

And he has been such a good friend and unwavering champion for the people of Illinois.

As the late Chicago Sun-Times Columnist Steve Neal put it, Mr. LIPINSKI, "gets things done."

And that is what has been the cornerstone of his career. Getting things done for his constituents and for the people of our state. Getting things done so that people across the country have access to better roads, more reliable railways and more dependable airports.

One of the things I am most proud of during my time in Congress is working with Mr. LIPINSKI to secure funding for the renovation and reconstruction of the CTA Blue Line in my district.

It is this kind of leadership and hard work and perseverance that has been the foundation of Mr. LIPINSKI's career. He has led by action and by example. And in doing so, he has produced concrete results for our state.

During his 22 years in this body, Mr. LIPINSKI has fought ardently and selflessly and passionately on issues that make a real difference in ordinary people's lives.

From his first days in this body, he immersed himself in transportation and infrastructure matters. And he did so with integrity and class and the courage of his convictions.

He has helped secure hundreds of millions of dollars in vital funding for public transportation and infrastructure projects. And every day, people all across our city are better off because of his hard work, his dedication and his determination.

From the Metra train, to the CTA, to highway projects along the Stevenson or Lake Shore Drive, to O'Hare and Midway airport, Mr. LIPINSKI has worked to make our infrastructure safer, stronger and more secure.

And beyond his extraordinary legislative accomplishments, Mr. LIPINSKI has served as a role model for many of us in the Illinois delegation and for many who seek to serve at all levels of elected office.

He has been a patient mentor, an unwavering ally and a great friend.

And I know I speak for this entire body when I say that we will miss the sound of that great Southside accent filling this Chamber.

We will miss his skillful management of major transportation bills. But most of all, we will miss our friend's wisdom and leadership and guidance.

So let me close by thanking my friend, Mr. LIPINSKI, for his lifetime of public service. Our city and our Nation owe you a deep debt of gratitude. You will be missed.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
MARCUS HIGH SCHOOL DRUM LINE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior performances of the Edward S. Marcus High School Drum Line from my hometown of Flower Mound, Texas located in the 26th Congressional District. The drum line consists of 38 dedicated musicians.

At the recent Percussive Arts Society International Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, the Marcus Drum Line delivered outstanding performances which garnered them nine first-

place awards. In addition to their group awards, Marcus Drum Line became the first high school to earn all of the competition's individual awards: Best Snare Line, Best Tenor Drums, Best Bass Drums, Best Cymbals and Best Front Ensemble.

I am particularly honored to note that the winning performance, Looking Through the Windows of America, consisted of patriotic songs including "Stars and Stripes," "America," "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Old Oak Tree," and "God Bless America."

I extend my sincere congratulations to Rick Villarreal, Director of Bands, Kennan Wylie, Percussion Instructor and the entire Marcus Drum Line for their talent and dedication to excellence.

CONGRATULATING THE MICHIGAN
CITY MARQUETTE HIGH SCHOOL
BLAZERS ON THEIR CLASS 1A
STATE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Marquette High School Blazers on their Indiana High School Athletic Association Class 1A State Girls Volleyball Championship.

The young women of Marquette High School, located in my District in Michigan City, Indiana, competed in the IHSAA championships on Saturday, November 7 at the Hinkle Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

Mr. Speaker, in front of hundreds of their fans, this team captured their fourth state championship in the last six years. I might also note that the two years they didn't win, the team was state runner-up.

Last year, this team lost the championship to Morristown. But these young women didn't give up. They used the loss last year as motivation for their entire season this year.

And this year they beat Morristown 25-22, 25-12, and 25-20 in the championship game.

I am told that Juniors Michelle Fletcher and Sarah Denny did the majority of the damage for the Marquette Blazers, with the impressive assistance of Colleen Trainor and Kahlan Sebert.

I'd also like to congratulate Coach Troy Campbell and Assistant Coach Larry Sheagley on a great season. Compiling a 31 and 7 record is something to be proud of.

On behalf of the citizens of the Second Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Sarah Denny, Ashley Pinkney, Katie Krueger, Rachel Konrady, Kelly Kilgore, Kara Kmiecik, Sabra Johns, Kalan Sebert, Sunshine Johns, Tiffany Cerrillos, Danielle Barnett, Nicole Fumo, Colleen Trainor, and Michelle Fletcher on their Class 1A State Championship.

Additionally, Superintendent Kim Pryzbylski, Principal Patrick Cannon, Athletic Director Eric Simpson and Assistant Athletic Director Andy Walsh deserve a note of congratulations for supporting this team.

I would also be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the parents of these young women. I know the many hours they've given up to drive their daughters to practices and to attend

matches, both at home and away. Your effort means the world to them and you all should be proud.

Mr. Speaker, I know that these young women will go far in their future endeavors as they have already demonstrated they have what it takes to be a champion. I wish the seniors the best of luck and the remaining team members continued success next season.

Again, I would like to congratulate the Marquette High School girls volleyball team for winning their fourth state title.

A SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF
THE RECORDING ACADEMY

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, one of our nation's most precious exports is intellectual property. It is up to our country to care for and nurture this commodity. Thankfully, when it comes to the recording arts, we have an able and willing partner in the Grammys. To outline some of the challenges and creative measures taken by the industry, I would like to submit for the RECORD a speech given by Neil Portnow, President of the Recording Academy.

It's always a pleasure to be back in Washington, and particularly a pleasure to be back at our signature event in the capital, GRAMMYS on the Hill. All of us at the Academy consider it a privilege to have the opportunity to recognize our distinguished honorees: Senator Hillary Clinton, Representative Mary Bono, and the legendary Natalie Cole.

Although it's been an interesting and challenging year for the music community, it's also been an exciting one. Since we last gathered for this event one year ago, we've seen a number of positive developments—in the industry, in technology, and on the Hill. And for the Recording Academy, it has been a particularly busy year. One year ago, at this very event, I announced the formation of our GRAMMY Cultural Policy Initiative: designed to advance the rights of the music community through advocacy education and dialogue. I'm pleased to report significant progress in the Initiative's first year.

Our off-the-record GRAMMY Industry Roundtables serve as the place for productive dialogue between sectors of our industry that don't often interact. Roundtable participants have included artists such as Dave Matthews and Jimmy Jam, industry trade reps from RIAA and NARM, label executives, and legal scholars. By putting such diverse minds together, we believe our community can begin to develop solutions to the challenges we face.

Public forums, such as our GRAMMY Town Halls bring key legislators, GRAMMY winning artists, and the public together to discuss important issues such as broadcast decency and file sharing, while our "What's the Download" PSA campaign has given hundreds of thousands of consumers valuable information about the legal and ethical issues involved in downloading.

Through hands-on action in Washington, D.C., we help our legislators understand the importance of sound cultural and intellectual property policies. Recording Academy executives and artists from around the country are frequent visitors to the Hill as part of our Cultural Policy Initiative. To further