

My father taught science and coached girls basketball at Smyrna High. As a result, I feel a special connection to the purple and gold.

With their victory over the Ravenwood Raptors, the Bulldogs secured their first ever football title and finished the season with a school record 13 wins. While it was their first appearance in the BlueCross Bowl, Coach Philip Shadowens and the Bulldogs left no doubt that they belonged on the field. They overcame a 14–6 deficit against the defending champs, scoring 29 unanswered points on their way to victory.

During their playoff run, the Bulldogs avenged their two regular season losses to Riverdale and Ravenwood. In the quarterfinal round, they defeated the Riverdale Warriors for the first time in school history.

I commend the Bulldogs and their head coach, Philip Shadowens, for a fine season and an outstanding championship win. Steve Carson, Jason Pitts, Shawn Middleton, Kent Pippenger, Will Hawkins, Will Forkum, Scott Keasler, Travis Schrimsher, Alex Robbins, Luke Shepherd and Justin Morton serve as the team's assistant coaches. Robert "Bud" Raikes is Smyrna High School's principal.

I congratulate all the talented members of the 2006 5A State Champion Bulldogs: Sonny Gray, Antoine Hendricks, Rod Wilks, Orlando Martin, Will Martin, Tyler Slater, Kyle Frazier, Andrew Wiggins, Eddie Lalap, Joseph Butler, Sam Youree, Josh Crouch, Cleave Shaw, David Sanders, Jonah Hendricks, Maceo Harris, Cody Williams, Tony Window, Lonnie Turner, Tony Alexander, Quentin Burford, Cotie Dickson, Chris Yoder, Cordarius Johnson, Donovan Craig, Reuben Shadrake, Jarvis Hicks, Justin Martin, Sean Mckay, Michael Hosford, Michael Bolton, Singleton Garrett, Johnathan Vaughn, Laith Al Tamimi, Kelly Thomason, Brandon Hendricks, Josh Day, Karrar Al Hassan, Dawson Wooten, Reese Haywood, Tony Carr, Cody Sutherland, Cody Gower, Johnathan Wilcox, James Hudson, Matt Rofrano, Quentin Allen, Kyle Carter, Josh Pfe Witt, Bradly Folds, Alex Hill, Keith Martin, Westley Cadena, Darrell Goad, Tyler Eady, Anthony Khamphenphet, Pham Trungtin, Nathan Cantrell, Keiton Hendry, Cassidy Spence, Brandon Jaradat, D.J. Johns, James Williams, Davion Baxter, Tyler Montgomery, Jordan Bell, Cody Hagar, Daivid Pierre-Paul, Mickey West, Jeremy King, Jesse Torres, Blair Willis, Tre Tunstill, Richard Maynard, Nick Richardson, Harrison Gill and Nathan Torres.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "STUDY OF WAYS TO IMPROVE THE ACCURACY OF THE COLLECTION OF FEDERAL OIL, CONDENSATE, AND NATURAL GAS ROYALTIES ACT OF 2006"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Study of Ways To Improve the Accuracy of the Collection of Federal Oil, Condensate, and Natural Gas Royalties Act of 2006." I am pleased to be joined by Representatives HINCHEY (D-NY), GRIJALVA (D-AZ), and CONYERS (D-MI) in introducing this legislation. On May 7, 2006, the Washington

Post reported allegations that American taxpayers are being shortchanged by oil and gas companies in the royalties that they are paying to the Federal Government ("Firms Harvesting Energy from Public Lands May Owe U.S."). Jack Grynberg, a plaintiff in a false claims action against seventy-three energy and pipeline companies, was featured in the article. Based on his expertise, the legislation I am introducing asks the National Academy of Engineering to conduct a study regarding improving the accuracy of collection of royalties on production of oil, condensate, and natural gas under leases of both onshore and offshore Federal lands and onshore Indian lands.

These valuable resources are owned by the American people, who should be fairly and accurately compensated. I believe that this study would prove invaluable in accomplishing this important goal and will tell us if there is a problem, including the extent of the problem, with the collection of royalties from Federal lands and Indian lands.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. PAUL'S COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF POINT ARENA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of St. Paul's Community United Methodist Church in Point Arena.

St. Paul's was the first Protestant church on the rural and relatively isolated south Mendocino coast. It started out with 24 parishioners and was led by Rev. David H. Haskin as its first pastor. In 1906 it was consecrated as a Methodist church.

Tragically, on April 18th, 1906, a fire occurred in the aftermath of the San Andreas earthquake and destroyed the original St. Paul's Church and elementary school. With the support of its community, the church and elementary school were quickly rebuilt.

Three items were rescued from the fire: the organ, two rectory chairs and the pulpit, all of which still grace the sanctuary. The most interesting item rescued was a unique, hand-carved pulpit made of three simulated Bibles. Mr. Ole Jensen, a church member and immigrant from Denmark, who was trained to make figureheads for ships, created it.

St. Paul's Church has enriched the lives of its parishioners and fellow community members through weekly religious services and an elementary school. The church is a pillar of the community on the coast.

Mr. Speaker, we honor this church for its contributions to the community and the continued resilience of its parishioners. It has been a welcoming haven and example of community strength since its original founding. It is appropriate at this time that we recognize St. Paul's Community United Methodist Church on its 100th anniversary.

FREEDOM FOR EFRÉN FERNÁNDEZ FERNÁNDEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Efrén Fernández Fernández, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Fernández is a member of the Christian Liberation Movement and an opponent of the tyranny in Havana. In March of 2003, Mr. Fernández was arrested as part of an abhorrent island-wide crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists who were calling for the most basic of human rights for Cuba. His participation in a collection of signatures in support of a call for some elemental rights for Cubans was all that the communist regime needed to incarcerate him.

In a sham trial, Mr. Fernández was sentenced to 12 years in the totalitarian gulag. He has endured numerous prison transfers and solitary confinements based only on his captors' whims and arbitrary reasons. Since his "sentencing", he has managed to survive against all odds in the most deplorable of human conditions. Mr. Fernández' bravery and commitment to freedom has not wavered even though since his unjust incarceration he has lost more than thirty pounds and suffers from frequent fits of vomiting and chronic intestinal problems.

According to Carta de Cuba, on September 7, 2006, Mr. Fernández was administered antibiotics intravenously for an unidentified bacterial infection affecting his kidneys. Immediately following that treatment, Mr. Fernández fainted and complained of experiencing severe heart palpitations and arterial tension.

Let me be very clear, Mr. Fernández is languishing in the totalitarian gulag simply for believing that every Cuban citizen has the fundamental right to live in freedom with the most basic of human rights and protections of their individual liberties. He suffers the consequences, no matter how brutal or at what risk to his health, and continues his dignified struggle for freedom on that oppressed island.

It is unconscionable that a mere ninety miles from our shores, men and women are suffering in the darkness of totalitarian repression. Mr. Speaker, this constitutes a crime against humanity. Mr. Fernández's only crime is to demand that basic human rights be restored to the people of Cuba.

It is incumbent on all of us who serve in this great democratic body to recognize and remember the terrible plight of those brave men and women like Mr. Fernández who suffer the living nightmare of despotic totalitarianism. Let us all join in demanding the immediate release of Efrén Fernández Fernández and all political prisoners in Cuba.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. EEEVE LEWIS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, together with my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, I

rise today to recognize the outstanding career of Mrs. Eeve Lewis, the County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor-Public Administrator for Sonoma County. Mrs. Lewis has worked for Sonoma County for over 35 years, rising from her starting position of Clerk Typist to win 6 elections and serve a total of 7 terms as the County Clerk, during which time she has overseen and led numerous structural adjustments to the division of responsibilities in the county offices.

Mrs. Lewis was born in West Germany, the daughter of an Estonian woman living in a displaced person's camp. Her family immigrated to the United States in 1950, and she cites the welcome and opportunity they found here as one of her primary motivations to enter a life of public service. She graduated with Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Chico State and Sonoma State University, respectively.

Mrs. Lewis was hired by Sonoma County in 1971, and transferred to the Clerk's Office in 1974. A swift series of promotions followed. She was appointed the Acting County Clerk 1977 when her predecessor died in office. She won her first election in a runoff and has since won 6 more terms in office. During almost 30 years as the elected Clerk of Sonoma County, Mrs. Lewis has presided over expansion and refinement of the responsibilities and jurisdiction of the office of the Clerk. By always approaching jurisdictional matters with an open attitude and a concern for the relevant statutes, Mrs. Lewis has guided a series of changes that have greatly benefited the government and people of Sonoma. By working closely with court staff, Mrs. Lewis straightforwardly organized the reapportionment of duties and streamlined costs when it became necessary to create a separate office to administer the county's court system. Similar structural adjustments in 2001 saw the Clerk's Office absorb the County Recorder's responsibilities and then the County Assessor's role. Through all of these changes Mrs. Lewis has carefully studied the new responsibilities assigned to her, and maintained the high standard of performance for which the Clerk's Office is known.

In addition to her work in Sonoma County, Mrs. Lewis has been active in professional organizations around the state helping other counties emulate the success of Sonoma in developing and maintaining an effective Clerk staff. She is responsible for the development of a series of workshops to help train staff around the state, with the first of these meetings scheduled to take place this coming March. Additionally, she participated in a legal taskforce mandated to update confusing or outdated portions of California Code related to the duties of County and Court Clerks. All of these activities greatly contribute to a higher quality of governance throughout the State of California and represent a service to the people every bit as important as her work in Sonoma County.

Mr. Speaker, we rise today to congratulate Mrs. Eeve Lewis on the occasion of her retirement after 35 years of service to Sonoma County, including a remarkable 28 years of capably guiding that office as the elected County Clerk. She will leave behind the finest organization in the state and a legion of admirers who valued the insight and care with which she approached her work.

HONORING EEEV LEWIS OF
SONOMA COUNTY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, together with my colleague Ms. Woolsey, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career of Ms. Eeve Lewis, the County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor-Public Administrator for Sonoma County. Ms. Lewis has worked for Sonoma County for over 35 years, rising from her starting position of Clerk Typist to win 6 elections and serve a total of 7 terms as the County Clerk, during which time she has overseen and led numerous structural adjustments to the division of responsibilities in the county offices.

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TRIBUTE TO THE DEMOCRATIC
PACIFIC UNION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I salute the Democratic Pacific Union which was formally inaugurated in Taipei, Taiwan on May 14, 2005, the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. Notable guests at the inaugural ceremony included presidents of Taiwan, Costa Rica and Guatemala as well as vice presidents of Taiwan, Nicaragua and Palau. The goals of the Union are to integrate resources in the pan-Pacific region for joint development and regional cooperation and to promote democracy, peace and prosperity among DPU member democracies.

Since May of 2005, the Union has established a Secretariat, published its first quarterly, planned West Pacific regional meetings, formed a Pacific economic advisory group, and initiated the Pacific Congressional Caucus project. The project seeks to bring congressional and parliamentary members of DPU together to promote exchange and cooperation among lawmakers throughout DPU member countries. The Taiwan Chapter of the Pacific Congressional Caucus was inaugurated on May 20, 2006 and convened by the Speaker of Taiwan's Legislature Yuan.

My commendations also to the Taiwan Chapter of the Pacific Congressional Caucus. The Chapter will sponsor a symposium on congressional reforms December 8–10, 2006, in Taipei, Taiwan. Legislative members of the DPU, member states and U.S. Members of Congress have been graciously invited to attend this symposium either as participants or observers. I hope that my colleagues will find time to attend this very important event in Taipei and lend our encouragement and support to The Pacific Congressional Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I also commend the Union for its goals, achievements, and initiations which include a training program on hazard mitigation on typhoon-related disasters held May 8–12, 2006 in Taiwan. The DPU has also established a 2006 fellowship and scholarship program providing funds for students from DPU member states to attend universities in Taiwan. Another significant achievement for this young organization is an invitation to distinguished women from member states to attend meetings in Taiwan to identify and address gender issues and problems women face in the Pacific region. The DPU has also invited political experts to observe elections in Taiwan; and established the Pacific Center for Disaster Reduction in Taipei.