

CONGRATULATING THE ST. JOSEPH-OGDEN GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE CLASS A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the St. Joseph-Ogden Spartans, the 2006 Class A State Softball Champions. The Spartans concluded their season on June 3, 2006 with a 1-0 victory in the girls' softball State Championship in East Peoria.

It had been an arduous season for the Spartans, defeating number two-ranked Beecher and number one ranked Taylor Ridge en route to a 31-6 season. The victory was the 665th in just 839 games for their head coach, Randy Wolken; a perfect finish for a team that had overcome so many challenges throughout the season.

Though they had reached the final four last year, the Spartans entered these playoffs huge underdogs. But strong defense and leadership helped the team to far exceed expectations, even for many of its players, culminating in its surprise State Championship.

The citizens of this district and I are very proud of the St. Joseph-Ogden Spartan softball team, and we look forward to continued success in the future. Let us honor the Spartans' tremendous accomplishments this season.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the St. Joseph-Ogden Spartans, the 2006 Class A Softball State Champions.

RECOGNIZING STEVE LYNCH FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Steve Lynch, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Steve has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Steve has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Steve Lynch for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO THE SISTERS OF MERCY

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring the Sisters of Mercy in my hometown, St. Louis, Missouri on the 150th anniversary of their arrival to the United States. Throughout their long years of service the Sisters have tirelessly devoted themselves to sacrificial living—assisting the poor, the sick, and the uneducated throughout Missouri communities.

This tradition of service began on June 27, 1856, when the Sisters of Mercy arrived in St. Louis to open St. Francis Xavier Parish School at the request of then Archbishop Peter J. Kenrick. The Sisters later expanded their ministry beyond the school walls, establishing an orphanage, instituting an industrial school for single-parent children, beginning a Sunday school course for African American women, and continuously visiting the poor, sick, and imprisoned. The Sisters in these ministries frequently incurred personal sacrifices, but this did not deter them from their good works.

In spite of their worthy efforts, the Sisters of Mercy frequently encountered obstacles throughout their service including shortages of food and clothing, as well as insufficient funding. With undying faith and dedication, however, the Sisters were able to overcome these challenges. In their many years of service, the Sisters of Mercy have worked at five high schools and more than 20 parish elementary schools. Additionally, the Sisters have been active in healthcare since 1871, when they converted their original school into a hospital that continues to provide medical care today. After 150 years of service to students, families, the sick, and the underprivileged, the Sisters of Mercy have demonstrated their great commitment to the St. Louis community. Today we recognize their efforts with the best of our admiration and gratitude.

TRIBUTE TO HUNGARIAN VICTIMS OF COMMUNIST TERROR

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago, President Bush traveled to Hungary to participate in events marking the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Uprising. I commend the President for making this trip and for recognizing the sacrifices made on the streets of Budapest in the name of liberty and justice.

Fifty years ago, at the height of the Cold War, Central Europe, was a prisoner, and Moscow was its jailer. Confronted with overwhelming Soviet domination, the Hungarian response was to reaffirm the core values of democracy: individual freedom and national independence.

On October 23, 1956, these two powerful forces—tyrannical communism and the principles of democracy—met and clashed in the middle of Europe. Within the Soviet Empire, the 1956 Hungarian Revolution presented an

alternative to a deceptively dangerous idea, the idea that the best solution to a war-ravaged world is to eliminate political, cultural, religious, economic and national differences by imposing a single, universal "truth." This idea represented the incontestable dogma of communism.

At the heart of the clash was Imre Nagy who assumed the post of Prime Minister even announced Hungary's intention to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact. But, when the Soviet Union crushed Hungary's bid for freedom during those day in October, Imre Nagy and his colleagues were arrested, convicted in secret trials, and eventually executed as "traitors" on June 16, 1958. To prevent the inevitable expressions of support for Nagy and what he stood for, he and the others executed with him were buried by the Moscow-backed regime in Budapest in unmarked graves.

The significance of his and countless other Hungarians' sacrifice is etched onto the political map of the 21st century and echoed in the recent developments throughout the world. As President Bush observed, "The lesson of the Hungarian experience is clear: liberty can be delayed, but it cannot be denied." That is the real moral of the events of 1956 and the subsequent human sacrifices of Imre Nagy and his fellow freedom fighters.

As we remember and mourn those who gave their lives defending freedom those fifty years ago, I would like especially to remember the towering courage of a reluctant hero and a great Hungarian patriot, Imre Nagy.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL R. WYN ELDER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel R. Wyn Elder as he assumes command of the 4th Airlift Squadron based out of McChord Air Force Base.

Lieutenant Colonel Elder graduated from the University of Virginia in 1990 and soon thereafter began a distinguished military career. After completing the Aircraft Maintenance & Munitions Officer Course as a Distinguished Graduate, he was assigned to Nellis AFB in Nevada. He served in several different capacities at the squadron and group levels, including Officer-in-Charge, and Munitions Flight and Assistant Officer-in-Charge of the F-16 and A-10 Aircraft Maintenance Units belonging to the United States Air Force Fighter Weapons School, 422d Operational Test and Evaluation Squadron. In April 1994, Lieutenant Colonel Elder was selected for Undergraduate Pilot Training at Vance AFB. After completing his training as a Distinguished Graduate, he served as the Executive Officer, 17th Airlift Squadron, Charleston AFB, South Carolina. During this period, Lieutenant Colonel Elder commanded missions as part of Operations Allied Force, Southern Watch, Joint Guardian and Joint Endeavor. Thereafter, Lieutenant Colonel Elder spent two years attached to the White House Military Office as a Presidential Advance Agent. In this capacity, he served as the point man for Air Force One flights throughout the world, including the first U.S. presidential trip to Slovenia. Most recently,