HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY
OF RHODE ISLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commend Special Olympics, Massachusetts and long-time friend Donald J. Dowd. Both Special Olympics, Massachusetts and Mr. Dowd have put the stars in New England and wonderful contributors to the people and culture of our region.

As my colleagues know, Special Olympics provides year-round sports training, athletic competition and other related programming for athletes with intellectual disabilities.

This organization founded by my Aunt Eunice Kennedy Shriver in 1968, contributes to the physical, social, and psychological development of people with intellectual disabilities. It is a global force for change with over 2.5 million athletes participating worldwide representing over 140 countries.

In Massachusetts and Rhode Island, Special Olympics does amazing things for the people of New England. Special Olympics Massachusetts also offers Unified Sports, an initiative that combines approximately equal numbers of Special Olympics athletes and athletes without intellectual disabilities, called Partners, on sports teams for training and competition.

One of Special Olympics’ greatest supporters has been Donald Dowd, or Don as I affectionately call him. He worked for and volunteered for my Father in the Other Body for over 40 years, as well as for my uncles. He was responsible for coordinating the opening of the John F. KennedyPresidential Library and has served as a member of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation Board since its inception, helping to found the Friends of the Kennedy Library.

He is a lifelong resident of Springfield, Massachusetts, began his career in public service as President Kennedy’s Assistant Regional Director of the U.S. Postal Service for the six New England States, and was a political advisor to U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy. I am proud to call him a friend and thank him for his dedication to my family, to Special Olympics, to our region and to our country.

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE
OF HAWAII
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I regret that I missed roll call vote No. 902–904 and vote No. 911–913. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on all roll call votes.

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the hard work, determination and teamwork displayed by the 2009 North Branch High School Varsity Girls Volleyball Team.

Here the team faced-off against a feisty Cadillac Team. The Lady Broncos proved their tenacity and resilience as they beat Cadillac in four hard fought sets. Next North Branch was matched up against Delton Kellogg. But unfortunately for Kellogg, it just was not in the cards for them to win on this Saturday because destiny was on the side of the Lady Broncos. There was nothing Kellogg could do on the court to prevent North Branch from raising the championship trophy in glorious triumph. The Lady Broncos were determined to finish what they had started since the first practice of the season. And through all the sweat, injuries and difficult training sessions, the Lady Broncos saw their dreams come to fruition as they won the Michigan Volleyball Class B State Champs!

Teamwork, dedication and friendship all helped deliver this first-ever championship in the schools sports history. The entire North Branch community and Lapeer County should take pride in what these young women accomplished.

I certainly share that pride and want to offer my congratulations to everyone who contributed to this team effort. First starting with the captains Kara Studer and Jordan Fish and team members—Katie Smillie, Danika Racknor, Taylor Wiegele, Layne Molosky, Samantha Garza, Hailey Smillie, Catherine Brusie, Laura Johnson, Macaela Deshetskty, Shanel Johnstone, Katie Owens, Stephanie Marsh, and Angela Ruth. You all should be extremely proud of this achievement.

In addition, I must mention that not only were these young women champions on the court but in the classroom as well. The volleyball team compiled an outstanding 3.49 GPA and achieved an all-state academic recognition.

My hat also goes off to Head Coach Jim Fish—Assistant Coaches Curt June, Chris