

In closing, I would like to express my appreciation for the hard work of the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) and its president, Patricia Seifert, RN, in bringing this issue forward. As a provider of health care, the CRNFA is a viable solution for controlling rising health care costs. Working in collaborative practice with surgeons, CRNFAs are cost-effective to the patient and to the health care delivery system. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting equity for certified registered nurse first assistants by co-sponsoring The Certified Registered Nurse First Assistant Direct Reimbursement Act of 2000.

HONORING MICHAEL VICK

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 14, 2000*

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I take this time to acknowledge the accomplishments of one of Newport News, Virginia's hometown heroes, Michael Vick, who recently led the Virginia Tech Hokies to this year's Sugar Bowl. His leadership and humanity during this exciting battle of champions continue to make a lasting impression on the minds of many in Newport News and indeed throughout Virginia.

Michael's talent on the field is more than evident. His remarkable athletic achievements as quarterback for the Hokies included being named Big East Conference Offensive Player

of the Year and Rookie of the Year, Player of the Year by Virginia's sports information directors for the Division I all-state football team, and being named to the all-state team. To top off this impressive list, Michael led the Nation in pass efficiency and earned third place in the Heisman Trophy balloting.

Although Michael has gained national prominence for his athletic achievements, he remains well aware that he is a role model to young people in the local community. As a graduate of Warwick High School in Newport News, he returns often to speak with young students. Michael encourages them to set goals and work hard to achieve success. In doing so, he displays humility and an appreciation for his own accomplishments. These are the same skills he champions on the field and in the classroom at Virginia Tech where he is a sophomore studying criminal justice.

The City of Newport News will join with Michael's family and friends to salute him and celebrate his accomplishments throughout the weekend of March 17. These activities include a student assembly at his alma mater, where his high school football jersey number will be retired. The program also includes a recognition dinner and a community rally.

In a time where we are inundated with negative media accounts of our Nation's youth and sports figures, Michael shines as a positive example that hard work, determination and perseverance do, in fact, equal success. Newport News will long remember his outstanding role as an athlete and a gentleman while leading the Hokies to a national championship game. I join with the citizens of Newport News, Virginia in looking forward to Michael's continued legacy of success.

A TRIBUTE—RECOGNIZING RACHEL OWEN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 14, 2000*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the accomplishments of one of Colorado's bright youth, and participant in the JASON Project in Houston, TX, Rachel Owen. In doing so, I would like to honor this teenager for her academic accomplishments.

As a student in middle school, Rachel became very active in the Science Outreach Center in Carbondale, CO. She then became an Argonaut in the JASON Project and from there, was chosen to attend a program at NASA in Houston. She is the first student from the Roaring Fork Valley to participate in this program.

Rachel is active in the Kids Teaching Kids program through the Science Outreach Center. She is also an exemplary student, receiving A's throughout her academic career. Her peers and teachers recognized her great accomplishments and held a pep rally in her honor.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you to Rachel Owen on a truly exceptional accomplishment at the age of 14. If we had more citizens like her, I am certain that we would live in a very harmonious place.