

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2008 FEDEX ORANGE BOWL

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce House Resolution 948, which honors the University of Kansas football program on their recent victory at the Orange Bowl and their most successful year in program history.

On January 3, the KU football team won the 2008 FedEx Orange Bowl, marking their first major bowl victory in university history. Leading up to the bowl game, the team placed 12 wins on their roster, setting a new school record for wins in a season. KU also reached the number two spot of the AP national poll, which marked the highest national ranking that the program has ever received.

Among their athletic accomplishments this season, the team also produced three students who received All-American titles for their performances on the field and two other students who were Academic All-American recipients. Head Coach Mark Mangino also received multiple national Coach of the Year honors.

Please join me in recognizing these accomplishments and congratulating KU on their amazing victories this season.

HONORING THE VERY REVEREND VENSESLAV DIMITROFF

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Very Reverend Father Venseslav Dimitroff of Toledo, Ohio.

The Very Reverend Father Venseslav Dimitroff, a wise and faithful servant who shepherded his family and his community around the world, departed this life on Wednesday, February 27, 2008. A beacon of hope and service to his Toledo community, he will be sincerely missed by all. He was born on July 12, 1923, in Bourgas, Bulgaria. He spent his early childhood in Edirne, Turkey where his late father, the Very Reverend Mihail Dimitroff was the principal of the former "Peter Beron" Bulgarian high school and his mother, the late Ekaterina, a teacher. His family moved to Plovdiv, Bulgaria, when he was 7 years old and he stayed there until 1944, few days before the Communist takeover of the country. He had to leave his homeland again and move to Istanbul, Turkey. He served in the Turkish Military for 4 years. He married Marina Veneziani on November 7, 1955, at Sveti Stefan Bulgarian Church where his father had become an Orthodox priest. He was ordained to the priesthood himself in March of 1961 by the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Constantinople. He was elevated to Cross-bearing Archpriest in May of 1973 by the Patriarch Maxim of Bulgaria. He served at St. John of Rila Church in the Bulgarian Exarchate in Istanbul until July of 1975.

At the invitation of the late Archbishop Kyrill Yonchev and the late Mrs. Pena Evanoff, one of the founders of the St. George Bulgarian Church in Toledo, Ohio, he immigrated to the United States in August of 1975. He served the small immigrant church community until his retirement in August of 1995. Father Dimitroff was a very friendly person who enjoyed talking to people from all walks of life. He loved reading, especially Balkan history and politics, and was an avid soccer fan who loved watching all kinds of sports on television. He beautified his home and community by being a masterful gardener. His church housed a lush gorgeous garden full of flowers, especially tulips and roses.

In the summer of 1992 he fulfilled a dream to return to Bulgaria for a visit to his brother after a 48-year separation. Four years later, in 1996, through the generous hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. George Lutikoff, he was able to revisit his family in his beloved Istanbul to spend a wonderful vacation among the members of the Bulgarian community residing there.

It is with the deepest appreciation that I pay tribute to the long life of a good, patient and kind man, the Very Reverend Father Venseslav Dimitroff. He lived his years in service to his family, friends, and our Toledo community. May God welcome "Ven" home; a good and faithful servant. May He shower him royally with blessings into eternity and bestow upon him a loving peace.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO "COOGAN'S ANNUAL SALSA, BLUES & SHAMROCKS 5K RUN" ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Coogan's Restaurant's 10th Annual Salsa, Blues & Shamrocks 5K Run, a local institution in my district that was founded on the premise that "kids who run, do better in school."

Coogan's Annual Salsa, Blues & Shamrocks 5K Run is a celebration of the strong community ties and rich cultural diversity of northern Manhattan. The scenic route circles the historic Cloisters and returns to 169th Street. The New York City Road Runners Organization, organizers of the New York City Marathon, calls this "the best road race outside of Central Park."

More than 2,500 runners of all ages including world class competitors along with local celebrities participate in the race. A collage of over 20 different musical groups including gospel, bagpipes, meringue, salsa, and brass bands will serenade the runners along the route. Hundreds of kids running their hearts out all receive their Olympic style medals awarded by local firefighters and policemen.

Races "within the race" include the Captain Frederick III, Jr. Uniform Services Race created in memory of a local firefighter who lost his life in the World Trade Center attacks on September 11, 2001. Participants from the Fire Department, Police Department, and Uniformed Services will compete for the Captain Frederic III, Jr. FDNY Victory Cup.

Another race within the race is the Norbert Sander High School Open named after Dr.

Norbert Sanders, M.D., founder of the Armory Foundation. This race features teams of high school students competing for trophies and awards. Winners receive \$500, to be donated to their high school sports programs.

Coogan's Annual Salsa, Blues & Shamrocks 5K Run was founded in 1998 by the managing partners of Coogan's Restaurant: David Hunt, Peter Walsh, and Tess O'Connor McDade. This five kilometer running party has been an extraordinary event ever since, packed with the pulse and flavors of one of New York City's most diverse neighborhoods.

On the 10th anniversary of this momentous race, I congratulate and offer my best wishes for the continued success of the race and its organizers. What began as a run to help children do better in school has become a remarkable accomplishment that should inspire other communities across our great Nation to pursue similar goals with devoted persistence.

IN HONOR OF REGINA WERDER O'CONNOR

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Regina Werder O'Connor on her 90th birthday. It has been my pleasure to know and work with her granddaughter, Kathleen O'Connor, who has told me about her grandmother's wonderful 90 years.

It's important in this day and age for children to grow up in a strong family environment. Gina made sure that her four children grew up in a home that valued hard work, devotion to their Faith, and love for the Buffalo Bills. Her children have now passed these values on to her many grandchildren, and now great-grandchildren.

Gina has also been a blessing to her community. She sacrificed many hours in service to the high schools her children attended. She has been a devoted and faithful parishioner of her beloved St. Mark's Parish for which, over the past several decades, she has sent out weekly parish bulletins to shut-in parishioners. She has also been a long-time volunteer at Sister's Hospital where she finds time to not only help those at the "Welcome" desk but also to help "the old people" she sees there.

Gina is a true pillar in the community. Her devotion to her family and commitment to helping others are examples to us all.

I would like to ask this House to extend best wishes for her upcoming birthday on March 21st and for many, many more. May her coming year be filled with happiness and good health.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOHN MCINTIRE LIBRARY CARNEGIE BUILDING

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, the dedicated people of the John McIntire Library Carnegie Building celebrate the 100th anniversary with great joy; and

Whereas, occasions such as these illustrate to us the dedication and the support of the many in preserving history and information for the public; and

Whereas, it is the fond wish of this body that you will continue to preserve this history in its State memorial to demonstrate the importance of knowledge, freedom of information, and education. It is also the wish of this body that you maintain your stand as a symbol to this generation that our strength lies in our knowledge and history and the entwinement therefore, so that we may never forget the past; be it

Resolved, That along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the Friends of the Library for your unwavering commitment, recognizing that all great achievements come from great dedication. With great appreciation and respect, we recognize the tremendous impact this library has had in the community and in the lives of those people you have touched.

CONGRATULATING THE TEHACHAPI HIGH SCHOOL WARRIORS VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Tehachapi High School Warriors varsity football team. The Warriors have won the 2007 California Interscholastic Federation Central Section Division III championship, also known as the Valley Championship.

The championship game took place on Friday, November 30, 2007. The Warriors defeated Foothill High School, 33-28, in its last game of the season to win the championship. Victory wasn't sealed until the final minutes of the fourth quarter. The Warriors, finishing the season with a record of 12-1, won their ninth CIF championship averaging 33 points per game, giving this year's team the fourth highest alltime points per game in the 78-year history of Mountain Football. Additionally, in its 13 games, the team completed 4,443 yards of offense and scored 62 touchdowns.

I want to extend my congratulations to the Tehachapi High School Warriors student athletes for their impressive championship win and their strong 2007 season. The 2007 roster included Justin Hansen, Kurtis Knudson, Franky Rodriguez, Ehren Ochsenrider, Dan Rakowski, Garrett Coontz, Josh Schulgen, Nick Howell, Derek Lange, Neal Herman, Jesse Olofson, Tyler Hack, Steve Miller, Zach Maravigli, Zeke Saavedra, Chris Marsik, J.J. Balkar, Will Clark, Adam Mullen, Richie Meister, Josh Strauss, Kelly Lorenz, Jeff Waldram, Austin Herman, Angelo Loli, Matt Henry, Louie Olofson, Byron Herman, Jason Hail, Marshall Pearson, John Cramer, Damian Rodriguez, Joey Hack, Alek Taliulu, Matt Santos, Jonathan Perrien, Vince Ortiz, Cameron Hood, Dominic Chavarria, Cody Rogers, Eric Harroun, Kevin Ruiz, Brent Hanes, Humberto Silva, John King, Jimmy Lopez, Marcus Abarquez, Ryan Rubi, Drew Howell, Steve Brass, Luke Papac, Geo Higareda, Mike Gonzalez, Tucker Kill, Phil Smith, Chris Fimbres, Shawn Pimentel, and Jon Castelblanco.

The coaching staff of the Tehachapi High School Warriors helped to lead the team throughout this incredible season. The Warrior head coach is Steve Denman. In the playoffs, Coach Denman claimed the distinction of having the most wins of any head coach in the history of football in Kern County with 223 victories. The Warriors' assistant coaching staff included Bill Carll, Pat Snyder, Dennis Ruggles, and Chris Olofson. Roger Davis and Derek Thompson were the medical staff for the team, and team videos were handled by Larry Campbell.

All of the components of the Tehachapi High School Warriors varsity football team came together in this championship season. Their stellar teamwork, combined with months of physical and mental training, enabled the Warriors to win this Valley Championship. I am sure that this experience will benefit these young men long after their high school graduation.

On behalf of the residents of the 22nd Congressional District, I commend the Tehachapi High School Warriors on winning the 2007 Valley Championship. I know the parents, teachers, neighbors, and fans in our community will remember this season for many years to come.

105TH ANNIVERSARY OF SANDOVAL COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, Sandoval County, New Mexico celebrated its 105th anniversary yesterday, March 10, 2008. Please join me in recognizing the historical importance and many achievements and contributions the residents of this county have provided the State of New Mexico.

Sandoval County was a thriving area centuries before Don Francisco de Coronado explored the area and first made camp near present-day Bernalillo in 1540 A.D. Prehistoric artifacts in many areas of the county date back thousands of years, with archaeological finds suggesting that Sandia Man lived and hunted in the area thousands of years ago.

The area, consisting of modern-day Sandoval County, was included in one of two partidos, or districts, created in the New Mexico territory. It became part of Santa Ana County. One of seven political subdivisions created in 1852, Sandoval County was first established as a separate entity on March 10, 1903, nine years before New Mexico's statehood. The area that forms Los Alamos County was separated from Sandoval County in 1949.

Sandoval County boasts historical sites such as Coronado State Park, Bandalier National Monument, the Ceremonial Caves Trail, Jemez Springs, Casa San Ysidro, the historic Delavoy House, the Vintage Auto Museum, and the Intel Museum.

Sandoval County is one of the most geographically and culturally diverse areas in the Nation. Congratulations on your 105th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, due to other congressional business, I unfortunately missed recorded votes on the House floor on Wednesday, March 5 and Thursday, March 6, 2008.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes Nos. 94, 95, 96, 99, 101, 103, 104, 106, and 107 and "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 97, 98, 100, 102, and 105.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION TAX ACT (H.R. 5351)

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the long overdue Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act. The American people have demanded that Congress change our national energy policy; we must prioritize clean energy over greenhouse gas emitting fuels, and support entrepreneurial American energy producers over oil companies posting record profits.

H.R. 5351 extends tax credits for renewable energy production and pays for them by repealing large subsidies for oil and gas corporations. The domestic green energy sector creates thousands of high-paying jobs each year and has seen tremendous growth recently except when Congress has let these incentives expire. Congress must provide this industry the support and consistency it needs to become a major supplier of both energy and jobs.

This legislation also gives a tax break to consumers who purchase a hybrid vehicle and ends the perverse incentive to purchase gas-guzzling SUVs. If our Nation's automakers are to remain competitive, we must end the policies that encourage production of the cars of yesterday—cars that cost more to own and take a higher toll on our planet.

Many on the other side of the aisle have decried this legislation under the false assumption that it will raise gas prices at the pump, that it will discourage domestic exploration and production. They say this even though President Bush—at a time when the cost of oil was half of what it is today—asserted that such subsidies were not necessary to spur domestic oil and gas exploration and production. The record oil prices of over \$100 per barrel—leading to gas prices headed toward \$4 per gallon—are more than enough of an incentive. In fact, these tax breaks for big-oil take money, even failed to lower gas prices when they were implemented, and today serve only to redistribute billions of dollars from hard-working American families to literally five corporations, including Exxon, which recently reported higher profits than any other company in history.

In a time of an uncertain economic outlook, it is more critical than ever that we invest in