

State championship under the guidance of Coach Doug Ramsey, becoming just the fourth school ever to win back-to-back Division I championships.

While last year's championship run was epitomized by hard-fought, closely-contested victories, this year's Panther team dominated the playoffs, except for the very close one-point win over a very tough Coleraw High School team. The dynamic leadership of quarterback Rob Florian and the sensational running of Bradley Glatthaar spearheaded the offense, while Elder's swarming defense held opposing teams to just seven points in four of the five playoff games. As always, thousands of Elder faithful traveled across the State, braving the cold, to support the Panthers throughout the playoffs.

Mr. Speaker, the hard work and sacrifice of the young men at Elder have brought pride and honor to Price Hill and to our entire community. Football fans throughout the Cincinnati area congratulate the Panthers and share in their celebration. Way to go, Elder Panthers. And from a LaSalle Lancer, it might be a tough thing to do, but we are real proud of you, Elder. God bless you.

CALLING UPON RETAILERS TO REMOVE VIOLENT AND DEGRADING VIDEO GAMES FROM STORE SHELVES

(Mr. DEUTSCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to this Chamber's attention a disturbing trend in video game entertainment: Grand Theft Auto: Vice City, a video game made by Rockstar Games, Inc., contains violent and discriminatory messages, urging the player to "kill the Haitians" and "kill the Cubans."

As an elected official who represents an ever-expanding population of Haitian Americans and Cuban Americans, I am deeply disturbed by the inflammatory and anti-immigration message contained in this video game. These messages run counter to the very principles on which this Nation was founded: as a haven for all of those who seek freedom and equality.

I stand before the House today calling on my colleagues to join me, along with many elected officials, to urge retailers to remove this divisive product from their shelves and Internet Web sites immediately.

The Haitian and Cuban communities in America represent a core of law-abiding, hard-working model citizenry that embrace family and community. They are valuable segments of our society who, as others before them, seek to live the American dream.

It is shocking and disheartening to know that games with such dehumanizing messages against these groups are routinely sold to children across the Nation. This sort of insensitivity and degradation cannot be tolerated.

I urge my colleagues to join me in calling upon retailers to remove this game.

ACKNOWLEDGING ADMIRABLE CALIFORNIANS

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Governor Schwarzenegger on his efforts to "clean house" in California. Since he took office last month, he has been implementing many reforms to California's economic and security problems. He has rescinded a \$4 billion car tax, called for a constitutional amendment to limit State spending, and worked with the legislature to repeal the law that allows illegal aliens to obtain driver's license. Instead of hiding his head in the sand as his predecessor did, he has shown the courage to balance the State's budget without raising taxes and to protect the security of the State.

I would also like to speak on another admirable Californian, Judge Janice Brown. Judge Brown is the daughter of a sharecropper who has beat the odds to become one of the finest judges in America. Critics claim she is an extreme conservative who is outside of America's mainstream, but they are the ones who are outside the mainstream. These critics have intentionally disregarded her judicial opinions that have upheld due process rights for criminal defendants and consumer protection for Californians. This body must stand with Californians, like Governor Schwarzenegger and Judge Brown, who are working to make a difference.

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, today, as the President signs the Medicare Reform Act dealing with prescription drugs, although this is going to be hailed around in Washington as a great day, we missed an opportunity to save our seniors dramatically on the cost of prescription drugs.

We could have included a provision that allowed prescription drugs to be purchased in Canada or Europe where prices are 40 to 50 percent cheaper, saving for seniors, on average, a good deal of money, as well as taxpayers a good deal of money. We could have included a provision to allow a Sam's Club-like bulk negotiating which the Veterans' Administration does for veterans, and we could have done that for Medicare, for 41 million Americans, to reduce prices. Either way, either of these issues, either through open markets and market access, allowing competition to bring prices down and give con-

sumers choice, or allowing bulk price negotiations, which is what happens if you have a Sam's Club. In either manner, we in the government prevented that from happening and are forcing our seniors into higher prices and forcing our taxpayers to play inflated prices.

We have an obligation to the taxpayers to give them the best and most affordable prices for their taxpayer money, and we took a pass today on that legislation.

INFAMOUS DAYS IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. That day, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said, was "a day that will live in infamy." More than 2,400 Americans died that day, 1,100 were wounded, and that day changed America forever.

But despite being attacked on our own soil, the American people responded with courage and resolution.

This same courage showed its face on September 11, 2001. That same resolution continues to drive us in the war on global terrorism today.

As President Bush said this weekend honoring Pearl Harbor, "America's liberty is sustained by the courage of the American people. Every generation of Americans has answered the call to protect the blessings of freedom and democracy. With the help of our friends and allies, the brave men and women of our Armed Forces are now engaged in a global war on terrorism. And as in the aftermath of the terrible attack on Pearl Harbor, our Nation will stay the course, and we will prevail."

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. Last year, President Bush and the Republican Congress refused to extend unemployment insurance before it expired, leaving millions out in the cold. This year, they are, again, showing little interest in providing relief to those searching for jobs. To me, that is wrong.

Despite modest gains in the economy, the job market remains abysmal. Over 1.1 million Californians remain out of work, looking for jobs. Long-term unemployment last month was the highest in 20 years, with over 20 percent of those without jobs looking for work for more than 6 months.

This is especially true in my district where unemployment rates remain very high. In East Los Angeles, the area that I represent, the unemployment rate is well over 10.7 percent, and

in the year 2001 it was 8.3, so it has gone up. In the city that I live in, in El Monte, it was at 6.7 in the year 2001. Now, it is at 8.7. It has not gone down.

While the President hails the recent uptick in the economic figures, he fails to mention the unemployment among Latinos and other minorities which continues to rise.

Let us leave no family behind and provide unemployment insurance benefits for all.

SOUTH CAROLINA POLICY COUNCIL

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week, the visionary Grover Norquist, President of Americans for Tax Reform, honored the South Carolina Policy Council with the rare and prestigious Dragon Slayer Award. President Edward T. McMullen, Jr., received a symbolic sword for the Council's efforts in fighting tax increases in South Carolina.

Since 1986, the South Carolina Policy Council has educated South Carolina's legislature and citizens about State and local public policy based on the traditional values of individual liberty and responsibility, free enterprise, and limited government.

In addition to President McMullen, I would like to give a special thanks to the dedicated staff of Administrative Assistant Marion Harsey, Vice President for Development India Hazzard; Vice President for Public Affairs Ashley Landess; Vice President for Policy Gerry Dickenson; Chairman of the Board Jake Razor; and the courageous analyst Hal Eberle.

The Palmetto State is truly blessed to have such talented people working on public policy, and I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking the South Carolina Policy Council for their vital service.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, September 11, and the current December 7.

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WITHOUT WORK THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the American worker. As we wrap up our work for the year, 8.7 million Americans are without jobs this holiday season.

The administration keeps promising economic growth will bring job growth. Yet, even on the heels of an impressive third quarter of economic growth, the job market has not taken off.

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The Labor Department reports that only 57,000 jobs were added to the econ-

omy last month, a figure that represents only one-third of economists' prior expectations.

We all know there are deeper economic problems contributing to the loss of American jobs. Our trade policies have produced record-level trade deficits and have only encouraged American companies to send good-paying jobs overseas where they take advantage of cheap labor.

However, as we sit here with 1 day left in the session, we need to do what we can today to help better the lives of the American workers. We all know that the administration talks about cutting taxes and putting money in our pockets, but typically the American working class gets very little of this extra money. What I want to know is if the administration is so intent on putting money in our pockets, why they are eliminating the overtime provisions that are in this omnibus bill we are talking about today. Why will they not extend the unemployment benefits? These are policies that give America's workers more money every single pay period. And if there is ever a need for extra cash, it is during the holiday season.

THE ALIEN ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

(Mr. ISSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to make my colleagues aware of H.R. 3651, a bill I dropped just today at the end of 3 years of service in the House. It is titled the Alien Accountability Act. I can only apologize to the House that I was not able to bring it to the House sooner.

It deals with the 8½ million people who are here in America outside our laws. It deals in a post-September 11 era with a challenge that America has been trying to face to know who is here, why they are here, and whether or not they threaten Americans, all Americans.

This is not a partisan issue. I call on my colleagues to join me in supporting the Alien Accountability Act to once and for all bring to the awareness of civil authorities the 8½ million people that are here, according to our census, outside the law and find a way to register these people and to bring about some equitable conclusion to what has been a failed system of illegal immigration.

CELEBRATING BANKERS LIFE AND CASUALTY COMPANY 125TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Bankers Life and Casualty Company on their 125th anniversary, which will occur on June 17,

2004. Established in 1879, Bankers Life and Casualty Company is one of the most esteemed insurance companies in the United States. Headquartered in Chicago, it is the oldest health and life insurance company in the city and is currently the largest tenant in the world-famous Merchandise Mart. Through Bankers' dedicated work over more than a century, thousands of Chicagoland employees have helped millions of people across the country achieve their vision of living happy, active, and financially secure lives.

I congratulate them for 125 years of service to the residents of America.

INCREASED EARMARKS IN THE OMNIBUS BILL

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the omnibus bill that we will be passing later today, and I rise with great reluctance to criticize the bill. This Republican Congress has increased the number of earmarks in bills by about four-fold in just the past couple of years. This is no way to do business.

We speak a great deal and at great length in this House about rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse in the Federal agencies in the way we spend money with the Federal Government. I would suggest that we look no further than the earmarks that we propose in this bill and other spending bills to root out waste, fraud, and abuse.

Most of these earmarks simply benefit one Member, one project. It is typically referred to as pork-barrel spending. We as Republicans have decried this practice for years, and now we seem to have embraced it.

Mr. Speaker, I think we need to turn a different direction and realize that if we want fiscal restraint, if we want to return to balanced budgets, then we have to do something about this kind of spending.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2673, CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

Mr. LINDER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-402) on the resolution (H. Res. 473) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2673) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.