

Last, but far from least, we have to mention Nighthawk Nation. I am sure that everyone associated with the football team will tell you that Northern Guilford's formidable fan base spurred them on to victory. No doubt that the students, parents, faculty, staff, and supporters of Northern Guilford football are beaming with pride following a third state championship.

The seniors on this team will move on to their next adventures. For the returning Nighthawks, I am sure they have already begun their dreams of four in a row. If that happens, I plan to be back here again next year offering my own congratulations. For now, on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate and thank the football team at Northern Guilford High School for showing us how perfection can be achieved. The third time is a charm indeed.

RECOGNIZING THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN) FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS FOR THE NE COAST OF THE U.S.

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic of China (ROC), also known as Taiwan. Immediately after Hurricane Sandy hit the the Northeast coast on October 29th and 30th, many foreign governments and non-governmental organizations offered generous help to the United States. The Republic of China government (Taiwan) offered \$1.3 million to aid in relief and reconstruction efforts.

On November 16th Taiwan donated \$1 million to two charities, United Way International and Habitat for Humanity International, two of the leading relief agencies. The rest of the funds were distributed to the state governments of New York and New Jersey, which were among the hardest hit areas.

A ceremony marking the transfer of funds to the two charities was held in Washington, DC, on December 6, 2012. On behalf of the current 11th Congressional District, soon to be the 9th Congressional district of New York, I recognize the ROC for their generous contribution and show of good will towards the United States. As parts of the Northeast coast continue to rebuild, on behalf of my constituents, I am grateful to those who have offered their assistance. I thank the ROC and look forward to continuing a long lasting and fruitful friendship.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR HARRY MASON

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the contributions of a remarkable public servant and dear friend, Mayor Harry Mason. In November, Mayor Mason retired after 20 years as chief executive of Pine Hill, Alabama.

In his best-selling 1998 book, *The Greatest Generation*, former NBC Television anchor Tom Brokaw told the story of what he believed was the greatest generation any society has ever produced. ". . . These men and women fought not for fame and recognition, but because it was the right thing to do. When they came back they rebuilt America into a superpower."

Harry Mason was a product of that historic generation; a native of Southwest Alabama, a hardworking local businessman, and citizen who stepped up to serve his country and his home town because it was the right thing to do.

As an assistant engineer in the Merchant Marine during World War II, Harry was aboard the S.S. Sea Porpoise when it landed 3,000 troops on the beaches of Normandy during the second wave of the famous D-Day invasion to liberate France. On July 5, 1944, the S.S. Sea Porpoise was damaged by a German mine. The ship's complement of 159 crew and passengers, including Harry, were uninjured and the ship survived.

When he returned stateside to civilian life, like so many others of our "Greatest Generation" Harry eagerly rejoined the workforce helping his father run the family business. He invested his life and his heart in Pine Hill, and according to a recent article in the *Thomasville Times*, Harry wouldn't have had it any other way. "Except for the war, I never even entertained a thought of going somewhere else," he told the paper.

It wasn't long before Harry turned his passion to public service, first as a member of the Wilcox County Board of Education during the tumultuous 1960s and 70s. In 1991, he left his family business of running the Economy Store and instead ran for mayor.

Looking back at 20 years of leading his town, he has much for which to be proud. An expansion of the Pine Hill's water and sewer system and city limits come to mind. Perhaps most notably during his last year in office, Pine Hill landed one of the largest industries to come to Southwest Alabama in years. Harry joined state and local officials in welcoming Golden Dragon Copper to the Pine Hill area in February. When completed, this new factory is expected to employ 300 workers with the potential to reach 500.

An active presence in the community, Mayor Harry Mason has also served as a member of the board of the Bank of Pine Hill. However, of all his many accomplishments, Harry points to his 20 years' service as chief of the Pine Hill Volunteer Fire Department as his greatest.

On behalf of the people of south Alabama, I wish Harry and his wonderful wife, Mittie, the very best for a well-deserved and duly-earned retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I missed rollcall votes 629 and 630. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

Rollcall 629—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass—"yes."

Rollcall 630—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Senate Amendment—"yes."

IN TRIBUTE TO HOWARD AND SUSAN GROFF

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to my good friends, entrepreneurs and patriots Howard and Susan Groff.

The Groffs have owned Northwest Excavating Co., Inc. since the 1960s. Howard's father, Bob Groff, founded the company in 1959 under the name "Northwest Compaction." The company started out modestly, with two backhoes, an Arrow hammer, a skidloader, and a Gradall.

During the first few years, Northwest focused primarily on renting equipment and operators to local grading and sewer contractors. The company prospered during the 1960s due to the ever-increasing construction throughout Southern California. While maintaining a conservative approach towards growth, the company slowly added equipment to its fleet.

During the mid- to late 1960s, Howard and Sue bought the company. Howard often worked as equipment operator, mechanic, lowbed driver, or anything else that needed to be done, while Sue managed the finances. Howard, much like his father before him, undertook a conservative management approach toward the company. During the late 1960s and into the early 1970s, the company grew at a steady pace.

As a result of the company's early experience working for underground sewer contractors, Northwest began an underground utilities division. This division dug trenches for power and telephone lines by the foot, then backfilled and compacted the trenches. Howard did all the estimating and ran most of the jobs. He is now acting CEO while his son Robert has taken over the daily management duties. Sue has stepped aside from the financial end.

Howard and Sue owned and operated, along with their son Michael, Northridge Equipment Rental in five locations in California, which they sold in 2005. The Groffs have also developed, owned, and managed office and industrial buildings throughout the San Fernando Valley.

For more than 30 years, the Groffs owned their own auto racing teams with their sons as drivers, which included racing in the Indy 500 for several years. Howard and Sue also are major supporters of our military and veterans and have been a major sponsor of my U.S. Rep. Elton Gallegly and Friends Operation Toy Drop at Naval Base Ventura County. In addition to voting in every election, they also actively support candidates who share their fiscal conservative convictions.

In addition to their sons Michael and Robert, Howard and Sue have a daughter, Debra, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in paying tribute to my friends Howard and Susan Groff for proving that conservative growth can build successful businesses and for proving their love for America by their generosity to our military men and women and by

taking an active role in the American political process.

CONGRATULATING THE SPANISH FORT TOROS FOR WINNING THE ALABAMA CLASS 5-A FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my congratulations to the Spanish Fort High School Toros for their decisive 45–14 victory over McCalla's McAdory High School Yellow Jackets in the Alabama High School Athletic Association's (AHSAA) 5–A football championship on December 6, 2012.

Spanish Fort's already impressive gridiron record of capturing two state championships in seven seasons is all the more noteworthy since the Toro's young football program only debuted in 2006.

According to the Mobile Press-Register, both teams brought impressive records into the championship game at Auburn University's Jordan-Hare Stadium. "Spanish Fort had the pinball offense averaging 39.5 points per game. McAdory had the swarming defense that forged an unbeaten season through 14 games."

However, in the end it was Spanish Fort who dominated the field on both offense and defense, with 377 total yards, while holding the Yellow Jackets to just 187 yards.

The Press-Register further noted, "Spanish Fort (14–1) extended a school record for points in a single season to 598 with its 45–14 win."

The Toros took an early lead in the game with two touchdowns before the Yellow Jackets answered with seven points. The Toros then fired back with a vengeance—adding 31 points to the scoreboard.

Senior quarterback Joel Poe was named the Class 5–A MVP after completing 17-of-24 passes for 177 yards and running for a 10-yard touchdown.

The Toros's 5–A victory placed an exclamation point on another season for the record books for Spanish Fort.

Congratulations to Head Coach Mark Freeman, and Assistant Coaches Duane Davis, Shawn DeFoor, Joseph German and Greg Crager, as well as to the Toros players—Sammy Tolbert, Edward Autry, Maxwell Goodwin, Samuel Harris, Myles York, Joel Poe, Matthew Hall, Devonte Patrick, Deon Johnson, Blain Crain, Ronald Smith, Jonathan Cook, Darren Tate, Gunner Hendrix, Chason Milner, Tyler Johnston, Eugene Leach, Ryan Brooks, Trey Shabel, Kristian Cotton, Kylan Cotton, Cameron Harrison, Caleb Valrie, Jacob Goodwin, Tony Mitchell, Javon Brown, Dominique Woodward, Miguel Restrepo, Preston Hall, Alexander Theodore, John Campbell, Deonte Cyprian, Caleb Hughes, Stephan Holcombe, Keland Dotch, Marcus Walton, Stephen Wilson, Hayden Falkenberry, Brady Vincent, Delong Harrison, John Williamson, Thomas Johnston, Keion White, David Keener, Drew Kitchens, Jeremy Murray, Braxton Armstead, Justin Murray, Jacob Clark, Matthew Thompson, Todd Shetler, Robert Riley, Iverson Diego Delapena, Samuel Howard, Davoris Thomas,

Maurice Cole, Chase Holliman, John Stockton, Cody Shultz, Grey Curtis, Taylor Murray, Logan Mangum, Victor Dunning, Chase Rowe, Christopher Morehouse, Tyler Brentzel, Brad Andre, Grant Horst, Michael Eubanks, Owen Betts, Trevor Pfeil, Kaleb Hall, Ian Bjuro, Brandon Prince, Hamilton Biggs, Austin Grobe, Wilton Cox, Deandre Townsend, Robert Rella, Mitchell Meador, William Petersen, Jimmy Ogletree, Lawton McGahey, Hunter Wood, Roger Lawhon, Tyler Howell, William Nelson, Darius Johnson, Bryan Williams and Jonathan Hoover.

RECOGNIZING TIMOTHY HOLABIRD

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the many contributions Timothy Holabird has made to Modoc, Lassen, Plumas, and Sierra counties located in north-eastern California.

Tim has combined experience and knowledge of the lands and people that define the region with a steadfast determination to help these rural communities. Federal agencies administer more than 80 percent of the land, and Tim has aggressively championed interests of people versus the seeming indifference and neglect of the bureaucracies. Bringing all parties together, establishing common goals and objectives, and actually solving problems has been his hallmark.

As four fires ravaged the area this summer, Tim pursued the interests and concerns of local citizens to the point of his own physical exhaustion. He personally bridged the communication gap with agencies attacking the fires and the communities immediately threatened. In the devastating aftermath of the fires, Tim worked with all parties to restore and salvage. In particular, he has been relentless resolving the immediate, critical issue of thousands of acres of lost grazing land.

Tim understands the appropriate role of government in land and resource management and has personally sacrificed to uphold the public's interests. Mr. Speaker, while it seems the aim of our government agencies is to restrict access and the productive use of our federal lands, Timothy Holabird remains a steadfast advocate for access and use by the very best stewards of this land—the local citizens.

REMEMBERING THE LIVES LOST IN THE 1862 U.S.-DAKOTA CONFLICT

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of those who lost their lives in the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the conflict, reminding us of this tragic era in Minnesota's history, and how it has shaped the lives of the Dakota people to this day.

It is easy to consider history as a list of dates—a discovery, a war, a proclamation, an

election. We forget the complex human interactions that shape the past and continue to affect our communities today.

What has come to be known as the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 has its roots in the rapid expansion of Minnesota's population by white settlers, and the subsequent treatment of indigenous peoples. From 1850–1860, the numbers of white settlers in Minnesota grew from 5,000 to more than 170,000; in that same decade, Native Americans went from the majority of people in Minnesota to being outnumbered by whites 5–1. Treaties made between the Dakota people and the U.S. government pushed native communities off their ancestral lands with promises of money, food, and commodities. Forced assimilation policies further marginalized tribes by requiring the adoption of European style dress, hair, and culture. Tensions escalated when the government failed to pay promised annuities, a drought decreased the supply of food leaving many Dakota families hungry, and the U.S. government took back land set aside for Indian reservations, reducing the remaining reservation size drastically.

The first violent acts of the conflict occurred on August 17, 1862, when four young Dakota men killed five people at a farm near Acton, Minnesota. These murders divided the Dakota community; some argued it was time to go to war with the settlers who now claimed ancestral Dakota land, but much of the community wanted to maintain peace. Nevertheless, Dakota leader Little Crow led his Nation to War, understanding that the greater power of the U.S. government would most likely prevail.

The weeks of violence that followed in Southern Minnesota led to over 1,000 deaths. The U.S.-Dakota War is one of the bloodiest conflicts between a Native tribe and the U.S. government, surpassing both the conflicts of Little Big Horn and Wounded Knee. The War's end was marked by the largest mass execution in U.S. history, when 38 Dakota men were convicted in kangaroo courts and hung on December 26, 1862. Originally 303 Dakota men were tried and sentenced to death, but President Lincoln personally reviewed the cases and stayed the execution of those whose conviction was based on questionable testimony. Two additional Dakota warriors were forcibly returned from Canada and hanged at Fort Snelling in 1865.

Although the day of the execution stands out in history, the suffering of the Dakota people continued throughout the winter and into the coming years. Those Dakota who had surrendered to U.S. forces, many of whom opposed the war, were forced to march to an internment camp at Fort Snelling and suffer through a brutally cold winter filled with disease, food shortages, and assaults by soldiers and civilians alike. Hundreds perished over the winter, and those who survived were forcibly relocated to Western reservations where similar conditions led to more deaths. Some 6,000 displaced members of the Dakota community relocated to Canada and Western states and territories, and by the end of the decade a majority of the Dakota tribe had left its ancestral lands.

The U.S.-Dakota War reminds us of how the events of the past continue to reverberate to this day. Dakota tribe members are still dispersed over several states and into Canada as a direct result of this conflict. Most unfortunate, the Dakota Expulsion Act of 1863, a federal law making it illegal for Dakota people to