

But not really.

There are lessons in this for everyone—surely, for Owens and his accuser, but also for team officials and school administrators. It's just unfortunate that this is how lessons are learned.

Owens led his team in rushing and passing and touchdowns last season. He took the Midshipmen to the Poinsettia Bowl, a 51-30 win over Colorado State. It was a great senior season, one most Navy fans won't soon forget.

Time will pass and Owens' place in school lore will be cemented. When that happens, it'd be nice if Owens is remembered for all that he did at the academy and not for something he didn't.

FREEDOM FOR FÉLIX GERARDO VEGA RUÍZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Félix Gerardo Vega Ruíz, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Vega Ruíz is a member of the Cuban Democratic Workers Union and the Pro Human Rights party. As a courageous member of the opposition, he has steadfastly demanded freedom, democracy, and human rights for the Cuban people. He has bravely denounced the cruel policies of the tyrant and demanded that the people of Cuba be allowed their inalienable rights.

According to The Assembly to Promote Civil Society, Mr. Vega Ruíz was arrested by the dictatorship in 2003 and, after a sham trial, thrown into the totalitarian gulag. According to multiple sources, Mr. Vega Ruíz was sentenced to 7 years in the gulag. Let me be very clear, Mr. Vega Ruíz has been incarcerated in the gulag for daring to dream of and to work on behalf of a democratic Cuba.

According to NetforCuba, Mr. Vega Ruíz has continued to oppose the tyrannical regime while locked in the gulag. He has conducted hunger strikes, including one that lasted 83 days and nearly killed him, to call attention to the horrific abuses of the dictatorship. He has also been stabbed while in the gulag. Let me say that again, Mr. Vega Ruíz has been stabbed while he languishes in the abhorrent gulag, and yet he continues to steadfastly oppose the gangster regime in Havana.

Mr. Vega Ruíz is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. Mr. Vega Ruíz knows the violence, abuse, and repression that will be used to try to break him. Yet he stands strong in the strength of his conviction that the people of Cuba should be and will be free. Mr. Vega Ruíz is one of the many heroes of the Cuban democratic movement who are locked in the dungeons of the dictatorship for their beliefs. They are symbols of freedom and democracy who will always be remembered with respect and admiration when freedom reigns again in Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, this courageous man is locked in the tyrant's gulag for failing to keep silent about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. It is unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, pro democracy activists like Mr. Vega Ruíz are systematically tortured. My Colleagues, we must

never forget those who are locked in gulags because of their desire for freedom for their countries. We must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Felix Gerardo Vega Ruíz and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

RECOGNIZING NIKITA RODRIGUES FOR HER INSPIRING SPEECH

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, we need not worry about America's future if all our up and coming leaders believe in her as does a high school student in my District who delivered the following "Message for America" to an audience of young people.

Nikita Rodrigues lives in my hometown of Somerset, Kentucky and is an outstanding person, as you can tell.

"MY MESSAGE FOR AMERICA"

Ladies and Gentlemen, I speak to you today as a young American. Let that serve as sufficient warning that what I have to say contains equal proportions of young Hope and American Pride. These are the priceless ingredients of my Message for America, which is, "America: Be, all that you can be."

As a young American I am sick and tired of the naysayers that predict the end of the American dream. I am sick of reading about the differences between the red and the blue states and how those insurmountable differences will suffocate our future as Americans. I am sick of hearing about Americans being described as consumers, not producers. And I am sick of people taking pot shots at my country as being past her glory years. To all these naysayers, divisionists, and pessimists I have only one thing to say, "Your mistake lies in under-estimating the youth of America."

It was our past-President Bill Clinton who once said, "There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America"! America's most priceless asset lies not in her immense natural resources, not in her huge factories, not in her stores of gold, not her natural beauty nor her system of incredible highways. America's greatest assets still are the character of her people and the optimism of her youth.

We the youth of America must believe that we can make a difference. We must participate in the political process and hold our leaders accountable when partisan politics stymies our progress. If American high-schoolers are lagging behind the rest of the world, it is time to demand that our schools foster excellence and competitiveness rather than comfortable mediocrity. In the flat world of today, American youth must step up and compete. Yes, we are more diverse than we ever were, but that diversity can and must be our strength.

In his book, "What's so Great About America" Dinesh D'Souza had this to say about our country. "America is the greatest, freest and most decent society in existence. It is an oasis of goodness in a desert of cynicism and barbarism. This country, once an experiment unique in the world, is now the last best hope for the world."

That hope and responsibility rests firmly on our young American shoulders. We can either shrug it off or bear down and accept the daunting challenge to each do our part to make America—All That She Can Be!

Nikita Rodrigues, Somerset, Kentucky

TRIBUTE TO LEO SHERLOCK HOLMES

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life, dedication and contributions of Mr. Leo Sherlock Holmes, who passed away on July 21, 2006.

Mr. Holmes served the U.S. Army as a member of the 99th Fighter Squadron of the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II, and in November 1965 he became the first African American to be elected to Chester City Council. Mr. Holmes served as an inspiration for many people. Because of his trail blazing, the impossible became possible and a reality.

Aside from his career on City Council, Mr. Holmes was also a City Treasurer, a math teacher at Frederick Douglass Junior High School, and a deacon at Bethany Baptist and, later, Calvary Baptist Church. It could never be said that Leo was not an active person. He loved people and lived under the motto that he would be a better person when he reached out to help others.

Mr. Holmes served as a Councilman for the City of Chester for 14 years. He then served as Personnel Director before retiring as City Treasurer on January 10, 1986. Believing and accepting that the people of Chester entrusted him in this position, Leo worked hard to address the issues and answer to the call of the people to the best of his ability. In September of 1990, Leo was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Chester Water Authority and served for 12 years before retiring due to increasing health problems.

Mr. Holmes was dedicated and devoted to the Masonic Order. His journey there started on December 3, 1955 until he his failing health forced him to leave his Masonic office in October of 1990. Upon his resignation the Grand Lodge unanimously voted that he be recognized as the Right Worshipful Grand Secretary Emeritus of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania.

Throughout his career, Mr. Holmes has led by example and we all have benefited from his leadership, intellect and integrity. Mr. Holmes' passing represents the loss of a powerful and committed voice, and it is for these reasons I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues rise to honor him.

RECOGNIZING KEVIN JUSTICE OF CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kevin Justice of Citrus County, Florida, an Army Chief Warrant Officer with More than twenty-four years of service.

Chief Warrant Officer Justice is a graduate of Hernando High School and the Florida Military Academy, where he attended Officer Candidate School. When he is not deployed overseas, Kevin attends the First United Methodist

Church and tries to find time for a round of golf. During his many missions abroad, he sets up a web cam to keep in touch with his wife Shannan, his two children, Nickolus and Hillery and his parents Jay and Mary Justice.

One of the benefits of being in service for Kevin is the opportunity to travel to many countries, including the United Arab Emirates, England, Afghanistan, and the Netherlands. While serving in Operation Enduring Freedom, Kevin was awarded the Bronze Star for justifying the need for additional troops and rotating soldiers in the field.

As a member of the Florida National Guard, Kevin has been deployed for many of the hurricanes that have struck Florida's shores, including Andrew, Charlie, Jeanne and Ivan. Kevin served primarily as a liaison for military assistance and was the go to person to acquire supplies. He went to Oakley Fruit Company to request the use of their tankers to provide purified water to dialysis patients.

One of Kevin's highest honors is his membership in the Royal Order of Saint Barbara, an honorary military society of the United States Field Artillery. Both U.S. Marine and Army field artillery, along with their military and civilian supporters, are eligible for membership. The order links field artillerymen of the past and present in a brotherhood of professionalism, selfless service and sacrifice symbolized by Saint Barbara.

Mr. Speaker, it is soldiers like Kevin Justice who volunteer to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear to their hearts. While brave men and women like Kevin serve in the name of freedom and liberty, his family, friends and loved ones should know that this Congress will never forget his sacrifice and commitment.

HONORING ENVIRONMENTAL
ACTIVIST DAVID HAHN-BAKER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, It is my distinct honor to recognize David Hahn-Baker as the 2006 recipient of the Paul MacClennan Environmental Citizen of the Year Award as presented by Eire County Environmental Education Institute. ECEEI has chosen to acknowledge Mr. Hahn-Baker's lifelong commitment to environmental causes, which are deserving of acknowledgement before this chamber.

Mr. Hahn-Baker is the Founder and President of Inside/Out Political Consultants. An independent national consulting firm based in Buffalo, NY, Inside/Out works with national and local organizations across the country to address the intensifying environmental crisis.

Mr. Hahn-Baker's organization has worked with numerous local and national environmental organizations, including: Community Action Organization of Erie County; Earth Day Network; Buffalo Foundation; Tides Foundation; National Religious Partnership for the Environment; American Resources Information Network; EarthShare; League of Conservation Voters; National Wildlife Foundation; Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; Greenpeace USA; Southern Organizing Committee.

Mr. Hahn-Baker has also taught graduate and undergraduate classes at the University of Michigan and George Washington University. Additionally, Mr. Hahn-Baker was instrumental in the development of the Environment Health Advisory Network at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Mr. Hahn-Baker who has dedicated his professional career to environmental preservation. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. David Hahn Baker whom is so richly deserving of this honor.

HONORING MR. ALEX TRUJILLO,
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR FOR
THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE
AND MEDICAID SERVICES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Alex Trujillo, who has served for 35 years in the federal government, most recently as the Region VIII Administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. A personable, thoughtful and caring individual, Mr. Trujillo has worked closely with my office on numerous occasions to ensure that beneficiaries of Medicare, Medicaid and Children's Health Programs are receiving reliable information from which to base their healthcare decisions.

Under Mr. Trujillo's direction, nearly 92 percent of beneficiaries in Region VIII now have prescription drug coverage. This is a remarkable number of people receiving much needed healthcare coverage, especially in a time of rising prescription drug costs.

Over the past four decades, Medicare has grown to become a critical provider of healthcare services for millions of Americans. More often than not, recipients of Medicare are not fully aware of all of the advantages and health benefits to which they are entitled. Consequently, many beneficiaries pay a higher premium for their healthcare or do not understand where and how they can make savings. One of Alex Trujillo's accomplishments has been his leadership in improving public education about Medicare. During his tenure, Region VIII has measured an increase in responsible healthcare decision-making by beneficiaries that not only provides better quality healthcare, but also utilizes services more efficiently. This is an important accomplishment considering that Region VIII provides services for 3.2 percent of the U.S. population. It is also one of the biggest regions geographically, with a coverage area that stretches from Colorado to Montana, Wyoming, Utah, North Dakota and South Dakota. Mr. Trujillo's attention to rural communities has also been noteworthy.

Following his graduation from college in 1971, Mr. Trujillo entered public service at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For the last 20 years he has worked for the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). He gained valuable experience in the Divisions of Medicare and Health Standards and Quality, and also served as the Assistant Regional Inspector General for the Office of Investigations and Office of the Inspec-

tor General. In short, he knows the landscape of these agencies and developed a reputation for exceptional service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our appreciation to Alex Trujillo for his record of service in the federal government.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID
LAWRENCE, JR.

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, David Lawrence, Jr. is a 20-year veteran of the newspaper business, serving in many capacities including positions as the editor of the Charlotte Observer, the publisher and executive editor of the Detroit Free Press, and the publisher of the Miami Herald which, under his leadership, won five Pulitzer Prizes for investigative reporting, meritorious public service, editorial cartooning and local news reporting.

David Lawrence, Jr. has been awarded eleven honorary doctoral degrees and has received numerous awards for his writing, including the First Amendment Award from the Scripps Howard Foundation and the Inter American Press Association Commentary Award.

After his retirement from The Miami Herald in 1999, David Lawrence, Jr. left the newspaper business entirely and focused his attention on child advocacy and early childhood education initiatives. His service in support of these efforts include his roles as Chairman of the Children's Trust, President of The Early Childhood Initiative, Chairman of the Florida Partnership for School Readiness, Chairman of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Child Protection, and member of the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation and the Foundation for Child Development.

His legacy of education and service to the community will continue at the David Lawrence, Jr. K-8 Center, a Miami-Dade County Public School for 1,600 students across from the north campus of Florida International University in North Miami, Florida. Mr. Lawrence, Jr.'s work exemplifies the contributions of so many South Floridians who work tirelessly to strengthen our community. My sincerest gratitude to a great journalist, philanthropist and my constituent, David Lawrence, Jr.

RECOGNITION OF DR. DENNIS
SPELLMAN

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to state for the record how deeply saddened I am by the recent death of Dr. Dennis Spellman.

As President of Lindenwood University in St. Charles Missouri since 1989, Dr. Spellman leaves a legacy of success. His unique leadership style resulted in the tremendous growth of Lindenwood from a small struggling college, to the beautiful sprawling campus of almost 3,500 students (living on campus) that it is today as Lindenwood University.