

134th Kentucky Derby at Louisville, Kentucky's Churchill Downs. Ridden by Louisiana-native Kent Desormeaux, Big Brown proved his ability yet again, as the favorite became the seventh undefeated horse to win horse racing's most prestigious prize. Big Brown's trainer and owners now look ahead to the Preakness, the second leg of the Triple Crown.

Leading his third horse to the red roses of a Kentucky Derby win, Kent Desormeaux is no stranger to winning. Born in Maurice, Louisiana, Kent's first race was at Evangeline Downs with his first win coming aboard Miss Tavern on July 13, 1986. At 25 years old, the jockey became the youngest ever to notch 3,000 career wins. His successful career is a testament to hard work, determination and a love of his sport.

I know I join Kent's family and many in Acadiana in congratulating him on this most recent win and wishing him the best for continued success. Louisiana has a well-established record of producing winning jockeys and Kent certainly continues our legacy.

Unfortunately, Saturday's race did have sadness as second place, Eight Belles, was euthanized on the track. The filly, who ran an impressive race, collapsed after crossing the finish line. It was a tragic scene that reminds us all of the dangers of the sport.

The story Saturday though was Big Brown's big win. Desormeaux shepherded the horse from the outside gate through a crowded field and dictated the pace to give Big Brown the best shot at victory. As the lead pack rounded the final turn of the mile and a quarter race, Desormeaux gave Big Brown the signal, and the horse's effort left his competitors in the dust.

Again, congratulations to Kent Desormeaux, winning jockey of the 134th Kentucky Derby.

HONORING THE THIRTIETH QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE SLAVONIC BENEVOLENT ORDER OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Thirtieth Quadrennial Convention of the Slavonic Benevolent Order of the State of Texas (SPJST), which will be held on June 8–11, 2008. For 111 years, SPJST has served as a fraternal organization and an educational tool for Czech immigrants to learn the democratic process, the value of free speech, and the importance of voting in their newly adopted homeland.

Today, there are more than 47,000 members of the SPJST in 120 lodges throughout the state of Texas. In recent years, SPJST has expanded to include youth activities and community service programs. As a result, many SPJST projects and members have been recognized by the Texas Fraternal Congress for their service and contribution to communities throughout Texas. SPJST has provided its members with identity and support throughout the years. In lodges all over the state of Texas members are committed to helping those in need by working in hospitals, providing scholarships, and supporting drug

abuse programs and other charities. The members of SPJST have upheld the tradition of helping people to care for their families and their communities.

With its great commitment to its members, communities, and organizations that it serves, SPJST embodies the value and tradition of the great state of Texas.

HONORING JOSEPH K. JOHNSEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph K. Johnsen, 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 135, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joseph 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 Joseph K. Johnsen for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A TRIBUTE TO RIO LINDA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the staff and volunteers of the Rio Linda Union School District and the services they provided to local students. For 94 years, the dedicated staff of the Rio Linda Union School District has carefully selected fully credentialed teachers, involved the community in the education process and worked tirelessly to meet the needs of students. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring some of Sacramento's finest educators.

Established in 1914 as a one-room school house, the district has grown into a 22 school, K–6 district. This award winning district is now Sacramento County's largest elementary school district, teaching 10,500 elementary students in the northern Sacramento area. These communities include Rio Linda, Foothill Farms, North Natomas, North Highlands, and McClellan Park.

Rio Linda Union School District offers rigorous educational programs for all students and aligns their curriculum and textbooks to state standards with the integration of arts and sciences into the classrooms. The district prides itself on sustaining a quality learning environment, maintaining school grounds and ensuring a safe place for children to learn. Students have succeeded due to improved special education classes, expanded summer school, Reading Recovery program, family outreach workers, and before and after school activities to keep the children engaged in learning.

This district is made of a diverse population of students, bridging ethnicities and backgrounds. More than 36 different languages are spoken in this district and 26 percent of students have a limited proficiency in English. This is a challenge facing educators across our Nation, and the Rio Linda Union School District has met the challenge head on.

Rio Linda Union School District is driven by community volunteers. The efforts of the volunteers that help this district run are truly admirable. Approximately 3,000 parents volunteer each year to work in classrooms, chaperone field trips and serve on committees. Two annual events that showcase the dedication of volunteers in this district are the Volunteer Luncheon and the Principal for a Day program. More than 400 parents attend the annual Volunteer Luncheon where a "Volunteer of the Year" from each school is chosen. Their Principal for a Day program attracts community leaders making the program a state model.

This school district will soon be seeing a change due to the passage of Measure B which consolidates four northern Sacramento County school districts. In July of 2008, Rio Linda Union School District, Grant Joint Union High School, North Sacramento School District, and Del Paso Heights School District will merge to become Twin Rivers Union School District. Frank Porter, who is currently the Superintendent for Rio Linda Union School District has been hired as Interim Superintendent for this new district. Mr. Porter has worked as Superintendent for more than 6 years, during which eight Rio Linda schools received California Distinguished School Awards.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Rio Linda Union School District's commitment to education and our community. Over the past 90 years, their success stories have been truly inspiring. As members of the Sacramento community gather at the Aerospace Museum, I ask my colleagues to come together and honor the tireless dedication shown by the Rio Linda Union School District's staff and volunteers in providing quality education for our children.

CONGRATULATING THE 2008 AMERICAN JUNIOR CURLING TEAM

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate the American Junior Curling Team for winning the 2008 World Junior Curling Championship in Osterlund, Sweden on March 9, 2008. The Plys Team, named after its captain, Chris Plys, had previously won the United States Junior National Championship to qualify to be the American team in the world championship.

Despite strong competition from the other teams at the championship, including Canada, Norway, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, China, Scotland, Czech Republic and Sweden, which had home-field advantage, the American team persevered and took the title, the first for an American team since 1984. They defeated Sweden 7–5 for the title.

I want to commend Coach Phil Drobnick, Captain Chris Plys, Danny Plys and Aanders

Brorson, of Duluth, Minnesota, Matt Perushek of Eveleth, Minnesota, and Matt Hamilton of McFarland, Wisconsin for their outstanding accomplishments. They bring great credit upon themselves, their communities, the United States and the sport of curling. I wish them well in their future endeavors.

HONORING MICHAEL ANDREW GORSKI

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Andrew Gorski, 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 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Michael 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 Michael Andrew Gorski for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

U.S.-TAIWAN ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, for the past 60 years, the United States and Taiwan have enjoyed a unique and vital relationship. Forged during a period of mutual confrontation with communism, our ties have flourished over the years. Indeed, what began as primarily a security-focused partnership has become one based on a wide range of mutual interests.

The growth of our relations was in no way a coincidence. Instead, the common values of freedom, democracy and prosperity have guided both our peoples over the years. During the past two decades in particular, America's support has helped Taiwan develop a vibrant democratic government and strong economy, which in turn have provided hope and inspiration to others in the region and around the world.

Today, as Taiwan prepares for yet another milestone in its democratic progression—the inauguration of a new President later this month—I would like to recognize some of the successes we have had together under the leadership of its outgoing President, Chen Shui-bian.

From President Chen's first months in office, the United States and Taiwan worked to advance its rightful role in the international community. This began with cooperative efforts to first call for and later secure Taiwan's entry into the World Trade Organization.

Our governments also worked closely together during this period of increasing global

health awareness and activity. Over the past several years, America has consistently pushed to have Taiwan included in international forums where it can convey lessons learned from its experience with SARS and the Avian flu. In addition, our senior diplomats—backed by strong congressional direction in 2003—have sought a meaningful role for Taiwan in the World Health Organization.

Our security interests have also been closely aligned during President Chen's tenure. The tragedy that befell the United States on September 11, 2001, was met with a swift response by Taiwan, which assisted with resources for coalition efforts in Afghanistan, cooperative efforts to track and shut down terrorist financial networks, participation in our government's Container Security Initiative, and many other joint efforts. Taiwan even contributed generously to the Pentagon Memorial Fund, in recognition of those who lost their lives on 9/11.

The partnership we have built with Taiwan has also served both governments well as we have been compelled to respond to hostile Chinese gestures in recent years. Perhaps the starkest example of this during President Chen's time in office occurred in December 2004, when China unveiled and subsequently enacted its Anti-Secession Law, a measure providing legal authority for the People's Liberation Army to invade Taiwan without provocation. A steady and determined response by President Chen was matched by strong statements of concern from the international community, signaling to China that hostile action would be met with strong resistance.

America has also sought ways to counter a wide range of other Chinese measures that seek to isolate Taiwan:

Militarily, China has noticeably increased its threat to Taiwan's security through the steady deployment of missiles targeting Taiwan, in numbers that have grown by more than 100 per year and now far exceed 1,000 in number.

Diplomatically, China has attempted to block at every turn Taiwan's efforts to participate in the global community. It opposed Taiwan's recent application to join the United Nations as a full member, and has repeatedly thwarted Taiwan's attempts to join the UN and its affiliate organizations—such as the World Health Organization—even as an observer.

Economically, China has sought to prevent Taiwan from expanding its role in international markets—using the dependence created by their over \$80 billion in annual bilateral trade as a means to advancing unification. At the same time, it has been working to build bilateral and regional free trade agreements (FTAs) that deliberately exclude Taiwan.

Politically, China's authorities refused to communicate with Taiwan's elected leadership during President Chen's tenure, despite repeated offers by him to engage in open dialogue.

As evidenced by the constructive efforts cited earlier, the United States and Taiwan have worked closely to address each of these threats as they have arisen. And we will continue to do so when President Ma Ying-jeou assumes office on May 20th, building on the record of achievement that our governments have amassed in just the first years of this new century. I look forward to working with President Ma's government as we seek to further advance our common values and interests.

PULLMAN HIGH SCHOOL COMPETES IN NATIONAL SCIENCE BOWL

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join with the Pullman community in congratulating the Pullman High School Science Bowl team on being selected to compete in the 18th annual U.S. Department of Energy National Science Bowl.

The U.S. Department of Energy National Science Bowl is a nationwide academic competition that tests students' knowledge in all areas of science. Much like Jeopardy, the students put their science knowledge to the test as they are quizzed in a fast paced question-and-answer format.

Led by their coach, Barbara Harding, the Pullman High School team includes Randy Xun, Shashank Dwivedi, Suman Jandhyala, Xingyu Zhang, and Prastuti Singh. These outstanding students won their regional tournament and now join 66 other teams from throughout the nation to compete for the opportunity to travel to the International Youth Science Forum in England and a trip to visit nuclear power generation facilities in France.

The accomplishments of the Pullman High School team bring attention to the great need we have in our country to continue to encourage high school students to pursue careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. In order for our country to remain competitive, we need more young, bright students like these who will grow up to be our future doctors, scientists and engineers. I am certain these students would agree that a career in science is one that holds infinite potential.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending the Pullman High School Science Bowl team for their commitment to academic excellence and for their exceptional performance in the National Science Bowl.

HONORING WILLIAM S. ROBBINS III

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize, William S. Robbins III, 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 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

William has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years William 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 William S. Robbins III for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.