

Eight men's teams and four women's teams from across the country competed in the tournament.

In the women's finals, the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater team defeated the University of Alabama team 55–41 to become the 2013 Women's National Champions.

In the men's finals, the University of Alabama team came out victorious, defeating the University of Texas-Arlington 71–52 to become the 2013 Men's National Champions.

The wheelchair play on the Lakeshore basketball courts was every bit as intense as you would have seen during the NCAA's "Final Four." The lesson that athletes on each of the participating teams taught us about determination and overcoming obstacles made them all champions. The event brought great pride and honor to the State of Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the combined efforts of the achievements of all the players, coaches, and staff who contributed to the championship season and to congratulate Lakeshore Foundation and the University of Alabama for successfully hosting the 2013 National Intercollegiate Wheelchair Basketball Association Tournament. Under the leadership of President and Chief Executive Officer Jeff Underwood, the Lakeshore Foundation will continue to change the way we think about physical disabilities and challenge all of us to expand our horizons.

RECOGNIZING CHUCK HERSEY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Southeast Michigan's environmental leaders, Chuck Hersey, on the occasion of his retirement from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments after 35 years of dedicated service.

After graduating with a degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Michigan-Dearborn, Chuck joined SEMCOG in the spring of 1978 as a co-op research assistant. He was promptly hired full time to work on transportation planning, and was promoted to the position of Air Quality Planner in 1980. Since that time, Chuck has been intimately involved in our region's implementation strategy for meeting air quality goals. Over the course of many years, he has also worked tirelessly in the cause of improving water quality in Michigan.

SEMCOG was formed over 40 years ago to fill a vital need—to bring together distinct communities in Southeast Michigan, and provide a forum to help them plan and work together for the common good. The philosophy at the heart of SEMCOG is that the whole is sometimes greater than the sum of its parts, and that our region faces challenges we can only meet by working together.

Chuck's work on air pollution is a good example. Air pollution does not recognize political boundaries. You can't deal with ozone and particulate pollution unless you are able to look at pollution on a regional basis, and then develop strategies that both meet the health-based standards of the Clean Air Act and are achievable and cost-effective. This is precisely

the work that has occupied Chuck during his tenure at SEMCOG, whether it was his efforts behind the formation of a Southeast Michigan Ozone Strategy; his work on air quality attainment strategies; and his development of the Ozone Action! Program, which became a national model on air quality education.

I am also grateful for the work Chuck and SEMCOG have done to advance water quality improvements in Lake St. Clair, and, in particular, his efforts to advance the Lake St. Clair Strategic Implementation Plan.

Among his other accomplishments, Chuck holds a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Michigan. He is the devoted husband of Agnes, and father of Mathew and Angela. Chuck and Agnes have two grandchildren, Cameron and Giovanni.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chuck Hersey for his commitment to the citizens of Michigan as well as our state's precious environment.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,738,715,835,680.58. We've added \$6,111,838,786,767.50 to our debt in 4 and a half years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR FLIGHT OF OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 27 World War II veterans from Oregon who will be visiting their memorial this Saturday in Washington, DC through Honor Flight of Oregon. On behalf of a grateful State and country, we welcome these heroes to the nation's capital.

The veterans on this flight from Oregon are as follows: Albert G. Archer, U.S. Army; Edmund D. Fowler, U.S. Army; Wilbur "Wib" Hart, U.S. Army; Walter E. Koerschner, U.S. Army; Ernest J. Lathrop, U.S. Army; Elmer Lively, U.S. Army; Richard H. Young, U.S. Army; Milton F. Cook, U.S. Army Air Force; Ovie "Bob" Holman, U.S. Army Air Force; Brook "Hap" Lovell, U.S. Army Air Force; Clifford J. Larson, U.S. Air Force; James A. Curran, U.S. Navy; Marvin E. Haynie, U.S. Navy; Raymond Jones, U.S. Navy; Eugene L. Kern, U.S. Navy; Gordon L. Lentz, U.S. Navy; Robert W. Moore, U.S. Navy; Marshall P. Ramsey, U.S. Navy; William G. Rugh, U.S. Navy; Clarence L. Schick, U.S. Navy; Robert K. Schroth, U.S. Navy; Leslie O. Stinnett, U.S. Navy; Ralph L. Sweet, U.S. Navy; Olaf Tomlinson, U.S. Navy; Roy F. Wiese, U.S. Navy;

Anthony J. Kancier, U.S. Marine; Leo Manus, U.S. Merchant Marine.

These 27 heroes join more than 98,000 veterans from across the country who, since 2005, have journeyed from their home states to Washington, DC to reflect at the memorials built in honor of our nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country. I especially want to recognize and thank Gail Yakopatz for her tireless work as president of Honor Flight of Oregon.

PAY YOUR BILLS OR LOSE YOUR PAY ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, right now, all across this country, American families are looking at an average of \$15,000 of credit card debt. The average student loan debt is double that. I'm sure each and every one of those families would like the option of saying, "no thanks, I'm not interested in paying those bills." But they can't.

Americans don't get to skip out on repaying their debt without drastic consequences. Why should Congress get to play by separate rules?

When we talk about the debt ceiling, we're not talking about our spending habits or curbing our expenses; we're talking about fulfilling the promises we've already made. We can't debate our budget after we've received what we bought.

The last time we played chicken with the debt ceiling, we deeply hurt our credit standing in the world. And we don't have to guess why we were downgraded: Standard and Poors directly told us that was on account of the political circus the debate had become.

Luckily for us, America still enjoys one of the highest credit ratings in the world, but with continued turmoil and unnecessary, partisan wars over this, how long do we expect our lenders to hang on?

And why are we having this same, foolish fight? In the name of a so-called "debt crisis" that even Speaker BOEHNER and Budget Chair RYAN admitted isn't a crisis.

We're threatening vital services and sacrificing the security of our good national credit for a bogus threat, and all the while the real threat to our economy, anemic growth and persistent unemployment, still looms.

Americans are tired of phony disasters. They want real solutions. They are tired of political theatre. They want jobs. They are tired of a Congress that can't do anything but bicker and point fingers. They want their representatives to get to work.

To default on our debts would be more than irresponsible, it would send us down a path to

becoming a banana republic. We are not a nation of deadbeats and delinquents. We pay our bills or we suffer dire consequences.

If we in Congress won't do our job, we shouldn't get paid.

RECOGNIZING MS. ANTOINETTE "TONI" J. PAULINE ON THE OCCASION OF HER 75TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Antoinette "Toni" Jones Pauline on the occasion of her 75th birthday. An outstanding educator, mother, and grandmother, I am truly blessed to be able to count Toni among my dearest friends. Throughout the years, she always has been a great source of motivation and inspiration to me, and exemplifies what it means to serve the community.

Toni was born in Gainesville, Florida to Allen Quinn Jones, Jr. and Glovine. She spent her early childhood in Gainesville before moving to Fernandina Beach, where she attended Peck High School and was a majorette. Following her graduation from Peck High School in 1956, Toni went on to continue her education at my alma mater, Florida A&M University, and then Nova Southeastern University, where she graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Library Science and a Master's degree in Media Science, respectively.

With a love for education, Toni began her career in the Florida public school system as a librarian at Bradenton Elementary. She continued working at various libraries in schools throughout Broward County, including Chester A. Moore Elementary and Dillard High School. Wanting to do more to help those who are underrepresented and underserved, Toni found work with both the State of Florida and Broward County to improve migrant education. For nearly seven years, she dedicated her time to working with migrant camps in communities all across the State. Toni then returned to the Broward County Public Library System, where she spent the latter years of her career as the Head Reference Librarian at the Pompano Branch Library.

After over 43 years of public service, Toni now fills her days spending time with her granddaughter and volunteering in her community. She is also a lifelong member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Toni's 75th birthday, I would like to wish her and her entire family all the very best.

IN HONOR OF BERNARD ALGENON CATCHINGS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a great man and outstanding citizen of Camilla, Georgia, Bernard Algenon Catchings. Mr. Catchings

passed away on May 22, 2013. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 15, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. at St. Peter AME Church in Camilla, Georgia.

Born on January 19, 1915 to the late Timothy and Alice Catchings of Camilla, Georgia, Bernard Catchings was the fourteenth of sixteen children. He was educated at the Catchings Family School, a school his father built on the family's farm, and graduated from Mitchell County Training School in Pelham, Georgia. He later earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture from Fort Valley State College in 1946. In the intervening time, he proudly served his country as a Medical Technical in World War II and was honorably discharged in 1944. Mr. Catchings obtained his Master's Degree in Horticulture from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

Mr. Catchings' passion for education persisted during his professional career as a teacher in the school systems of Mitchell and Baker Counties in Georgia as well as in the Jackson County School System in Florida. He taught Math, Science, Agriculture, Shop, and Driver's Education classes. He continued to touch the lives of young people by substitute teaching at Mitchell Baker High School upon retiring after 40 years as an educator.

Other employment ventures led him to serving as a Florida Frozen Fruits and Vegetable Inspector, World Book Encyclopedia Sales Representative, Farm Bureau Co-Op, and an Angler Watcher with the Department of Natural Resources.

A favorite pastime of Mr. Catchings was hunting. He was regarded by many in Camilla, Mitchell County, and Southwest Georgia as the greatest huntsman of quail and dove ever known. He was affectionately known by many as "The Birdman."

Maya Angelou once said, "A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies." Mr. Catchings is undoubtedly great because of his service to his community, devotion to his work, and the compassion he showed for his friends and loved ones.

Mr. Catchings was preceded in death by his wife, Alexa Burton Catchings and his grandson, Walter Williams. He is survived by his children, Bernard, Jr., Gwainevere, Janet, Rose, and Alexa; grandchildren, Joy, Kimberly, Walter, Tracey, Natalie, Elliot, Bernard, and Alex; and great-grandchildren, Christopher, Brandon, Alex, and Emerie.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Mr. Catchings' children and other family members during this difficult time. May they be consoled and comforted by their abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

REMEMBERING THE LONG-TIME CONGRESSIONAL AIDE RICK JAUERT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, last Saturday I traveled to Luverne, Minnesota to say good-bye to a dear friend and long-time congressional aide Rick Jauert. For nearly three decades Rick worked for seven different Min-

nesota Democrats in the U.S. House. He also worked for members from New York and California.

A committed, passionate man, Rick worked for the families of Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District as my press secretary during my first-term in Congress.

Rick Jauert passed away on June 2, 2013 at the age of 59 years old.

Mr. Speaker, I delivered the following eulogy for Rick at his funeral on June 8th.

EULOGY FOR A FRIEND: REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF RICK JAUERT

Today we are here to remember a brother, a cousin, an uncle, a co-worker, a mentor, a public servant, a dear friend. We are here to celebrate Rick Jauert and how his life touched us. We are here to grieve for our loss. And, we are here to say good-bye to a dear man who we cared for and loved.

In April, I drove down from the Twin Cities with Sue Vento to see Rick and visit with him for the last time. He was very sick, physically depleted, and enduring the realities of his failing health. His dear friend Ben VanderKoi had rigged up a microphone which allowed his whispers to be heard and we had a wonderful conversation. His political opinions had not been diminished. He was more up to date on the news than I was. Rick was calm.

As we were ending our visit Rick didn't ask, but sort of told me and Sue that we would be speaking at his funeral, even though he assured us that it would be a long way off. He was sure he was improving even though he very gracefully accepted the fatal nature of his condition.

A few weeks ago I received an email from Rick. He told me he saw me on MSNBC speaking on the House floor and that he was proud, that I had done a good job. I didn't know I had been on MSNBC so it made me feel like once again Rick was playing his congressional aide role, this time from his hospice bed. That was the last time I heard from Rick.

I am here today because Rick was a special person in my life. He was a special person to each of us. Rick's sisters and brother and other family members have known him from childhood. Some of you may have grown up with him here in Luverne or maybe a worked with him on a political campaign or in a congressional office. Some of you may have stayed with Rick at his famous 146 North Caroline Ave South East home.

But however we got to know Rick, here we are, together in Luverne, Minnesota on a June afternoon. We are here because a kid grew up surrounded by a loving family, a uncomplicated small town life, and then one day he packed a bag on day went out to discover the world. He took with him his love for his family, the strong values this community instilled in him, and his own curiosity and sharp intellect.

Rick went to the Philippines and lived and studied there right out of high school. That took real courage and a tremendous sense of adventure. He went to college at Morris and excelled at both activism and academics. He went to our Nation's capital and found a home for himself for more than three decades.

Rick Jauert grew up on the prairie and ended up meeting Presidents and First Ladies, working with Members of Congress and Senators, and fighting policy battles to help make Minnesota, our country and this world a better place.

Rick was dedicated. He was smart. He had a quick wit and a sharp tongue. He could be incredibly kind and incredibly cruel, which was the case anytime the words "Michele Bachmann" came out of his mouth.