

RECOGNIZING GRADUATING SENIOR BUFFALO STATE BENGALS BASKETBALL PLAYERS, CHRIS CASTREN AND JUSTIN MITCHELL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two members of the senior class at Buffalo State College, Chris Castren and Justin Mitchell. Both students are members of the men's varsity basketball team at Buffalo State and will graduate this spring. I commend Chris and Justin for their dedication to academics and athletics and congratulate them at the culmination of their college careers.

Chris Castren hails from Voorheesville, New York, where he attended the regional public high school. Upon graduation, Chris will have earned a degree in Elementary Education. On the basketball team, he excelled playing guard.

Justin Mitchell is a native of Buffalo, and graduated from Bishop Timon-St. Jude High School in South Buffalo, New York. At Buffalo State, he pursued a degree in Sociology and held the position of forward on the team.

Participating in collegiate athletics while enrolled as a full time student is notoriously demanding. In spite of the unique challenges faced by student athletes, Chris and Justin have excelled during their time at Buffalo State. They have shown extreme discipline in balancing both commitments and are leaders to their peers and teammates. As an alumnus of Buffalo State, I will be proud to call them fellow alumni.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing my colleagues to join me in recognizing these exceptional Buffalo State Bengals and in congratulating them as they obtain their undergraduate degrees. Their work ethic, determination, and spirit will ensure their success, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

PUBLIC ACCESS AND LANDS IMPROVEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2954) to authorize Escambia County, Florida, to convey certain property that was formerly part of Santa Rosa Island National Monument and that was conveyed to Escambia County subject to restrictions on use and reconveyance:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2954, the so-called "Public Access and Lands Improvement Act." While there are some provisions in this bill that I think many of us could support, most of its titles include unacceptable waivers of environmental law and giveaways to private interests.

The bill bypasses carefully balanced processes for transferring federal lands while protecting access and value for taxpayers, reverses a scientifically-based land management

decision, and waives environmental protections and local consultation for certain land for timber harvests and grazing.

As with many of the bills we've seen on the Floor this week, H.R. 2954 makes sweeping and unnecessary changes to existing law that disrupt the balance necessary to manage our public lands in the best interest of American taxpayers. By waiving scientific review and local consultation, this cobbled-together omnibus makes ill-considered decisions about the future of public resources. I urge a no vote.

A TRIBUTE TO HANNAH BLYTH AND THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, for decades the United States has worked closely with Australia on issues of great importance to our two nations. Australia has stood stalwartly as a friend of the United States and remains one of our closest allies today. Last year I worked with the Department of Commerce to organize a trade mission of Connecticut companies to Australia. As part of the trip planning, I was pleased to work closely with Australia's Ambassador to the United States, Kim Beazley, who joined me on a visit to Connecticut last spring. As Australia and the United States increase export and defense collaboration in the coming years, we must continue to strengthen our bilateral relationship with Australia.

Fifteen years ago, a program launched to place Australian students in offices in our Nation's Capital. Since that time, the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program has delivered to the United States some of Australia's best and brightest to serve as interns in a variety of federal agencies, congressional offices, and committees.

During my first term in Congress, I was privileged to welcome Anthony Bremmer to my office, and since then my office has hosted Jehane Sharah and Niall O'Shea. When the opportunity arose again to participate in the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program, I immediately agreed to welcome another Australian "ambassador." Once again, my office and I have been pleased with the positive contributions of Hannah Blyth, who was placed in our office. She has attended meetings and briefings, assisted my staff with various research initiatives, and helped serve my constituents of the Second District of Connecticut. Prior to coming to the United States, Hannah worked for the Parliament of New South Wales as a Policy and Project Officer. With an avid interest in American politics and international relations, Hannah hopes to grow her experience and knowledge of the American political landscape during her time in my office. Hannah is truly an exceptional ambassador for the people of Australia.

Hannah's participation in this program has provided her with new opportunities and experiences that only the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program could provide. While in the program Hannah has attended events at the Australian Embassy, met with State Department and USAID officials, and toured the United Nations headquarters in New York with

the Australian Mission to the U.N. A well-rounded graduate student, Hannah will be receiving a Master's degree in U.S. Studies from the University of Sydney's United States Studies Centre when she graduates later this year.

Many of my colleagues have also been privileged to welcome students like Hannah to their offices. This year, 14 students from 10 Australian universities all across Australia are serving in offices in Washington, helping foster a new generation of understanding and shared experiences between our two nations. Launched by former Congressional staffer Eric Federling, the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship program has now delivered 156 Australian student interns over the past 15 years.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage all of my colleagues to open their doors to students from around the world so that they can share in our great democracy. Similarly, I would encourage American university students to seek established and creative ways to connect with their counterparts around the globe. I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the contributions of the Uni-Capitol Internship Program and to once more thank Hannah Blyth for her dedication and hard work.

H.R. 3590, H.R. 2954 AND H.R. 3964

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last week, I voted against three bills designed to weaken important environmental laws and roll back protections for our wilderness areas, parks, and wildlife.

Many of my constituents love Oregon's public lands and use them for hiking, hunting and fishing. They value efforts to conserve and responsibly manage these lands. H.R. 3590, the "Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act," will not, however, ensure responsible management and access. Rather, it contained measures to roll back important environmental laws, to curb public engagement in management decisions and limit the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to appropriately regulate toxic lead in ammunition.

I joined a number of my colleagues in offering an amendment to H.R. 3590 to ensure the Secretary of the Interior maintains the authority to consider climate change when making decisions regarding conservation and recreational activities on public lands. I was disappointed that this amendment failed, and I will continue to use every opportunity to elevate the importance of climate change.

H.R. 2954, the misleadingly named "Public Access and Lands Improvement Act," also weakens protections for wildlife conservation at treasured places like Yellowstone National Park, the Grand Tetons and Cape Hatteras.

Finally, H.R. 3964, the "Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Emergency Water Delivery Act," will do nothing to help with serious drought conditions in California and overrides state and federal protections for wildlife and water quality. The bill sets a dangerous precedent by favoring certain water interests over others, disrupting the State's ongoing efforts to bring people together to find long-term, science-based solutions to manage this severe water crisis.

Our precious natural resources and public lands face serious challenges when it comes to climate change, recreation management, and fish and wildlife conservation. Unfortunately, these bills did nothing to alleviate those problems.

RECOGNIZING SUPER BOWL XLVIII CHAMPIONS, THE SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary talent, teamwork, and success of the Super Bowl XLVIII champions the Seattle Seahawks today, February 11, 2014.

The Seattle Seahawks finished the 2013 season with a remarkable 43–8 win over the Denver Broncos at Super Bowl XLVIII. This is the franchise's first championship team since their introduction into the National Football League in 1976. They ended their season with a 13–3 record and the number one defense in the league.

The Seahawks defense showed they were a dominant force all season and especially during the Super Bowl. All season the offense performed admirably battling through injuries and powerful opposing defensive lines. Their indomitable spirit was shown at its finest when it counted the most, February 2nd in the Super Bowl.

Seattle demonstrated exactly the teamwork and proactive spirit that we Pacific Northwesters take such pride in. The "12th Man" has shown the ultimate teamwork setting world noise records in the process of supporting their Seattle Seahawks. The team's preparation, determination, and true partnership with the fans led them to dominate the Denver Broncos, ending the game with a final score of 43–8.

Coach Pete Carroll has been an inspirational leader rebuilding the Seahawks and strengthening team unity. He has also been instrumental working with youth in our communities through A Better Seattle, a partnership to help create a culture of safety and inclusion, while reducing violence in our communities.

I am pleased that, in addition to Coach Carroll, there are so many players from my hometown sports team that have Charitable Foundations. Their passion for giving back to their community exemplifies the spirit of the Pacific Northwest.

Mr. Speaker, I again offer my appreciation for the community spirit of Seattle Seahawks and congratulations for an outstanding and entertaining 2013 season and look forward to their 2014 season. Go Hawks.

RECOGNIZING GRADUATING SENIOR BUFFALO STATE BENGALS BASKETBALL PLAYERS, MARY CAIN, KALA CRAWFORD, KELLY KELL, STACI McELROY, AND BIANCA SMILEY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize five outstanding members of the senior class at Buffalo State College, Mary Cain, Kala Crawford, Kelly Kell, Staci McElroy and Bianca Smiley. As members of the Buffalo State women's basketball team, these students are known as leaders among their peers and teammates. I commend these young women for their dedication to academics and athletics and congratulate them on the completion of their college careers.

Hailing from Niagara Falls, New York, Mary Cain attended Niagara Catholic High School and majored in Health & Wellness. During her years on the basketball team, Mary played the position of guard.

Kala Crawford enrolled at Buffalo State coming from her hometown of Middle Springs, New York and as a graduate of Saratoga Springs High School. Kala played guard for the Buffalo State Bengals and will be earning a degree in Business.

During her time at Buffalo State, Kelly Kell played guard and studied Public Communication. Her hometown is Port Ewen, New York, and she attended Kingston High School.

Staci McElroy traveled to Buffalo State from Saratoga Springs, New York, and graduated from Saratoga Springs High School. On the team, she played guard, and off the court, studied Psychology.

A graduate of Sweet Home High School and native of Amherst, New York, Bianca Smiley played forward at Buffalo State. She will be earning her degree in Criminal Justice this year.

Balancing the responsibilities demanded of student athletes is a true challenge, and each of these students handled the test with dignity and grace. As an alumnus of Buffalo State, I will be proud to call them fellow alumni.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing my colleagues to join me in recognizing these extraordinary Buffalo State Bengals and in congratulating them as they obtain their undergraduate degrees. Their dedication and drive will propel them to success, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING MR. GARREN MIMS, SR.

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a special man, Mr. Garren Thomas Mims, Sr., a native of my hometown of New Orleans, Louisiana. I especially wish to congratulate him on becoming the 99th King of the Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club. It is my distinct privilege to recognize him here today for this accomplishment.

Mr. Mims has been an active and loyal member of the Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure

Club since 1995. During his time in Zulu Mr. Mims has held and served in a variety of leadership offices. He has also been an active member of several committees and takes special pride in Zulu's community activities committee, in particular the Toys For Tots program. However, his service is not limited to his activity in Zulu. He also enjoys volunteering in his community and serves as a parishioner at his family church, Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. The church's annual fundraiser for the St. Jude Center holds a special place in Mr. Mims' heart. His community service serves as an inspiration and we are grateful to him for his continued commitment.

In addition to his activity in Zulu, Mr. Mims is a dedicated family man. As a lifelong resident of New Orleans, Mr. Mims is deeply rooted within his community. He is a proud graduate of McDonogh #35 Senior High School and Southern University. For the past 19 years, he has been married to Mrs. Georgette Anita Mims. Mr. and Mrs. Mims are the proud parents of three children: Garren Mims, Jr., Gabrielle Mims, and Gabriel Mims. This year, he will get a chance to share the honor and joy of being Zulu royalty with his wife, as Mrs. Mims will reign alongside him as the 78th Queen of Zulu. This will be a special time for the family, and we are very proud of him. The commitment that Mr. Mims shows to his family and his community is an example to all of us. The hard work and dedication of Mr. and Mrs. Mims to improving the community and raising a strong family gives us hope and promise for the future of our city.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Mr. Garren Mims, Sr., on his coronation as the 99th King of Zulu and wish him a successful reign as King Zulu, 2014.

HONORING ALEXANDER M. MOYER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander M. Moyer. Alex is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 444, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alex has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alex has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Alex has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Alex planted prairie grasses and placed gravel in a water runoff guide at Park Hill High School in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alexander M. Moyer for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.