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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBSTER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 18, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL WEBSTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 17, 2012, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2012 NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. CHANDLER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, I am the proud sponsor of a resolution congratulating the University of Kentucky Men's Basketball team for winning the 2012 NCAA championship.

Since the days of Adolph Rupp, the University of Kentucky Wildcats have been a part of the fabric of our Com-

monwealth, and the success of this year's team will be remembered for generations to come.

The University of Kentucky boasts one of the proudest and most celebrated basketball programs in the whole country. As an alumnus, I may be biased on this point, but I also believe that the statistics speak for themselves.

The UK Wildcats are the winningest team in the history of college basketball and have won the second most national championships. They've appeared in more NCAA tournaments and won more games in the tournament than any other team.

Even in the great tradition of Kentucky basketball, this year's team was special. They shattered the NCAA record for shots blocked and set a new record for single season wins with 38 victories. The Wildcats dominated the NCAA tournament with a combination of explosive offense, suffocating defense, and team chemistry.

This season wouldn't have been possible without Head Coach John Calipari, known far and wide as Coach Cal. Although known as a skilled tactician and recruiter, the key to Coach Cal's success has always been how much he cares about his players.

He mentors these young men so they are primed to succeed, both on and off the court, and I think I can speak for all Wildcat fans when I say that we hope to see him on the sidelines at Rupp Arena for many years to come.

From top to bottom, every member of this team played an important role in their drive to the championship, but there are three players in particular that deserve special recognition.

Anthony Davis had one of the most remarkable college basketball seasons in recent memory, winning eight National Player of the Year awards and setting an NCAA record for most blocks in a season by a freshman.

Michael Kidd-Gilchrist was unquestionably the heart and soul of the team.

And Darius Miller, a native of Mason County and former Mr. Kentucky Basketball, ended his stellar career on a high note by setting a school record for most appearances in a Kentucky uniform and joining the prestigious 1,000-point club.

Finally, this team was supported every step of the way by its fans, the Big Blue Nation, who made Rupp Arena one of the toughest places to play in the country. They prove time and time again why Kentucky is the best State for college basketball.

This year was an especially proud year for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, as we sent two teams to the Final Four. I want to congratulate the University of Louisville Cardinals and Head Coach Rick Pitino on an outstanding season and a hard-fought rivalry game that lived up to its immense hype.

I also commend the University of Kansas and The Ohio State University on their terrific years and for making it all the way to New Orleans.

As the Member privileged to represent the University of Kentucky, I am honored to introduce this resolution today, and I look forward to welcoming the Wildcats to Washington next month.

CONGRATULATING THE BAYLOR UNIVERSITY LADY BEARS FOR WINNING THE 2012 WOMEN'S NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Coach Kim Mulkey and her Baylor University Lady Bears for winning the 2012 women's NCAA college basketball national championship. The Lady Bears were

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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ranked number one in the country all season long, going undefeated and becoming the first NCAA basketball team, men's or women's, to ever win 40 games in a season.

The Lady Bears recorded some impressive team and individual accomplishments on their way to their second Final Four in 3 years and winning their second national championship in 7 years.

The Lady Bear senior class, Terran Condrey, Ashley Field, and Lindsay Palmer, finished their 4-year careers with a record of 131 wins and 19 losses, one national championship, two Final Four appearances, four NCAA tournament trips, two regular season Big 12 titles, and three Big 12 tournament titles.

Ashley Field, Lindsay Palmer, and Makenzie Robertson were all chosen as first team 2012 Academic All-Big 12 honorees. Odyssey Sims, Destiny Williams, and Brittney Griner were named to the 2011-2012 All-American team.

After dominating opponents on both ends of the court all season long, Griner was chosen as the NCAA tournament MVP, and became the third women's basketball player to ever win all four National Player of the Year awards.

The Lady Bears are led by the remarkable Head Coach Kim Mulkey, whose resume and accomplishments have already cemented her place among the best women's basketball coaches of all time. As a player, Coach Mulkey was a member of the 1984 gold medal winning U.S. women's basketball team. She was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in 2000 and has been named Big 12 Coach of the Year three times. This year Kim was named National Coach of the Year.

Coach Mulkey is the fastest women's basketball coach to ever reach 300 wins and is the fifth coach in the NCAA to win multiple national championships. She has led the Lady Bears to the NCAA tournament in 11 of her last 12 seasons at Baylor.

The Lady Bears return their top six scorers and rebounders next season, so there is more to come from this outstanding group of young women.

I am privileged to represent the city of Waco, McLennan County, and Baylor University in my district, and I wish best wishes to Baylor President Ken Starr, Athletic Director Ian McCaw, and everyone else at the Baylor Nation as they continue to show that a Christian institution of higher learning can, indeed, compete and win in college athletics as well.

2011-2012 has truly been the year of the Bear. Sic 'em, Bears.

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, the genocide of more than 1½ million Ar-

menians by Ottoman-era Turkish authorities is an undeniable fact of history. In 1915, the Armenian nation which had resided in Anatolia for thousands of years was subjected to an organized barbarity that included death marches, drowning, and executions.

Those who managed to survive these horrors scattered to the four corners of the Earth. Today, survivors of the Armenian genocide and their children and grandchildren bear witness to this massacre. Each year, Armenian Americans, supported by others who readily accept the teachings of history, renew their plea that the United States Government formally recognize the Armenian genocide, and every year that responsibility of recognition remains unfulfilled.

□ 1010

When faced with the deeply compelling research and scholarship surrounding the Armenian genocide, it is wholly untenable to assert that the genocide did not occur. Instead, many in Congress offer the protest that recognition would harm our relationship with Turkey and undermine our broader geostrategic interests. Others suggest weakly that it is just not the right time to push the issue of recognition. The result is the same—the continued failure on the part of the United States to do the right thing. This failure puts salt on the wounds of the Armenian people. But it does more than that. It corrodes the moral standing of our Nation as a whole.

I join those who once again, at this time of annual remembrance, implore my fellow Members of Congress and President Obama to formally recognize the Armenian genocide.

GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, the number one fear of Chicago elementary schoolchildren is not braces or book reports or the dentist. It is getting shot. More than 500 Chicago students were involved in gun violence in the last 2 years, and 34 were killed by guns last year. In a single week in June, there were 60 shootings in Chicago.

The Chicago police traced many of the guns used in these types of shootings to gun shows in neighboring States. You can go to a gun show in neighboring State Indiana and buy any weapon you want without a single background check. You can be a convicted felon or a domestic abuser who is under a restraining order or a suspected terrorist, and you can walk right in to a gun show and walk out with an assault weapon.

A member of Hezbollah purchased weapons at an American gun show the day before 9/11. Is this what the American people approve of a situation in which terrorists can buy guns without even

the level of tracking we use for airplane tickets or cold medicine?

The American people want our law enforcement officers to have the tools they need to catch the bad guys. Eighty-one percent of gun owners support requiring a background check on all firearm purchases. Ninety percent of all Americans favor strengthening databases to prevent the mentally ill from buying guns. Sixty-nine percent of NRA members—that's NRA members—support closing the gun show loophole.

So why aren't we acting on these areas where there is such overwhelming public support? Well, the majority has to rally its base, and the NRA has to send more urgent appeals for support based on imagined threats. So, this week, we're courageously protecting bullets from harmful regulation by the EPA, because a little lead in the water never hurt anyone, right?

The bill also gives sportsmen the right to stand their ground against polar bears. Anyone who opposes vigilante justice against this arctic menace is clearly a gun-grabbing Communist. All of this would be funny if the same mentality weren't being used by the NRA against our Nation's youth. Twenty-five States have passed Stand Your Ground laws, declaring open season on anyone considered threatening to anyone at any time.

These laws were not passed because of a public demand for them. They were passed because the NRA teamed up with some of the largest soft drink manufacturing and retailing corporations to push for these laws. Why soda companies would support the efforts to pass these laws is beyond me; but the impact is that a 17-year-old who is buying one of their sodas is now under a much greater threat. Let's have a reality check. Let's take action on one of these areas where there is clear, overwhelming support.

I sat in this Chamber and listened to Mexican President Felipe Calderon plead with Congress to close this loophole that fuels violence between the cartels in his country; but as the NRA president, himself, has pointed out, Congress has done nothing. We hold hearings to point out that the ATF lacks leadership but continue to block the appointment of a director. We talk about the need to enforce the laws on the books but look the other way as those laws are ignored at gun shows. We stop suspected terrorists from boarding airplanes but not from buying 30-round clips. All of this is based on the fantasy that denying terrorists assault rifles is the first step to national gun confiscation.

The Supreme Court answered that in the D.C. and Chicago handgun cases. The Court found that there is an individual right to bear arms. It is a limited right, subject to local control, but it is a right. That is now settled law, so the people who make their livings scaring gun owners have to resort to conspiracy theories to keep the donations