

businesses first opened their homes to Hurricane Katrina victims, then to Rita evacuees from other areas of the state. Following their awesome display of compassion and generosity, Hurricane Rita with 150 mph winds, unexpectedly made Woodville a direct target.

In light of the recent Gulf Coast hurricane season, and specifically Hurricane Rita that devastated Tyler County and its surrounding communities, the team's victory has helped keep this tight knit community even stronger.

Casey Beck's performance in the championship game represents the attitude and "get it done" spirit of the people of Tyler County. Regardless of how tired they are they are going to give it one or two more innings down the stretch, face down one hurricane and then another.

The team was coached on to victory by Head Coach Neil Hennigan and Varsity Assistant Coaches Joe Wilroy, Beau Burnett and Reggie Williams. The members of the championship team included: Casey Beck, Braeden Riley, Reese Winters, Jordan O'Neal, Zack Rigby, Daniel Spivey, Jess Conner, Trevor Rainey, Aaron Hicks, Evan Fortenberry, Logan Alec, Justin Kirkpatrick, Allen Mitchum, Jacoby Williams, Josh Kirkpatrick, Chad Prince, Joel Gentz, Brian MacGinnis, Paul Price, Cullen Williams, and Jack Hickman.

These young men and their coaches have together accomplished so much and made a community and region so proud. Mr. Speaker, I hope the House of Representatives will join me in honoring the Fighting Eagles and the community they represent.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MRS. CORETTA SCOTT KING

SPEECH OF

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the start of Black History Month with recognizing the many, many great deeds of African Americans, we also mourn the loss of an icon for people of all races—Mrs. Coretta Scott King. Mrs. King was one of our most influential black woman leaders in the world today.

The "first lady" of the civil rights movement was born Coretta Scott in Heiberger, Alabama. She was raised on the family farm of her parents where she was exposed to the injustices of a segregated society.

Mrs. King excelled at her studies, particularly music, and was valedictorian of her graduating class at Lincoln High School. She graduated in 1945 and received a scholarship to Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio.

As an undergraduate, she took an active interest in the civil rights movement; she joined the Antioch chapter of the NAACP, and the college's Race Relations and Civil Liberties Committees. She graduated from Antioch with a B.A. in music and education and won a scholarship to study concert singing at New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Massachusetts.

In Boston she met a young theology student, Martin Luther King, Jr., and her life was changed forever.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. King has been described as quiet, steady, and courageous and while all of that may be true let it be noted to add steadfast and certainly noble.

Mrs. King was a serious thinker, a committed activist, a talented musician and an outspoken woman whose influence and activism extended well beyond the career of her famous husband.

Mrs. King undoubtedly became a symbol of racial equality for all Americans. For a woman of her stature, rearing four little children when there was civil unrest, and to have suffered the loss of her husband sent a clear message to this Nation that the movement was too powerful to stop and must go on.

Just like the late Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, Mrs. Coretta Scott King showed us how to meet personal crisis with courage, and then how to transcend crisis with victory.

Although, I had never had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. King, I too share her husband's vision of peace and brotherhood as a steady theme that should be heard all across this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, history has a way of placing women like Coretta Scott King in the shadows of their powerful husbands but it is time we remember them as more than civil-rights-movement wives and widows.

I once heard someone say that behind every good man stands a good woman, but I say to you and to this Nation that beside every great man stands an even greater woman.

Mr. Speaker, her's was a remarkable life, and along the way she helped improve the lives of millions. While we mourn her lose, we must celebrate her legacy—now recognized with that of her husband.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GIFT OF LIFE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL ACT OF 2006

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act of 2006." This legislation creates a Congressional commemorative medal for organ donors and their families, recognizing the brave and selfless act of organ donation. I want to thank Senator FRIST, a heart and lung transplant surgeon himself, for introducing companion legislation in the Senate.

There is a serious shortage of available and suitable organs for donation. Over 90,000 people are currently waiting for an organ transplant; over 2,200 of these are children under age 18. Over 30,000 new patients are added to the waiting list each year. Because of low donor rates, in 2004 alone over 6,150 people died for lack of a suitable organ. An estimated 12,000 people die each year that meet the criteria for organ donation. Less than half actually become organ donors. Recognition of these gifts of life would publicize the critical need to increase organ donation.

Physicians can now successfully transplant kidneys, lungs, pancreases, intestine, livers, and hearts with considerable success. But, without expanded efforts to increase organ donation, the supply of suitable organs will continue to lag behind the need. Incentive pro-

grams and public education are critical to maintaining and increasing the number of organs donated each year.

Health and Human Services, HHS, has already implemented initiatives to raise the public awareness of this vital act of giving life. The Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act is a great opportunity for us to work with HHS to draw attention to this life-saving issue. It sends a clear message that donating one's organs is an act that should receive the profound respect of our Nation.

The Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act establishes a nonprofit fund to be used to design, produce, and distribute a Congressional commemorative medal to organ donors or to a surviving family member. Enactment of this legislation would have no cost to the Federal Government. The Treasury Department would provide a small initial loan for start-up purposes, which would be fully repaid. Subsequently, the program would be self-sufficient through charitable donations.

This is non-controversial, non-partisan legislation to increase the rate of organ donation. I ask my colleagues to help bring an end to transplant waiting lists and recognize the enormous faith and courage displayed by organ donors and their families. This bill honors these brave acts, while publicizing the critical need for increased organ donation. I urge swift passage of the Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act.

COMMEMORATION OF THE VISIT OF THE BLACKWATER COMMUNITY SCHOOL DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON, DC, FEBRUARY 14, 2006

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a delegation from my district visiting our Nation's Capital. This delegation represents the Blackwater Community School on the Gila River Indian Reservation, who belong to the Akimel O'Otham.

I would like to acknowledge Henry Pino, president of the Blackwater Community School Board; board member Francisco Osife; board secretary Peggy Winchester; and the superintendent and principal of the school, Jacquelyn Power. Through the talent and commitment of these individuals, the students of Blackwater are in great hands. Blackwater Community School has a motto—"Quality Education Begins Here." It was evident in our discussion today that these educators and administrators live up to such an inspiring motto every day.

Blackwater Community School was built in 1939, it was the first operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Arizona, and still educates children and families in its historic, refurbished buildings. The children are in grades kindergarten through second, and a charter expanded the student enrollment to third and fourth grades.

Blackwater has led the way as the highest performing school determined by federal and state officials. Most recently, the National Indian School Board Association honored the school with its coveted 4Cs Award.