

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO'S MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAMS

**HON. HEATHER WILSON**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 14, 2005*

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of New Mexico Men's and Women's Basketball Teams on winning the Men's and Women's 2005 Mountain West Conference (MWC) Tournaments. From the Pit in Albuquerque to the Pepsi Center in Denver, these Lobo student-athletes have proudly represented the University of New Mexico.

The Lobo Men's 60–56 victory against Utah in the Mountain West Conference tournament garnered them the Mountain West Conference Championship. Equally impressive, the UNM Women's Basketball team beat Utah 47–37 for its third straight Mountain West Conference tournament victory.

Led by Head Coach Ritchie McKay, the Men's Basketball team secured an NCAA Tournament bid, the first since 1999. With a Conference Championship under their belt, this marks the 11th time the Lobo Men's team secured an NCAA tournament spot. The UNM Men are on a nine game winning streak as they look toward more "W's" in the NCAA tournament.

Now a perfect 3–0 in Conference title games, the Lobo Women, under the tutelage of Head Coach Don Flanagan, secured a bid to the NCAA Tournament. The Women's basketball team has dominated the conference for the past three years and has garnered three consecutive Conference Championships. The Lady Lobos have now won 9 straight Conference Championship games as they prepare for the NCAA tournament.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend both the UNM Men's and Women's Basketball Teams, Head Coaches Ritchie McKay and Don Flanagan, the University of New Mexico and all the dedicated Lobo fans for this successful season. I am eagerly anticipating the teams' first round games in the NCAA tournament as they proudly represent the University of New Mexico on the national stage. Go Lobos!

TRIBUTE TO ARKANSAS' 39TH INFANTRY BRIGADE

**HON. MARION BERRY**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 14, 2005*

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today on behalf of Congress to thank Arkansas' 39th Infantry Brigade for their service in Iraq and to welcome them home.

A Over the last year, the men and women of the 39th have worked to make a positive difference in the lives of the Iraqi people. They have faced their duties bravely, performed honorably and made a difference in the development of an emerging country.

Many years ago, the 39th chose to be represented by a Bowie knife laid over a diamond on their patch. The knife serves both as a tribute to The Bowie State and as a symbol of

their aggressive spirit, while the diamond symbolizes the only diamond field in North America located in Arkansas.

There is no doubt the 39th has lived up to the badge it proudly bares. Forceful and strong is why Iraq is better today than it was in April of 2004 when our brave men and women first pulled into Camp Taji. Forceful and strong is how they did their job in the most hostile environment, every day, for a year. Forceful and strong is why their families can wrap their arms around them now and welcome them home.

The efforts of the 39th have resulted in reconstructed Iraqi schools, hospitals, irrigation and sewage systems, and new recreational projects for children. The footprint they left in the Iraqi sand is far deeper than their boot size; and the sacrifice made by too many not coming home will never be forgotten.

We must take a moment, as we celebrate the return of our loved ones, to think of those less fortunate. Those who gave their lives defending strangers to ensure peace have made the noblest of sacrifices. They will be missed by their families and friends and honored by their country. We pray every day for those who loved them and thank them all for what they've left us with.

On behalf of the Congress, I thank all the members of the 39th Infantry Brigade for the immeasurable contributions they have made to peace, democracy and the Iraqi people. Their bravery and courage stand as a shining example of American ability and our debt to them can never fully be repaid.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SAN ANTONIO CITY COUNCILMAN JULIAN CASTRO

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 14, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize San Antonio City Councilman Julian Castro for his distinguished career in public service, and his deep commitment to the people of San Antonio.

Julian Castro and his twin brother Joaquin were born on September 16, 1974, and grew up on San Antonio's west side. For all but one year of his education, Julian attended San Antonio public schools. Upon his graduation from high school, he moved to the San Francisco Bay Area, where he attended Stanford University. He graduated with a double major in Political Science and Communication in 1996, graduating with honors and distinction.

After college, Julian returned home to San Antonio, and took a position as a permanent substitute teacher at his alma mater, Jefferson High School. He also began his career in public service by working with the City's Special Projects Office on housing and economic development issues.

Julian ran for City Council in 2000, and won a seat representing District 7. He ran on a platform of economic development and revitalization for the city, and committed himself to these projects once in office. He worked to improve the community by cleaning up blighted neighborhoods, and was a leading voice for government ethics reform and public safety.

Julian Castro was 26 at the time of his election to the City Council, making him the

youngest elected city councilman in San Antonio history. He is just beginning on a promising career, and I know that he will be a major force for good in Texas politics for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have the chance to thank him here for the work he has done thus far, and to wish him well as he continues to serve the people of San Antonio.

A TRIBUTE TO ROSA WITSELL

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 14, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Rosa Witsell who has dedicated her career to her community and enriching the lives of our children.

Rosa grew up in Charleston, South Carolina and is the youngest of four children. She was nurtured in a home environment where there was a strong belief and faith in God. At age 10 she joined the Tabernacle Baptist Church and became a Sunday School Teacher and Secretary, and a member of the Junior Usher Board.

After earning her Bachelor's of Science from Johnson C. Smith University, Rosa moved to Brooklyn, New York where she continued her spiritual growth by joining the Brown Memorial Baptist Church under the Pastorate of the late Dr. Rev. Samuel Austin. She remains active in Brown's Ministries under her current Pastor, Rev. Clinton M. Miller, where she is a member of the Senior Missionary Society, Willing Worker's Club, and the 40/60 Friendship Club.

Rosa began her career path with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation as a Recreation Director. She spent 12 years nurturing the young minds of 3 and 4 year olds in a distinguished pre-school program and broadening the horizon of 6 and 12 year olds in summer day camp. Rosa was later promoted to Assistant Supervisor of Recreation where she served the Harlem Community and later the East New York Community. She also served as her agency's liaison to Community Board Five, representing the agency at Community Board meetings, Youth Committee meetings, and providing invaluable support and assistance to the Board's staff.

After more than 20 years, Rosa retired from the Department of Parks, but remained in the East New York Community as Center Director of the Starrett-at-Spring Creek Teen Center. In addition to educational and cultural trips, Rosa implemented an annual Mother/Daughter Dinner, Double Dutch and Talent Show competitions, dance classes, and workshops dealing with job skills, AIDS awareness, and proper make-up. After 4 years as Center Director, Rosa resigned and joined the United States Postal Service where she is currently employed as a letter carrier. She enjoys the continued interaction with college students, young families, and seniors. Rosa's customers frequently thank her for her smile and excellent service. In fact, because her customers took the time to send letters of accommodation to the Postmaster, the Postal Service recognized her for outstanding customer service.

Rosa is a former Board member of Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association, and a former Cadet Girl Scout Leader. She is a

single mom whose daughter Esteen, and son in-law Derrick are about to make her a first time grandmother in a few short months.

Mr. Speaker, Rosa Witsell has dedicated herself to her professional career, to serving her community and improving the lives of our children. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 14, 2005*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church on celebrating 125 years of worship, fellowship, and outreach in Bay City, Michigan. On Sunday, October 16, the congregation of Messiah will recognize this milestone during a special service and dinner to be held at the church.

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church found its roots in Bay City in 1880, when 50 individuals, immigrants from Sweden, came together and formed one of the most spirit-filled ministries in Bay County. During the past 125 years, Messiah has made a significant impact on the community. The members of Messiah have consistently heeded the call of Christ to assist all those who are in need of spiritual healing. The inspiration for living by Christian ideals is repeated again and again in the lives of the staff and laity of the church. In the intervening years, with God's blessing, and through the dedicated efforts of many, pastors and lay people alike, the membership has grown to 600 people, embracing a variety of ethnic backgrounds.

Spiritual growth spurred physical growth, as the building itself had no choice but to expand to accommodate the new congregants. The original small frame building has given way to the present substantial brick building on the same location, now designated as a historic site by the State of Michigan. Although the building has changed, the high purpose of worship and community service remains the same.

I pray that during this glorious milestone the members and community of this magnificent church will come together and do as the Bible tells us in Psalms 33:1-4: "Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! For praise from upright is beautiful. Praise the Lord with the harp; make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings. Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully with a shout of joy. For the word of the Lord is right and all His work is done in truth."

For 125 years, Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church has been a dynamic force for the public good. At every time of social need or upheaval, the congregation has resoundingly responded by living the Gospel spoken every Sunday in the sanctuary. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the continuity of Christian life that has resonated for more than 12 decades and resonates today through Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church.

NIAGARA FALLS HIGH SCHOOL  
BASKETBALL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 14, 2005*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Niagara Falls High School Boy's Basketball team on winning the 2005 New York State Public High School Athletic Association Class AA Championship. The Niagara Falls Basketball Team is now ranked 7th in the country. The team won the state championship game by a score of 69 to 58, and just as noteworthy, they won the semifinals by over 50 points.

Every player on the team deserves credit for this victory. While Paul Harris, who won the Most Valuable Player award, should be congratulated, each team member worked very hard to bring home this championship title to Niagara Falls.

I wish to commend Coach Bazzani and his staff and the leadership of the Niagara Falls School District for giving these young men the support and instilling in them their perseverance and winning attitude. I would also like to compliment the other members of this team—the cheerleaders and the Pep Band. The band made up of students including a father, has been at all the games inspiring the team and cheering on the crowd with their antics. They are as worth watching as the team.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot be prouder of the Niagara Falls Boy's Basketball team. Again, I wish to commend Coach Bazzani, the coaching staff, players and the community for this successful championship season.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF SAN ANTONIO COUNCILMAN  
ENRIGUE M. BARRERA

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 14, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize San Antonio Councilman Enrique M. Barrera for a lifetime of distinguished public service.

Enrique Barrera began his professional career as an educator with the San Felipe School District in Del Rio Texas. His strong passion and dedication to serve the community lead him to move to San Antonio to serve as a counselor, social worker and administrator.

He later worked as an Employee Department Specialist with the United States Office of Personnel Management and then later as a Chief of Civilian Personnel Training at Randolph Air Force Base.

He continued with his professional career at the State Level and served with the Texas Department of Community Affairs, the Texas Department of Commerce and the Texas workforce commission.

In 2001 he decided to make a run for San Antonio City Council, and in May he was elected to District 6. In May 2003, he was re-elected to his second term, and has since brought integrity to the seat.

Mr. Speaker, an Antonio Councilman Enrique Barrera is a credit to his community and a tremendous resource to his county, and I am glad I had this opportunity to thank him for his work and dedication.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF SAN ANTONIO CITY  
COUNCILWOMAN PATTI RADLE

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 14, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Patti Radle.

Patti Radle has lived a life of enormous service to her community. Since arriving in San Antonio in 1969, Ms. Radle has been at the center of volunteer project after volunteer project, working on issues ranging from urban development to education to civil rights.

For thirty years, she and her husband, Rod, have served as volunteer co-directors of the non-profit group Inner City Development, which provides emergency services for families in crisis, and educational opportunities for children and teens.

She served on the founding board of the first chapter of Habitat for Humanity in the United States, Habitat for Humanity San Antonio. She advanced the cause of civil rights in our state by organizing Martin Luther King memorial marches, and serving on the National Council of the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

She worked for nine years as an elementary school teacher, and helped to make our public schools safer and stronger by founding school conflict resolution programs throughout the San Antonio area.

Mr. Speaker, Patti Radle has enriched our community with her creativity, her energy, and her vision for over 35 years. She continues to work to build a better future for San Antonio as City Councilwoman for San Antonio Council District 5. I am proud to have the opportunity to recognize her here, and to thank her for her many contributions to the community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF SAN ANTONIO COUNCILMAN  
RICHARD PEREZ

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 14, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and congratulate Richard Perez for his commitment to serving his fellow citizens of San Antonio, Texas.

Richard Perez is the representative for San Antonio's City Council 4th District. He was raised by his parents in the exact district that he represents today, so it goes without saying that he is familiar with the area and its needs.

But his life of service to the community does not begin with his current role as a city council member; he has held various positions in city planning in such cities as Laredo and Austin that experienced tremendous city growth during his service. He has also worked at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as the Special Assistant to the Deputy