

the Carroll Senior High and Carroll High School's Lady Dragon Cross Country Team on their 2007 5A State Championship.

This is the Lady Dragon's first place win for the third consecutive year. The team learned days after the November 17th State 5A meet that they finished in first place. They were originally awarded second, following a tie breaker, but the University Interscholastic League later confirmed an error in the place results and awarded the Lady Dragon's with the top finish.

The Lady Dragon State Cross Country consists of 7 tremendous young women, including Seniors Taylor Stephens and Lauren Hill; Juniors Tara Upshaw, Lucia Xiong, Caitlin Gilbert and Jessica Ferber; and Sophomore Jessica Harper. They are coached by Robert Ondrasek.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Lady Dragon's on a great season and their State Championship. The Carroll Senior High School and the Carroll High School deserve public recognition for this great honor and I extend my congratulations to the outstanding runners and coaching staff.

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#### IN RECOGNITION OF MARCI NOVAK

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### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2007*

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marci Novak, the founder of For the Love of the Lake.

In 1995, Marci and a group of enthusiastic volunteers formed For the Love of the Lake, committed to the preservation and enhancement of White Rock Lake Park in Dallas, Texas. She envisioned turning a dirty, litter-filled lake into a clean and beautiful urban oasis. Under her leadership, For the Love of the Lake has expanded to thousands of volunteers and implemented creative new programs such as the White Rock 'n' Roll Run, Adopt-a-Shoreline, and the Celebration Tree Grove project.

Whether rain or shine, warm or cold, Marci has spent countless Saturdays at White Rock Lake over the years. As a result of her hard work, For the Love of the Lake has received countless contributions from the local community as well as grants from Dallas Park and Recreation Department. We share a common vision—a clean and magnificent environment where children can play and wild life can flourish. It was that shared vision that spurred my involvement, which began in 1995. I am grateful for Marci—for her getting me involved in such a wonderful and valuable organization and for her dedication, which has ensured that White Rock Lake Park can continue to be enjoyed by families, local citizens, and visitors.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude for her passion and hard work.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING KEVIN MILLER FOR WINNING THE DIVISION III STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT.

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### HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2007*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Kevin Miller showed hard work and dedication to the sport of golf; and

Whereas, Kevin Miller was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Kevin Miller always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the green; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Kevin Miller on winning the Division III State Golf Tournament. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007 golf season.

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#### A TRIBUTE TO JESSE L. BLANDING

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### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jesse L. Blanding. Jesse was born in Lugoff, South Carolina to Berggard and Mazie Blanding. He is 1 of 7 children, 2 boys and 5 girls.

Jesse was educated in the Lugoff School System, graduating from Jackson High School in 1962. Upon his graduation, he obtained a job with the City of Columbia as a laborer. He eventually worked his way up to machinist and later, bricklayer.

Jesse relocated to New York City gaining employment at Standard Plating where he was able to display his willingness to work hard. It all paid off when he received a promotion to foreman. After 5 years, he went to work for the Nice Fuel Oil Company. After 3 years he left Nice Fuel and went to work for Wally Fuel where he stayed for 17 years.

Jesse is a busy member of New Canaan Baptist Church. He has worked as the bus driver and maintenance person for New Canaan's bus company. Jesse's memberships in various ministries include: former president of the Male Chorus, Chairman of the Musician's Appreciation Committee, and membership in the South Carolina Club. He is instrumental in the renovation of New Canaan and its day to day upkeep.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the hard work and achievements of Jesse Blanding.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this kind and tenacious man.

TRIBUTE TO THE SNOWBOARD OUTREACH SOCIETY

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### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2007*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the great work of the Snowsports Outreach Society (SOS Outreach), based in Vail, Colorado, which is dedicated to providing outdoor recreation and confidence-building opportunities to underprivileged youth.

The snow sports industry is an essential part of Colorado's lifestyle, economy and image. Colorado's mountainous terrain and world class resorts have set the standard for the ultimate experience in sliding on snow. As co-chair of the Congressional Ski and Snowboard Caucus and an avid skier myself, I understand the importance of this outdoor activity—in all its forms—for its physical health benefits and the recreation economy of Colorado and the country's ski resorts.

SOS Outreach complements the benefits of snow sports by providing dynamic programs to 2,500 youths in need nationwide. During the current season, 2,000 Colorado participants will be enrolled in a 7-year curriculum. I am proud to support the work that they do to grow the sport and promote positive self-esteem in their participants.

Now celebrating its 14th anniversary, SOS Outreach was founded in Vail, Colorado in 1993. SOS Outreach is a grassroots, 501(c)(3) organization. Through the work of its founder and executive director, Arn Menconi and former director of snowboarding for Vail Resorts, Ray Sforzo, a charity was developed that appealed to the mountain resort's desire to build the community by serving underprivileged youth.

SOS Outreach first introduced youth to the benefits of outdoor recreation during the 1995–1996 season when they taught 40 youths snowboarding. They were provided with one day of free lessons, equipment and lift tickets. Since their first season, SOS Outreach has partnered with mountain resorts, youth agencies, foundations, corporations and individual donors to expand their curriculum and serve over 7,500 youths. SOS Outreach is further leveraging their partnerships to expand their programs and include skiing. Over 7,000 program days will be provided at 29 resorts across the country, 13 in the State of Colorado.

SOS Outreach reaches out to its participants by providing a high quality, resilience-based program that positively impacts self-esteem and ability to participate positively within their communities; supports underserved youth through adult mentorship; and encourages personal character education through SOS Outreach's five core values of courage, discipline, integrity, wisdom and compassion. In using snowboarding and skiing as the carrot, SOS Outreach also sets personal, academic and athletic goals with kids and provides vocational skills training. Their curriculum is recognized nationally for its impact.

The dynamic programming they provide would not be successful without the substantial support of the following individuals and organizations. I would like to recognize and thank each of them for sustaining such a program in Colorado: