

this land, until we shall once more stand up declaring that all men are created equal." His words, and dreams, renewed the heart of the nation to fulfill our promise to all people no matter their color, creed, or class.

Today, we too stand at a moment of decision. The debate on banning partial birth abortion provides us an opportunity of a lifetime—to protect the most innocent lives among us. This debate strikes at the very heart of who we are as a people—the core of our conscience and the character of our nation. It is our time, just as Lincoln answered the call of his convictions, to defend the defenseless and speak for those without voices.

What a privilege it is to make the right decision today.

Some in this House have cheapened this debate through distortions and distractions—not willing to unveil the reality that only seconds and inches separate thousands of children from life and death every year.

In Lincoln's time, our nation deemed slaves sixty-percent human. We shackled their legs and beat their backs. We disposed of them as mere chattel, auctioning them like cattle and demanded they give their life and labor for our prosperity. Are we much different today? We deem innocent babies—with kicking feet and beating hearts—less than human. We dispose of them as useless, in pretentious compassion discarding them as "unwanted."

Abortion is the civil rights issue of our time. This partial-birth abortion ban rescues our children from the slavery of choice.

I ask this body to make the right choice. Join Lincoln in the hallmarks of history as people who shall once more stand up declaring that all men are created equal. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the ban on partial birth abortions.

DESIGNATION OF APRIL 9, 2000 AS
WILLIE AND BERNICE RUCKER
DAY IN THIRTIETH CONGRES-
SIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2000

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON. Mr. Speaker, I proclaim April 9, 2000 as "Willie and Bernice Rucker Day", in the Thirtieth Congressional District of Texas. This distinction marks the fiftieth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Rucker.

Mr. and Mrs. Rucker grew up, met and married in New Orleans, LA. Mr. Willie Rucker retired from the United States Army in 1971 after serving over 21 years. He worked for the Regional Transportation District in Denver CO, taught ROTC for Denver Public Schools, and, upon moving to Dallas, worked for Dallas Area Rapid Transit, retiring in 1996. Mr. Rucker can attribute much of his successful career to the support of his wife. Mrs. Bernice Rucker has been a constant companion, friend and mother. Mr. and Mrs. Rucker are the parents of six wonderful children, Vernon, Rodney, Clyde, Candace, Debra, and Patrick, who have become productive members of society.

Mr. Speaker, The Ruckers are a prime example of true family values. They are a testa-

ment to the virtue of marriage and an asset to Texas. I ask the citizens of the Thirtieth Congressional District of Texas to unite with me in paying tribute to these great Americans. Please join me in celebrating "Willie and Bernice Rucker Day" on April 9, 2000.

RECOGNIZING THE WESTERN MAS-
SACHUSETTS CHAMPION LUD-
LOW HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOC-
CER TEAM

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2000

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the accomplishments of the 1999 Ludlow High School girls soccer team. The Ludlow girls soccer team won the program's third Western Massachusetts title last year by defeating defending State champion Cathedral High School. The Lions defeated Central Massachusetts Champion Shrewsbury en route to the State final match, where they fell just short of their goal.

The Ludlow girls soccer team finished the year with a record 19-2-1. Ludlow was able to dominate a tough league in Western Massachusetts in 1999 by employing a highly skillful style of play. A team that was tough when it needed to be, Ludlow was capable of outclassing most of its opponents. As a result of their high class style, the Lions enjoyed the fervent support of the residents of the Town of Ludlow throughout the season.

Head Coach Jim Calheno has built a very successful program at Ludlow High School. Coach Calheno is well-respected in the teaching community and his team is duly feared. The Ludlow talent pool runs very deep, and the Lions are certain to be the team to beat in 2000. A group of talented Juniors, including All-American selection Liz Dyjak and All-New England selection Stephanie Santos, will be looking to claim the State title next season.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to recognize here the players, coaches, and managers of the 1999 Ludlow High School girls soccer team. The Seniors are: Melissa Dominique, Sandy Salvador, Angela Goncalves, Jen Crespo, Marcy Bousquet, Lynsey Calheno, Jenn Genovevo, and Leana Alves. The Juniors are: Nicole Gebo, Lindsay Robillard, Lindsay Haluch, Kara Williamson, Sarah Davis, Liz Dyjak, Stephanie Santos, Tina Santos, and Jessica Vital. The Sophomores are: Michele Goncalves, Lindsey Palatino, and Kristine Goncalves. The Freshmen are: Natalie Gebo, Lauren Pereira, Beth Cochenour, Darcie Rickson, and Amy Rodrigues. The Head Coach is Jim Calheno, and he is assisted by Saul Chelo, Nuno Pereira, Melanie Pszeniczny, and Mario Monsalve. The managers are Melissa Santos and Elizabeth Barrow.

Mr. Speaker, once again, allow me to congratulate the Ludlow High School girls soccer team on a season well played. I wish them the best of luck for the 2000 season.

TRIBUTE TO MONSIGNOR SCANLAN
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VARSITY
BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2000

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to and congratulate the Monsignor Scanlan High School Girls Varsity Basketball Team for a very successful year. This group of 13 young women finished their season with a record of 29 wins and 1 loss.

With this record they have demonstrated that they have the ability and the desire to be assets and role models in our community. We are proud of their accomplishments and I hope they will continue to be successful both on and off the basketball court. They are terrific examples for young women throughout our communities.

Again, I congratulate them and wish them the best of luck in their future enterprises.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to and congratulating Monsignor Scanlan High School Girls Varsity Basketball Team.

HONORING DEYOSSIE HARRIS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2000

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Deyossie Harris, Vice President of the Galveston County AFL-CIO and former Galveston County Democratic Precinct Chairperson. I unfortunately will not be able to be with him when he receives the award this Saturday, but I want to congratulate him as he is recognized by the AFL-CIO for his many year of loyal service.

Deyossie is not only a great Galvestonian, but is a great American. He meets the description of a leader, and has been involved with every aspect of the community. Deyossie has contributed so much to the community of Galveston and the people who live here. He believes in Galveston and its residents, and has unfalteringly placed his time and energy into their well being.

He is a champion of the American worker, and has truly lived up to the mission of the AFL-CIO: to improve the lives of working families by bringing economic justice to the workplace and social justice to the nation. As an officer with the NAACP, Deyossie has unfalteringly put his energy into creating a better America for all people.

A proud veteran, Deyossie served this country during World War II and was part of the forces that invaded Italy. He continued his service as a letter carrier, and upon retirement went to the University of Houston at Clear Lake and received both his bachelors and masters degrees. After graduation he taught history at the College of the Mainland. He is truly an inspiration to all, and is an example that education is something that can touch anybody, at any age. He epitomizes the phrase "education is for a lifetime."