

CONGRATULATING THE BAYSIDE ACADEMY VOLLEYBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE 2007 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 14, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the Bayside Academy volleyball team on winning the 2007 2A State Volleyball Championship.

Coach Ann Schilling along with Assistant Coach Brenda Allen led the Bayside Academy varsity volleyball team to the state championship earlier this month, making it the first team in Alabama history to win six consecutive titles. Incredibly, Bayside Academy has won nine of the last 10 state championships in 2A and 16 titles overall.

Founded in 1970 by Baldwin County families, Bayside has an enrollment of 730 students in grades pre-kindergarten through 12 and ranks as one of the state's premier independent schools.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Bayside Academy Volleyball Team on a great season and state championship. This school deserves public recognition for this great honor, and I extend my congratulations to each member of the team and coaching staff.

BAYSIDE ACADEMY'S 2007 VOLLEYBALL TEAM  
ROSTER

Names: Maggie Niemeyer; Shelby Bulta; Lizzie Williams; Reynolds Pittman; Emily Allen; Taylor Givens; Gigi Eyre; Caroline Todd; Sarah Mosteller; Lauren Reibe; Patricia Sirmon; Savannah Simmons.

Coaching Staff: Head Coach Ann Schilling; Assistant Coach Brenda Allen.

RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 14, 2007*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to acknowledge National American Indian Heritage Month and to call attention to the dire situation that many of our Native American brothers and sisters continue to live in today. In the world's richest nation on earth, many Native American people struggle to obtain the most basic of services made available to the rest of the nation, effectively threatening the health and well-being of future generations. For this reason, I continually support legislation that strengthens the self-determination of Native American people living both on and off Indian reservations.

According to the National Congress of American Indians and the National Indian Health Board, the Native American infant mortality rate is 150 percent greater than that of Caucasian infants, suicide among Native Americans is 2½ times higher than the national average, Native Americans are 2.6 times more likely to be diagnosed with diabetes, and the life expectancy rate for Native Americans is 5 years less than the rest of the U.S. population. There is an urgent need for sufficient and effective healthcare for Native American people and yet the President has

proposed zeroing out Urban Indian Health Programs and reducing funding to Indian Health Facilities by \$25 million. In addition, inadequate legal services and weakening education support continue to hinder Native American people from achieving self-sufficiency and upward mobility.

As a new Appropriations Committee member, I am committed to strengthening the funding sources for Native American programs, specifically those programs in the areas of healthcare, education, and the justice system. I have fought for the full funding for the Community Health Partnership of Santa Clara County's Healthy Women, Healthy Choices project, which aims to increase health status of medically underserved mid-life women by providing comprehensive health education and promoting adoption of healthier behaviors through community workshops and provider trainings. I have also fought to continue the funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Urban Indian Health Program, which works to eradicate the mental health, substance abuse, and chronic disease disparities plaguing urban Indian people. These valuable programs provide the holistic and culturally sensitive care needed to effectively support this very vulnerable population.

In addition, I have cosponsored numerous health care bills developed specifically to address the needs of Native American people including the Indian Health Care Improvement Act Amendments of 2007. Introduced by Representative FRANK PALLONE, H.R. 1328 seeks to create comprehensive behavioral health, prevention, treatment, and aftercare services for Native American peoples. By passing policies such as these, Congress can help turn around the Native American health care crisis and improve the well-being of future generations.

Since joining the Appropriations committee, I have also argued for the continued funding of the O'Malley Education program. As a former educator, I know and understand the positive influence that a properly funded school system can have on the performance of its students. Authorized in 1934, the Johnson O'Malley Act was passed to ensure that the federal government supports the unique and specialized educational needs of Native American children. Providing funding for basic education-related items such as eyeglasses, school supplies, learning materials, and scholastic testing fees, the O'Malley Education program helps Native American children achieve academic success. The program provides critical supplemental funding not covered by any other Federal, State, or local agency. It is an essential component that is supporting the efforts of the educational school system and improving the educational attainment of Native American children.

Preservation of indigenous languages is another significant challenge impacting Native America and one that Congress can help support. According to the National Indian Education Association (NIEA), Native American languages are being lost at a rate so rapid that by the year 2050 only twenty indigenous languages will remain viable. Allowing the loss of these indigenous languages would not only be devastating to Native American people, but would be a true disservice to the world. For this reason, I have supported legislation such as H. Con. Res. 11, the English Plus Resolution, introduced by Representative JOE SERRANO, which calls on the Federal Government to support and assist Native American

groups working to preserve and prevent the extinction of their languages and cultures.

Legal services for Native American people also require continued Congressional attention. To ensure the sustainability of Indian legal services, we must continue to provide the tribal justice system with adequate federal financial support. For this reason, I have proposed appropriations funding for the California Indian Legal Services' Tribal Court Development Project (TCD). Funding the TCD project would strengthen existing tribal courts in California and foster the development of new tribal courts. TCD would improve capacity and resource-building, increase State-wide institution-building and information-sharing, and enhance legal services offered by the California tribal justice system. I have also urged the Appropriations Committee to fund the National Congress of American Indians and the California Indian Legal Services' Alcohol and Substance Abuse Demonstration Projects, the Tribal Courts Assistance Program, and the Tribal Prison Construction Program. Together, these initiatives work to strengthen State and local law enforcement efforts and provide much needed funding directed at improving resources, services, and infrastructure available in the tribal justice system.

In addition to bringing these issues to light, I have also cosponsored H.J. Res. 3, introduced by Representative Jo Ann Davis, which calls on the Federal Government to recognize and apologize for the ill-conceived policies it has implemented against Native American peoples throughout our Nation's history, and H.R. 3585, introduced by Representative JOE BACA, which formally honors the achievements and contributions of Native American people, calls for the development of a model educational curriculum, which recognizes such achievements, and encourages the American people to celebrate National American Indian Heritage Day.

As we embark on the 2007 National American Indian Heritage Month, I am hopeful that my colleagues and I will have the opportunity to pass the proposed legislation and confirm Congress' commitment to support Native American peoples and uphold Native American cultures and languages.

HONORING JULIAN GIBSON-CORNELL

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 14, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Julian Gibson-Cornell, 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 75, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Julian Gibson-Cornell for