

Supervisor Deran Koligian represents the First Supervisorial District on the Fresno County Board of Supervisors. He represents a portion of the urban area of Fresno and a large agricultural region in western Fresno County. Deran Koligian was elected to serve as the 1996 Chairman of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Koligian has been an outspoken advocate for agriculture as a member of the Board of Supervisors of Fresno County—the nation's number one producer of agricultural products. In connection with his duties as Supervisor of District One, Koligian has served the community on numerous committees.

Supervisor Judith Case is the Vice-Chairman on the Fresno County Board of Supervisors and represents District Four. Supervisor Case has been mayor of Sanger for the past two years and was recently elected to the Board.

Judy Case has spent the majority of her life serving the community in the health field. She was the Administrative Director and Director for St. Agnes Medical Center, Assistant Vice President of Valley Childrens Hospital, Director of the Selma District Hospital, Senior Health Planner for Central California Health Systems Agency in Visalia, Control Management Intern for Texas Instruments in Dallas, and a Registered Nurse at Fresno Community Hospital and Medical Center.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Deran Koligian and Judy Case for their accomplishments and service to the community. They exemplify public service and dedication to their community and jobs. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Deran Koligian and Judy Case many more years of continued success.

CRISIS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, if permitted to escalate, the mounting crisis in the Horn of Africa will have dire ramifications on the strategic posture of the United States. Presently, there is no end in sight, other than war, in this Ethiopia-Eritrea conflict. The mediation of Assistant Secretary of State Susan Rice and former National Security Advisor Anthony Lake have so far failed to reverse the slide toward war. Vital interests of the United States, Israel and the West are jeopardized, particularly if the Islamist-supported further break-up of Ethiopia is permitted to occur.

A unified Ethiopia is vital to the regional security and economic structure. If Ethiopia were to become fragmented, as Sudanese leaders seek, then Israel's economic and military security, as well as its access to the Red Sea would be jeopardized. Instability in Ethiopia would destabilize Egypt and Saudi Arabia and the vital Red Sea-Suez trade link.

The key to the reversal of the Ethiopia-Eritrea conflict and the ensuing fragmentation of Ethiopia lies in the rejuvenation of Ethiopia's national identity. Toward this end, the U.S. needs to help Ethiopia find the unifying sym-

bols to strengthen the country and ensure its commitment to moderation. Until 1974, Ethiopia, the region and the U.S. benefitted greatly from the statesmanship and friendship of Emperor Haile Selassie. Ethiopia has since declined into ethnic enclaves and divisiveness, and lays open to Eritrean, Sudanese and irredentist attacks.

The Ethiopian Crown today is a Constitutional Monarchy, ready to return home to provide the inspirational symbolism under which elected day-to-day government can emerge and flourish. Moreover, the stature of the Crown throughout the Horn of Africa makes the Crown uniquely capable of mediating an indigenous solution to the building crisis and slide toward a regional and fratricidal war. The President of the Ethiopian Crown Council and grandson of Emperor Haile Selassie is Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie, who has repeatedly exemplified the capable, unifying symbolism which Ethiopia desperately needs. By encouraging Prince Ermias's use of the prestige of the Crown and Ethiopia's traditional elders and institutions to resolve conflict, we can help heal the rifts which are a legacy of decades of civil strife.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore urge Ethiopia's civil government to allow the Crown's return to help unify and stabilize the State, and thereby help preserve Ethiopian, regional and Western security and economic interests.

TRIBUTE TO MERRILL P. RICHARDSON, JR.

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service and dedication Mr. Merrill P. Richardson, Jr. has made to his family, community and country. Merrill has recently retired and I would like to take a moment to commend all his hard work and achievements.

A native of Brewer, Maine, Merrill committed himself to serving our country early on by joining the National Guard at the age of sixteen. One year later, Merrill enlisted in the U.S. Army and began a career that took him all over the U.S. and the world, including South Korea, West Germany, Turkey, Vietnam and England. It was here that Merrill met and married his wife of 40 years, Elizabeth. Merrill served our country faithfully and honorably and upon retirement had earned, among several honors and decorations, the Good Conduct Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the RNV Civil Action Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Bronze Star.

After being honorably discharged from the service, Merrill began a second career at Kansas State University where he worked for 20 years before retiring. Currently, Merrill is living in St. George, Kansas with Elizabeth and enjoying life with his five children, Linda, Merrill III, Jeffrey, Christina and Steven, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

In a time where the concepts of family and dedication are becoming more and more

trivialized, people like Merrill offer hope and assurance to us all. Merrill has shown that the ideals of hard work and patriotism are not old-fashioned, but qualities of strength and character. I would like to join with many others in honoring Merrill for all his remarkable achievements and wishing him great happiness and success in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE 1998 RICHMOND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATH- LETIC ASSOCIATION CLASS AAAA FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and pleasure to rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding group of student-athletes from North Carolina's Eighth Congressional District. This past fall, the Richmond Senior High School football team completed a truly memorable season by winning the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Class AAAA Football Championship.

The 1998 Richmond Senior High School Raider football team demonstrated that, with a great deal of hard work, dedication to the task at hand and to each other, and a strong sense of commitment, you can realize your dreams and make them come true.

The Richmond Raider football team successfully defended their 1997 class 4-A title with an impressive 16-0 undefeated season. The Raider football team capped off this perfect season with a win over Garner High School this past December at the championship game held at Kenan Stadium in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Led by four Associated Press All-State Players, the Raiders realized their dream through a great deal of hard-fought success. Their willingness to dig deep within themselves to find the extra energy needed to produce a championship is a true testament to the unwavering loyalty that each player has for the team. The unselfish attitude of the Richmond Raiders is certainly a good example of what can be accomplished when people work together for a common goal.

Senior and All-State team member Michael Waddell deserves special congratulations for his state and national records last season by returning seven punts or kickoffs for touchdowns. Waddell is joined on the All-State team by Brian Nelson, Jeremy Barnes and Marcus Ellerbe. The senior members of this team have the distinction of never having lost a high school football game.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate head coach Daryl Barnes, his assistant coaches and the 1998 North Carolina State 4-A Champions, the Richmond Senior High School Raiders. I would urge all of my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to an outstanding team.