as Executive Director of the Southern West Virginia Chapter before becoming Program Director for the merged statewide chapter. Currently, Nancy works with Alzheimer's families as Director of Alzheimer's Programs for the West Virginia Bureau of Senior Services, where she manages and monitors the Family Alzheimer's In-Home Respite (FAIR) Program and Title III-E of the Family Caregiver Support Act.

In addition, Nancy serves on the Advisory Council of the West Virginia Partnership for Elder Living as well as the Direct Care Worker Curriculum Work Group, which developed a standardized curriculum and certification process for in-home direct care workers. As a part of the Alzheimer's Association's Make-A-Plan Subcommittee on Care Systems, Nancy helped develop West Virginia's Alzheimer's State Plan in 2011.

On May 23, Nancy Cipoletti will receive the 2013 Rockefeller Award for her outstanding support and dedication to the cause of Alzheimer's disease in West Virginia. Nancy is truly deserving of such an honor, as thousands of West Virginia Alzheimer's families have her to thank for support coping and fighting this awful disease.

Nancy lives in Charleston with her husband of forty-six years, Jack Cipoletti. Together they have two sons, Jay and Chad, and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, the State of West Virginia owes Nancy Cipoletti a debt of gratitude for her many years of working with, and caring for, Alzheimer's families.

ADVOCATING FOR AMERICAN JACOB OSTREICHER'S FREEDOM AFTER TWO YEARS IN BOLIVIAN DETENTION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, I chaired a hearing of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations that pressed for the immediate freedom and repatriation of Mr. Jacob Ostreicher, a U.S. citizen from Brooklyn, New York, who has been detained in Bolivia for 720 days. I especially

want thank our distinguished witness who testified at that hearing, Mr. Sean Penn, for taking time out of his very busy schedule to testify before the subcommittee.

The human rights subcommittee that I chair held two hearings in the 112th Congress on Mr. Ostreicher's case, one in June and the second in August 2012. The witnesses included Mr. Ostreicher's wife, Miriam Ungar, his daughter, Chaya Weinberger, Steve Moore, a retired FBI agent who investigated Mr. Ostreicher's case on a pro bono basis, and Mr. Ostreicher's two Bolivian attorneys, Mr. Yimy Montañano and Mr. Jerjes Justiniano—who are not only extraordinarily effective and competent defense lawyers, but brave as well.

The record—including their testimonies—established that Mr. Ostreicher is innocent, and is the victim of an elaborate, high-level government extortion ring that has fleeced approximately \$27 million worth of assets from the rice operation that he had been managing.

It's time Jacob came home to his wife and family and friends. Basic justice and humanitarianism—Jacob is very ill—adds to the urgency that he be freed.

In one sense, a lot has happened since the hearing last August. Tragically, Mr. Ostreicher has developed the symptoms of Parkinson's Disease, likely due to the sustained, severe stress to which he has been subjected.

Immediately following meetings that I had with Bolivian officials in La Paz last June, including Carlos Romero, Minister of Government, Bolivia started to investigate whether Mr. Ostreicher was the victim of extortion. A total of 27 prosecutors, judges, and officials responsible for confiscated goods who were involved in Mr. Ostreicher's case have now had charges made against them. Currently, 13 of them are in the Palmasola prison, 9 are under house arrest, and 5 are fugitives.

One of those in prison, Fernando Rivera, is a Ministry of Government adviser who I personally witnessed threaten the judge presiding at one of Mr. Ostreicher's hearings in a Santa Cruz court room. Mr. Rivera recently apologized to Mr. Ostreicher during a bail hearing, claiming that he was only following orders from then-Minister of Government Sacha Llorenti. In one of the many bizarre twists to this story, Mr. Llorenti is now the Bolivian representative to the United Nations, living in New York, just a few miles from Mr. Ostreicher's home.

I traveled for a second time to Bolivia in early December, this time with Representative NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, to visit Mr. Ostreicher and again to press Bolivian officials to either produce the evidence that he has committed a crime or free him. High level officials assured us that Mr. Ostreicher's case would proceed fairly and expeditiously now that the extortion network was being exposed. Some officials even admitted to us privately that they believed Mr. Ostreicher is innocent.

Mr. Penn became involved in the case in October, and was instrumental in obtaining medical care for Mr. Ostreicher and for helping to secure his release from the Palmasola prison to house arrest on December 18th. With Mr. Penn's personal intervention with President Morales and with Mr. Penn in the court room, all of us hoped that Jacob would be at long last released and vindicated at a hearing in December. Inexplicably, that didn't happen.

The State Department references Mr. Ostreicher's case in its 2012 Country Reports

on Human Rights Practices for Bolivia, and notes the arrest of government officials and the stolen assets as part of its section on "arbitrary arrest or detention."

However, in another sense, the most important aspects of the case have not changed. Mr. Jacob Ostreicher is still in the custody of the Government of Bolivia. On June 4th, it will be two years since he was imprisoned. Bolivian officials are employing delay tactics and giving excuses for his continued detention that we have heard before. No evidence whatsoever has been presented to indicate that Mr. Ostreicher is guilty of any crime. And there is no sign of the \$27 million in assets from his rice operation that were confiscated. Perhaps this last fact is the real reason why Mr. Ostreicher still is not home with his family in the United States.

Recently, there have been reports from credible sources that there is another "security threat" to Mr. Ostreicher's safety. These followed the sudden removal of Bolivian security officers from the parameter of Mr. Ostreicher's residence, the day after Mr. Rivera implicated the current Bolivian representative to the U.N. in the extortion case. As long as Mr. Ostreicher is forced to remain in Bolivia, the government is responsible for and must take all necessary measures to ensure his safety.

As a result of the continued injustice in Mr. Ostreicher's case, and also in response to the growing number of cases of Americans being detained abroad in violation of their human and due process rights, I together with Rep. VELÁZQUEZ have reintroduced the Justice for Imprisoned Americans Overseas Act, or "Jacob's Law." H.R. 1778 would deny visas to foreign government officials responsible for violating the human or due process rights of an American in their custody. The travel ban would also apply to the officials' immediate family members.

It is wrong for our government to give foreign officials and their families the privilege—and it is a privilege, not a right—to visit and study in the U.S. while those same officials are wrongfully detaining an American abroad.

While this bill works its way through the legislative process, my committee will continue to pursue every means possible to secure Mr. Ostreicher's safe return to his wife, children and grandchildren. And that is why we are holding this hearing.

President Morales is flying to Atlanta today for a meeting with former-President Jimmy Carter to ask for his assistance in negotiating land access through Chile to the Pacific Ocean.

While the Bolivian media is reporting on these events, I hope that they will also note that I am sending the former president the transcripts of the hearings that this subcommittee has held on the case of Jacob Ostreicher. I contacted the Carter Center earlier today to ask the former President Carter to intervene personally in Mr. Ostreicher's case. I was advised that Jacob's case is on the agenda today and would be raised.

It was very much a privilege to have Mr. Penn with us this week, not only because of the fame that he has rightly garnered through his Academy Award-winning acting, and not only because of the highly commendable assistance he is bringing to the suffering people in Haiti through the relief organization that he founded, but also because of the extraordinary assistance that he has provided to Mr.

Ostreicher, who he had never met and to whom he owed no obligation prior to being asked to assist with the case last fall. That assistance now includes joining us today to highlight Mr. Ostreicher's continued plight and to advocate for his freedom.

IN HONOR OF SHERRY POST

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, Sherry Post of the 8th Congressional District of Pennsylvania is an outstanding and enterprising businesswoman who created a successful company that manufactures nutritional supplements in the Borough of Hatfield. The company, Simple Brandz, was recently certified as a veteran-owned business through the United States Veterans Administration, which will assist in its further growth by expanding business opportunities. She is an 8-year Army veteran, who is recognized as a dynamic entrepreneur and recently received the 2013 Women of Influence Community Achievement Award in the Greater Lehigh Valley. We commend her for outstanding achievement and also her goal of providing manufacturing jobs for other veterans in the region. We congratulate Sherry Post for setting an example of professional excellence and advocacy of women in business, as well as her commitment to the greater community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF REVEREND O.C. STIGGERS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for the House's attention today to recognize Reverend O.C. Stiggers, who is retiring at the age of 85.

Pastor Stiggers was born in Chambers County, Alabama to the late John and Historia Williams Stiggers. Pastor Stiggers graduated from the Lanett School System. Afterwards, he attended the Columbus, Georgia branch of American Baptist Theological Seminary of Nashville, Tennessee. He also attended Moody's Bible College. He received his Doctorate of Divinity and his Doctorate of Laws.

Pastor Stiggers has served as the Executive Chair of the Western Union Missionary Baptist Association, as a member of the Board of Trustees of Mt. Calvary Baptist Association and a Dean of the Bryant Theological Seminary School in Hamilton, Georgia. Pastor Stiggers is also a former member of the Board of Trustees at Selma University in Selma, Alabama, and he is a former president of the Parent/Teachers Association.

Currently, Pastor Stiggers is a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Lanett, Alabama. He also serves as Pastor of Ozias Ministry Baptist Church and Eastside Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join Reverend Stiggers' friends, family, and congregation in wishing him the best after his retirement.