HONORING THE VAN VANDALS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the Van Vandals boys' basketball team from Attleboro High School. This team was the 2005 state champions in Class B boys' basketball, defeating Graham High School to return home to the state finals in sixty-three years. The Van Vandals stand as an inspiration to all those who watch and support their team.

REFERENCES

HONORING PALMYRA MACEDON BOYS' BASKETBALL CLASS B STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Palmyra Macedon Red Raiders, the varsity boys' basketball team that won their first Class B State Title. The 57-47 victory was well earned after trailing to the Carl Place Frogs for the majority of the game. Junior shooting guard Anthony Hall scored a game-high 26 points, and helped the Red Raiders get back into the lead in the final quarter. Coach Chip Tatro and the rest of this outstanding team deserve congratulations after their third attempt, and consequent victory, in winning the championship.

Coach Chip Tatro, Christopher Mike, Jared Boisvert, Mike Beck, Anthony Hall, Todd Piccola, Dan Gorman, Tim Patchett, Jonathan Denniston, Adam Husk, Andy Weaver, Jason Clair, Sean McGinn, Chris Timbs are all equal to their constituency to head the Human Rights Campaign. The Human Rights Campaign is a fair treatment for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people, and I am among those who was very pleased that Mr. Solmonese was selected, given the combination of skill and talent that he brings to the job.

As the Sun Chronicle noted, “Attleboro is honored by the appointment of a city native to the leadership of the largest national gay-rights group at a time when the same-sex marriage debate rages on.” Mr. Frank said, “I have to believe in the optimism and fairness-mindedness of the American people.” Solmonese says he hopes Massachusetts will join the 17 that already have amended their constitutions to ban gay marriage. He replaces another Massachusetts political activist, former state Sen. Cheryl Jacques, who stepped down as HRC president in 2004 election.

New York.—After 12 years advocating for abortion rights, Attleboro native Joe Solmonese might have opted for a less divisive field of work. Instead, he is taking over leadership of the largest national gay-rights group at a time when the same-sex marriage debate rages on.

“Massachusetts is still there, with loving, committed families going on with their lives and experiencing the same rights and responsibilities that all Americans do,” he said. “We want to shine a light on what happened in Massachusetts, and tell the American people who we truly are.”

He replaces another Massachusetts political activist, former state Sen. Cheryl Jacques, who stepped down as HRC president last year, citing differences with its board. Her departure coincided with speculation in the gay media, and elsewhere, about discord among the HRC's fund-raisers and some other gay rights groups. Solmonese said he has detected no serious rifts since his hiring was announced.

From the Sun Chronicle, March 18, 2005
The museum's tribute includes a recreated watch tower and barracks, a detailed diorama of a German “stalag,” the names of those New Yorkers who were POWs during World War II and a tribute to American POWs in other conflicts. This will mark the first permanent museum tribute to American POWs in the New York region.

It is vital that we continue to remember the horrors of the Holocaust and pay tribute to both the victims and the brave soldiers who contributed to the liberation of Europe from Nazi rule. I strongly commend the leadership that the American Airpower Museum of Farmingdale has taken on this issue and urge other museums to follow suit.

RECOGNIZING FLOWER MOUND HIGH SCHOOL’S NAMING TO THE GRAMMY SIGNATURE SCHOOL GOLD LIST

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Flower Mound High School, located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for its recognition on the Gold List of Grammy Signature Schools.

I congratulate Flower Mound High School’s performing arts department, under the leadership of Danna Rothlisberger, Lewisville ISD director of performing arts, and Mark Rohwer, chair of the performing arts department, for their outstanding achievement. Flower Mound High School was only one of seven schools in the nation promoted to the Gold List from their original recognition as a Grammy Signature School.

Flower Mound High School received $7,000 cash reward for its performing arts department as part of their promotion. Mr. Rohwer has promised to spend a portion of the money to hiring composers to write specific pieces for the band, orchestra and choir, and to buy new equipment.

Flower Mound High School’s performing arts department is a stellar example from which Texas schools should model their performing arts departments. Their commitment to educating students through the arts is to be admired and replicated.

I am proud of the education system in Texas; especially our involved parents and teachers at Flower Mound High School who commit their lives and time to fostering growth in their students.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM “SLIM” SOMERVELL

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Willis “Slim” Somervell, who has dedicated his life to God, his family and the United States of America.

Slim has said, “You need to be true to yourself and you need to have beliefs and a value system. Without those, what are we?” These are wise words. As I learned about the life of service that Mr. Somervell has led, I am inspired by his beliefs and his values.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of the American Airpower Museum in Farmingdale, New York to the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of American POWs at the end of World War II.

Sixty years ago this spring, over 100,000 American and Allied POWs were liberated by Soviet troops as they swept aside Nazi forces in Eastern Europe. This liberation marked the end of forced marches, stinging cold, constant hunger and the everpresent threat of summary execution by a collapsing Nazi regime. Simultaneously, advancing Allied forces at Hitler’s dying command camps and their wretched legacy of inhumanity.

As we observe this anniversary, I am truly proud to have the American Airpower Museum at the Republic Airport in Farmingdale in my congressional district. The museum has established a new permanent tribute to honor those who endured the POW “stalags” and to solemnly mark the liberation of the death camps built by the Third Reich for the purpose of murdering millions of European Jews.