

Elder Smiley graduated from Breckenridge Job Corps Center in Morganfield, Kentucky, in 1977. After graduation, he accepted God's call on his life to minister.

March 13, 1978, changed his life forever and provided a monumental challenge to his faith and his zeal for life. He suffered a devastating accident while working at a local saw mill. Although paralyzed from the waist down, he maintained a soaring spirit and even stronger love for the Lord.

He is a tireless and tenacious worker who lives a life of service to others and to his God. Elder Smiley has served on the "Spirit Team" at the Methodist Rehabilitation Center where he motivates and encourages others with spinal injuries. He is also a member of the Copiah Chapter of NAACP, Chaplain of the Hazlehurst Parent-Teacher Association and volunteers at high school football games in traffic control and gate security. From 2002 to 2005, he served as a role model and discussion leader at the Mississippi Job Corp Center and he is the Vice President of the Benevolent Fund of the Copiah County Ministerial Alliance and the Transportation Committee.

Elder Smiley and his wife, Cora, have four children. He is an Ordained Minister and Elder at New Cathedral of Worship in Hazlehurst, Mississippi. He serves as an officer on the Church's Executive Board with responsibility as Director of Maintenance, Property and Logistics.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a humble but dynamic servant, Elder Henry Smiley, for his service to the community.

HONORING ERIC MERKELY

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Eric Merkely, a 17-year-old student at Salem Hills High School. This remarkable young man was recently diagnosed with a form of cancer found in his leg called osteosarcoma. The cancer quickly spread into the surrounding muscle, bone, and nerves to the point that Eric had to undergo extensive surgery. While this surgery saved his life, it also took his leg.

For most people this experience would be considered a tragic loss. However, Eric has grown from the experience and greatly impacted his school and community. Even though many were concerned about his health, Eric turned his illness into an opportunity to give back to those less fortunate than himself. He raised money by selling wristbands and donated the proceeds to a children's hospital.

I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating the accomplishments of a young man who turned his personal trials into an opportunity to give to those less fortunate and who is great example for the community.

IN HONOR OF THE PREMIERE OF THE "RED TAILS" MOVIE ABOUT THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to an upcoming celebration of the Tuskegee Airmen, which will be held on January 20th when the George Lucas film "Red Tails" makes its national debut.

The movie will highlight the heroic Tuskegee Airmen who served our country with honor and distinction even though they faced great challenges back at home. The Tuskegee Airmen flew over 15,000 missions and were awarded the Congressional Medal in 2007.

Across Tuskegee and Alabama, friends will honor this tribute by wearing red and hanging red ribbons across the community. There will be a red ribbon hanging in my Washington, DC office as well.

In 1998, the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site at Moton Field in Macon County was established. This site draws people from all over to come and visit.

It is with deepest appreciation and honor that we celebrate the Tuskegee Airmen for the film "Red Tails" filmed in their honor. This tribute should be another great way to help continue to tell their story for generations to come.

CONGRATULATING THE SANTA MARGARITA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL EAGLES ON THEIR 2011 CIF STATE BOWL DIVISION AND 2011 CIF PAC-5 DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Santa Margarita Catholic High School Eagles on their 2011 CIF State Bowl Division and 2011 CIF PAC-5 Division Championships. Their 42-37 victory on December 16, 2011, is an achievement that will be remembered forever.

Winning a state championship is a remarkable achievement. This championship is a legacy that both Santa Margarita High School and each 2010-2011 Eagle player will always cherish. The Eagles and Coach Harry Welch, along with assistant coaches John Carpenter, Sean Coen, Dave Frazier, Paul Gomes, Joe Griffith, Wyatt Hart, Rob Hendricks, Mike Johnson, Jay Noonan, Kevin Orton, Brian Pearsall, Adrian Peters, Marty Spalding, Mike Walcott, Butch Ward and Monterio Witherspoon, know that success comes with teamwork and perseverance. The coaches rely upon team managers for expert assistance. Managers Haley Davin, Lauren Haydon, Rachel Imburgia and Sydney Martin were instrumental in the victory.

It is an honor to pay tribute to Santa Margarita High School and the entire Eagles football squad. The House of Representatives salutes each of you: Houston Agan, Matt Andersen, Reid Andrew, Ryan Andrew, Nick Begg, Tony Bone, Zach Bonte, Erik Bunte, Justin

Cabrera, Josh Canty, Grant Clancy, River Cracraft, Dane Crane, Kendall Czech, Ian Dewert, Frank DiPietro, Sean Donegan, David Dotson, Chris Frost, Ryan Gardner, Sammy Gibbs, Hunter Graham, Grady Higgins, Duncan Hume, Konner Kafentzis, Patrick Kennelly, Jack Kerry, Ryan Kilander, Jonathan LaBonty, Brenden Linzmeier, Cole Luther, Michael Della Maggiore, Austin Maihen, RJ Mazolewski, Joseph McGill, John McGrory, Brady McGuire, Sean McGuire, Alec McNiff, James McQuitty, Andrew Mendonca, Cory Mendoza, Sean Modster, Connor O'Brien, Mack Pierson, Luke Poutre, Taylor Prenevost, Ben Prukop, Blaine Rieger, Drake Schwenke, Riley Sorenson, Will Sorenson, Gian Carlo Spinosi, Johnny Stanton, Luke Stinson, Alex Suchesk, Randal Swain, Kyle Sweet, Max Tuerk, Alex Ury, Ryan Wolpin and Bradley Ydens.

Congratulations again to the Santa Margarita High School Eagles.

IN RECOGNITION OF GARY JONES

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize FEMA Region 6 Deputy Regional Administrator Gary Jones as he retires from public service. Mr. Jones retired at the end of 2011 after forty-six years of state and federal service.

Earning a Bachelor's Degree in Education from the University of Arkansas and a Master's Degree in Public Health Administration from Tulane University, Mr. Jones began his public service with the State of Arkansas. This state career spanned thirteen years, including three years as the Director of Arkansas' Emergency Medical Services Program. He then went into federal service in 1977 with the U.S. Public Health Service where his role as Arkansas State Coordinator for Physician Recruitment to identify doctors, dentists and nurses for rural Arkansas communities federally designated as medically underserved.

In 1983 Mr. Jones joined FEMA and moved to Denton. By 1987 he was Branch Chief for Region 6 Technological Hazards Branch where he was responsible for the region's Radiological Emergency Preparedness, Radiological Defense, Hazardous Materials, Earthquake Preparedness, Hurricane Preparedness, Dam Safety and the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness programs.

In 1994 Mr. Jones was promoted to his current position as the FEMA Region 6 Deputy Regional Administrator, during which he served on five separate occasions as the FEMA Region 6 Acting Regional Administrator for a span of time that exceeded four years.

During the seventeen years he served as Deputy Regional Administrator, he provided executive leadership and oversight in over three hundred federally declared disasters including his roles as Deputy Principal Federal Official for Hurricane Rita (2005) and Federal Coordinating Officer for Hurricanes Katrina (2005) and Georges (1998) as well as service in Hurricane Andrew, the Oklahoma City bombing, the Columbia Space Shuttle disaster, Tropical Storm Allison, and the duration of 2008 which featured Hurricane Ike and proved to be a record-breaking year for the region in presidentially declared disasters. Several of these disasters have directly impacted

the 26th District of Texas, and with each I and my staff have come to rely on his timely and thorough briefings during which he patiently shared the progress and challenges unique to each situation.

As Mr. Jones enters retirement, the region loses a reliable and dedicated public servant. I wish for him many well-earned years to spend time with his wife Mary, daughter Shea Hutchison, and his granddaughter. I am honored to represent Gary Jones and FEMA Region 6 in Washington, D.C., and on behalf of the constituents of the 26th District of Texas I rise to thank him for his service.

RECOGNIZING KENT CONINE AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF TEXAS AND THE CAUSE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize Kent Conine of Dallas, TX. Mr. Conine has spent his career working to provide affordable housing for the citizens of the great State of Texas. As a homebuilder, Mr. Conine has made significant and lasting contributions to his local community and the housing industry. President of Conine Residential Group, Mr. Conine has helped thousands of Texans fulfill their American Dream of homeownership.

However, his efforts extend beyond his personal business. Mr. Conine has served as Chairman of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA), on the Board of Directors Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas, and as President of the Texas Association of Builders, the National Association of State of Housing Boards, and the National Association of Homebuilders.

This evening in Austin, Texas the Texas Affiliation of Affordable Housing Providers is honoring Mr. Conine for his years of service and unwavering dedication to the people of Texas. I wish to join them in thanking Kent for everything he has done, and continues to do, to promote the American Dream of homeownership in Texas.

HONORING THE SAINT XAVIER UNIVERSITY COUGARS FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2011 NAIA CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Saint Xavier University for winning the 2011 NAIA National Football Championship. I am very proud of Head Coach Mike Feminis and the SXU Cougars for defeating reigning champion Carroll College 24–20 and bringing back the Chicago area's first collegiate football national championship since 1913.

Congratulations are also in order for long-time Athletics Director Bob Hallberg, University President Christine Wiseman, and all the faculty, staff, and students at Saint Xavier, Chicago's oldest Catholic University, which is located in the Third District in the Mt. Greenwood neighborhood and in Orland Park.

The Cougars fielded a balanced team all year. They stifled opponents' offenses with an experienced defense and confused the opposition's defenses with a fast-paced spread offense. Senior captains Patrick Appino and Michael Prosser led one of the top defenses in the country, holding Carroll's running back, the NAIA player of the year, to only 57 yards rushing in the championship game. On offense, local standouts Shane Zackery and Wes Gastel combined for 13 receptions and 109 yards receiving. Zackery and Gastel also provided quarterback Jimmy Coy and the rest of the offense favorable field position on several occasions with four kick returns for 113 yards. This balanced attack has been Coach Feminis' recipe for success all season long.

I am proud to have the Cougars call my district home, not only because they are the best NAIA football team in the country, but also because they embody all the best attributes of true student-athletes. Coach Feminis is proud of the familial atmosphere he creates in the team's facilities and the emphasis he places on academics. I am certain the tradition of success Coach Feminis has established will continue for a long time at SXU.

Please join me in honoring these hard-working, dedicated, and honorable men for a memorable season and bringing a championship home to Chicago.

HONORING SGT. GUY MELLOR

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the incredible service and dedication of Sgt.

Guy Mellor, a resident of Fayette, Utah and a real American hero. As he served his country as a member of the Utah Army National Guard, he set aside his personal aspirations of becoming a Civil Engineer to prepare for the Army's Best Warrior Competition Noncommissioned Officer for 2011. With much preparation he won the State, Regional, and National level competitions.

Sgt. Mellor had to compete against twelve Major Army Commands in a series of tests including physical fitness, marksmanship, battle drills, a written exam, and a board interview conducted by seven of the Army's top leaders. This is only the second time in the history of this competition that a National Guard Soldier has won this prestigious award.

I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating the accomplishments of this valiant man who placed service to his country above that of his own ambitions. Sgt. Mellor is a great example of the men and women that are currently serving our country in various branches of the armed services. I am grateful to every one of them for the great sacrifice that they make every day.

IN MEMORY OF THE LIFE OF MR. JOCK SMITH

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the life of Mr. Jock Smith who passed away on January 8, 2012.

Mr. Smith was born in Manhattan, New York, on June 10, 1948, and graduated from Tuskegee University and later the University of Notre Dame Law School. He returned to Alabama after receiving his law degree.

Mr. Smith was an attorney and senior partner at the National Law Firm of Cochran, Cherry, Givens and Smith, P.C. He also worked as a sports agent for Cochran Sports Management, Assistant Attorney General of the State of Alabama and as a professor of political science at Tuskegee University.

Mr. Smith was a member of Christian Life Church in Montgomery, Alabama. He was married to Yvette Smiley-Smith and had a daughter Janay Johnson.

We honor the memory of Mr. Jock Smith today.