

Harlon Hill Trophy as Division II Football's most outstanding player, the Grand Valley State Football Team was an example of resiliency and determination as they strived to meet their team goal of a national championship. This triumph was truly a team effort.

Finally, I would like to also offer my thanks and congratulations to the extended family of Grand Valley State University, the alumni, the faculty, the fans, and of course the students who supported this team.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of H. Res. 13, congratulating the Grand Valley State University Lakers for winning the NCAA Division II National Football Championship. This national championship is a special moment for Grand Valley State's fans and its university community. It is the school's first national championship in any varsity sport.

This is an outstanding achievement, especially when we consider that Division II football athletes do not have the benefit and publicity garnered by Division I schools. I know that as a fact because one of my sons was an All American Tackle for a Division II school and it was exciting, but they did not get any of the recognition that the Division I schools garnered.

I want to extend my hearty congratulations to Head Coach Brian Kelly, the Grand Valley State community, all of their fans, and most importantly their student athletes. Grand Valley's athletes have certainly performed admirably, and they deserve all the praise that we can give them.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my colleague from the State of Michigan (Mr. EHLERS), who also represents a number of Grand Valley State campuses in his district.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me this time, and I can only echo the words of congratulation that he has offered.

Just to give a little more information about Grand Valley State University, it did not start until 1960, with 223 students. If they fielded a football team that year, it would have consumed 10 percent of the student body. And in 42 short years, they went from that to a rather large University of 20,000 students, more than 48,000 alumni, and winning the national championship in the NCAA. It is an astounding record.

Also, I might mention that the main campus is in the west Michigan area, represented by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA), from whom we just heard; but the downtown campus is in my district. That consists of many graduate studies programs, engineering, and post-graduate course offerings.

It is a remarkable record of success. I have to pay tribute to the former president, Arend (Don) Lubbers, who served from 1968 through 2001 and did an incredible job of taking a fledgling university and building it into a full-grown university. In fact, the football stadium at Grand Valley is named after him, and is called Lubbers Stadium. The current president, Mark Murray, succeeded Lubbers in 2001. He has been there a short time and has done a great job of continuing the work there.

Football and sports are not the be-all and end-all of the university experience, especially in Michigan, where we have a strong orientation towards academic performance. But President Lubbers understood that successful sports teams are a source of pride for the students, staff, administration, and alumni of the schools they represent. In this respect, Grand Valley State University Lakers have ably represented their university and all of west Michigan in their march to the national championship.

The opportunity of playing on national television in the Division II championship game in each of the past two seasons has given Grand Valley State University national exposure it never would have received otherwise. I wish to congratulate the team for their tremendous performance this year. They came within one game of winning the national championship last year. They came back determined to win it this year, and they did.

Congratulations are also due to Coach Brian Kelly, who was named last night as the American Football Coaches Association's Division II National Coach of the Year. He has done an outstanding job there. I also want to congratulate senior quarterback Curt Anes, who received the Harlan Hill Trophy, which is Division II's equivalent of the Heisman Trophy. He is also a First-Team All American.

Senior wide receiver David Kircus, also a First-Team All American, set numerous NCAA Division II and school records throughout his career.

In addition, congratulations are due to offensive lineman Dale Westrick and defensive lineman Keyonta Marshall, both named First-Team All Americans.

Also, I have to congratulate not only the school, not only the team, the coach and the players, but also the supporters of the Grand Valley State University Lakers, who set a conference attendance record. That shows their loyalty and their support for the university and for their sports teams.

So I am very pleased that the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA) has offered this resolution. I am very pleased to join him in commending Grand Valley State University and their football team for their very, very, very fine performance.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time, and I

would once again like to congratulate the Grand Valley State University Lakers. They have had an awesome year. Today we recognize them and congratulate them for that performance.

Mr. Speaker, as we pass this resolution, I would extend to the President a request that he invite the Grand Valley State University football team to Washington, D.C., to a White House ceremony that the White House traditionally hosts for Division II national championships of all sports; and we look forward to that happening.

□ 1545

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the extended Grand Valley State University family.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 13.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H. RES. 13, CONGRATULATING THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY LAKERS FOR WINNING THE 2002 NCAA DIVISION II FOOTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of House Resolution 13 the Clerk be authorized to correct section numbers, punctuation, and cross references and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the actions of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

HONORING WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY FOR WINNING 2002 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I-AA FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 17) honoring the Hilltoppers of Western Kentucky University from Bowling Green, Kentucky, for winning the 2002 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I-AA football championship.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 17

Whereas the Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers from Bowling Green, Kentucky, won the 2002 NCAA Division I-AA collegiate football national championship;