

ranked number one in the country all season long, going undefeated and becoming the first NCAA basketball team, men's or women's, to ever win 40 games in a season.

The Lady Bears recorded some impressive team and individual accomplishments on their way to their second Final Four in 3 years and winning their second national championship in 7 years.

The Lady Bear senior class, Terran Condrey, Ashley Field, and Lindsay Palmer, finished their 4-year careers with a record of 131 wins and 19 losses, one national championship, two Final Four appearances, four NCAA tournament trips, two regular season Big 12 titles, and three Big 12 tournament titles.

Ashley Field, Lindsay Palmer, and Makenzie Robertson were all chosen as first team 2012 Academic All-Big 12 honorees. Odyssey Sims, Destiny Williams, and Brittney Griner were named to the 2011-2012 All-American team.

After dominating opponents on both ends of the court all season long, Griner was chosen as the NCAA tournament MVP, and became the third women's basketball player to ever win all four National Player of the Year awards.

The Lady Bears are led by the remarkable Head Coach Kim Mulkey, whose resume and accomplishments have already cemented her place among the best women's basketball coaches of all time. As a player, Coach Mulkey was a member of the 1984 gold medal winning U.S. women's basketball team. She was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in 2000 and has been named Big 12 Coach of the Year three times. This year Kim was named National Coach of the Year.

Coach Mulkey is the fastest women's basketball coach to ever reach 300 wins and is the fifth coach in the NCAA to win multiple national championships. She has led the Lady Bears to the NCAA tournament in 11 of her last 12 seasons at Baylor.

The Lady Bears return their top six scorers and rebounders next season, so there is more to come from this outstanding group of young women.

I am privileged to represent the city of Waco, McLennan County, and Baylor University in my district, and I wish best wishes to Baylor President Ken Starr, Athletic Director Ian McCaw, and everyone else at the Baylor Nation as they continue to show that a Christian institution of higher learning can, indeed, compete and win in college athletics as well.

2011-2012 has truly been the year of the Bear. Sic 'em, Bears.

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, the genocide of more than 1½ million Ar-

menians by Ottoman-era Turkish authorities is an undeniable fact of history. In 1915, the Armenian nation which had resided in Anatolia for thousands of years was subjected to an organized barbarity that included death marches, drowning, and executions.

Those who managed to survive these horrors scattered to the four corners of the Earth. Today, survivors of the Armenian genocide and their children and grandchildren bear witness to this massacre. Each year, Armenian Americans, supported by others who readily accept the teachings of history, renew their plea that the United States Government formally recognize the Armenian genocide, and every year that responsibility of recognition remains unfulfilled.

□ 1010

When faced with the deeply compelling research and scholarship surrounding the Armenian genocide, it is wholly untenable to assert that the genocide did not occur. Instead, many in Congress offer the protest that recognition would harm our relationship with Turkey and undermine our broader geostrategic interests. Others suggest weakly that it is just not the right time to push the issue of recognition. The result is the same—the continued failure on the part of the United States to do the right thing. This failure puts salt on the wounds of the Armenian people. But it does more than that. It corrodes the moral standing of our Nation as a whole.

I join those who once again, at this time of annual remembrance, implore my fellow Members of Congress and President Obama to formally recognize the Armenian genocide.

GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, the number one fear of Chicago elementary schoolchildren is not braces or book reports or the dentist. It is getting shot. More than 500 Chicago students were involved in gun violence in the last 2 years, and 34 were killed by guns last year. In a single week in June, there were 60 shootings in Chicago.

The Chicago police traced many of the guns used in these types of shootings to gun shows in neighboring States. You can go to a gun show in neighboring State Indiana and buy any weapon you want without a single background check. You can be a convicted felon or a domestic abuser who is under a restraining order or a suspected terrorist, and you can walk right in to a gun show and walk out with an assault weapon.

A member of Hezbollah purchased weapons at an American gun show the day before 9/11. Is this what the American people approve of a situation in which terrorists can buy guns without even

the level of tracking we use for airplane tickets or cold medicine?

The American people want our law enforcement officers to have the tools they need to catch the bad guys. Eighty-one percent of gun owners support requiring a background check on all firearm purchases. Ninety percent of all Americans favor strengthening databases to prevent the mentally ill from buying guns. Sixty-nine percent of NRA members—that's NRA members—support closing the gun show loophole.

So why aren't we acting on these areas where there is such overwhelming public support? Well, the majority has to rally its base, and the NRA has to send more urgent appeals for support based on imagined threats. So, this week, we're courageously protecting bullets from harmful regulation by the EPA, because a little lead in the water never hurt anyone, right?

The bill also gives sportsmen the right to stand their ground against polar bears. Anyone who opposes vigilante justice against this arctic menace is clearly a gun-grabbing Communist. All of this would be funny if the same mentality weren't being used by the NRA against our Nation's youth. Twenty-five States have passed Stand Your Ground laws, declaring open season on anyone considered threatening to anyone at any time.

These laws were not passed because of a public demand for them. They were passed because the NRA teamed up with some of the largest soft drink manufacturing and retailing corporations to push for these laws. Why soda companies would support the efforts to pass these laws is beyond me; but the impact is that a 17-year-old who is buying one of their sodas is now under a much greater threat. Let's have a reality check. Let's take action on one of these areas where there is clear, overwhelming support.

I sat in this Chamber and listened to Mexican President Felipe Calderon plead with Congress to close this loophole that fuels violence between the cartels in his country; but as the NRA president, himself, has pointed out, Congress has done nothing. We hold hearings to point out that the ATF lacks leadership but continue to block the appointment of a director. We talk about the need to enforce the laws on the books but look the other way as those laws are ignored at gun shows. We stop suspected terrorists from boarding airplanes but not from buying 30-round clips. All of this is based on the fantasy that denying terrorists assault rifles is the first step to national gun confiscation.

The Supreme Court answered that in the D.C. and Chicago handgun cases. The Court found that there is an individual right to bear arms. It is a limited right, subject to local control, but it is a right. That is now settled law, so the people who make their livings scarifying gun owners have to resort to conspiracy theories to keep the donations

coming. Now is the time to move past the beltway extremists and listen to the American people. Are these tough votes? Maybe, but that's what we were sent here to do.

I want to mention Blair Holt, a Chicago high school student, son of two lifelong public servants. Blair was riding a bus, while on his way home from school, when a gun was pulled on his friend. He stepped in front of the gun and was shot to death while protecting his friend.

I ask my colleagues to think of that the next time they want to claim they can't do anything about gun violence. Blair Holt was willing to take a bullet for a friend. Shouldn't we be willing to take a tough vote for our children?

THE NATURALIZATION OF THE HASAN FAMILY OF MILLTOWN, NEW JERSEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues who were Members of this body some 10 years ago may recall my coming to the floor on behalf of my constituents, the Hasan family of Milltown, New Jersey—Durre, Nida, Asna, Anum, and Iqra Hasan. They lost their husband and father, Waqar Hasan, on September 15, 2001, 4 days after the tragic events of September 11. That night, an angry man walked into Waqar's convenience store in Dallas, Texas. He ordered two hamburgers and shot the 46-year-old husband and father in the face.

This was not a robbery gone awry. It was a deliberate act of hate based on Waqar's heritage and physical appearance. When asked by police why he shot Waqar, the shooter expressed no remorse. He said, "I did what every American wanted to but didn't."

When Waqar Hasan came to the United States from Pakistan in 1993, he did so in search of a better life for his family. After working in New Jersey, he took an opportunity to run a store in Texas and was going to bring his family to join him after he was established. The Hasans epitomized the hardworking, optimistic spirit that immigrants always brought to this country. They were on the path to permanent residency and, eventually, American citizenship when Waqar lost his life for no other reason than that he was a Muslim and that the murderer thought Waqar had a Middle Eastern face.

It looked at that time as if Waqar's death ended the family's path to citizenship. The widow and four school-aged girls were subject to immediate deportation. After exhausting all legal and administrative options to allow Durre, Nida, Asna, Anum, and Iqra to remain in the United States, I determined that a private bill was the only possible course of action. Finally, in 2004, Congress passed and President Bush signed this private bill into law,

giving the family a path to their dream. A few weeks ago, the Hasans took the oath of U.S. citizenship in our New Jersey congressional office. These five remarkable women had endured a long, arduous pathway from tragedy to citizenship. They formally tied their futures to the United States of America.

In a real sense, though, this naturalization ceremony was about the United States of America as much as it was about these five women. These five women were tied to America long before they took their oaths. They considered themselves Americans, and the United States of America had an obligation to them for many years.

At the ceremony, we saw hope coming out of tragedy—a fair result out of an insane injustice—and compassionate concern out of impersonal laws and regulations. The United States intends to provide and strives to give hope, fairness, and compassion, but these are not automatic. Cruel fate or happenstance often threatens to crush hope and opportunity. Irrational human passions and prejudices can thwart justice and fairness. The demands of life in a busy, complicated society and the exigencies of a complicated legal code can crowd out compassion.

In 2001, all across America, Americans reacted in dismay when they heard the news of the hate crime.

□ 1020

When they learned that the murderer committed his brutality in retaliation for the September 11 attacks in an act of twisted patriotism, they knew it was a blot on our country. Americans felt the pangs even more deeply when they learned that Waqar Hasan left behind a struggling widow and four little girls.

For most Americans, that was the end of the story as they went back to their busy lives. They thought the wheels of justice will turn and take care of this. They didn't think about the United States' obligation to this family, nor did they consider how impersonal the law can be. On March 16, finally, hope, fairness, and compassion prevailed. It was wonderful and heartwarming.

The people of America and our government have an odd attitude toward immigration and immigrants. Often forgetting our own origins and even our own best interests, we resist diversity and even lash out at others, like ourselves, because we mistakenly think they are not like ourselves. Our country has a founding commitment and a history of openness, punctuated, I must say, with instances of rejection, bias, and hatred. The historical record is very clear that openness towards immigrants and policies of inclusion have greatly benefited us. Human prejudices sometimes break through. We see it even today. But with this oath of citizenship, the aspirations of Waqar Hasan for his family were realized.

We mustn't forget that year by year over the centuries, the United States of

America has moved by means of laws to overcome these prejudices of humans and the impersonal forces of society to create an opportunity and to create fairness.

We must lift our lamp by the golden door, but also keep the door and our hearts open.

WHAT KIND OF COUNTRY ARE WE BECOMING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Houston Chronicle reports today that a proud father announced over his Facebook page that his baby was born. The baby was born on April 14, 2012. The baby weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces, and was 20 inches long. He was a proud father announcing the arrival of his baby.

I regret to say, Mr. Speaker, that the Chronicle goes on to report that yesterday the mother of this child, while taking the child in to receive medical attention, was killed. A proud father announces the arrival of his baby, and the mother is killed days later.

What kind of country are we becoming? I don't know what the motive is for this, but I do know the results. I know that a baby will not have its natural mother there to care and to nurture. I know that the mother won't be there on the first day of school, won't be there to see the first step that the child will take. The mother won't be there to turn on the light and protect the child from the creatures of the night, to pitch the ball and catch the child after a fall. I don't know what the motive was, but I know that a mother won't be there when the child walks across the stage to graduate from high school, when the child is married, and the first child is born to the next generation. The mother won't be there.

Regardless as to what the motive is, we must stop this senseless violence. I don't know what the race of the perpetrator was, but I do know that people of goodwill want to see this person prosecuted, and I want to see this person prosecuted to the fullest extent that the law permits. This senseless violence has to stop.

Prosecution alone won't do it. I think we do have to say more and do more, and let the country know that this is not the America that we see in our future. We have got to condemn all of this senseless violence. This senseless violence goes beyond race. It goes beyond status. This senseless violence has to be denounced by every one of us, and every one of us tries to do it as regularly as we can. I just want to join the choir of people who are saying that we will not tolerate it, we demand prosecution, and we understand that we must end this foolishness. Because if we don't end it, it will be our end.