

RECOGNIZING THE STATE CHAMPION MINNECHAUG REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 10, 2000

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and congratulate the 1999–2000 Minnechaug Regional High School girls' basketball team. On March 18, 2000, the Falcons captured their third Massachusetts Division I state championship in the past four years at the Worcester Centrum, defeating Brockton High School by a score of 68–61 in a memorable final contest.

The final contest was not an easy one for the Falcons. Minnechaug trailed by as many as 14 points in the first half, and took its first lead in the contest with only 1:32 remaining. The comeback was led by senior Melissa Kowalski, who scored 22 of her 28 points during the final 10 minutes of the game. Kowalski's efforts, along with the play of seniors Maureen Leahy and Christal Murphy accounted for all of Minnechaug's 42 second half points.

A final win in the state championship, as if not impressive enough, capped off a perfect season of 25 wins and no losses for the Falcons. The final game was a battle of the undefeated as Brockton also headed into the final contest with a record of 24 wins and no losses. Minnechaug arrived at the final games as the Western Massachusetts champions for the fourth straight year.

Under the leadership and direction of Coach Dave Yelle, Minnechaug has dominated their competition from around the state. Over the past four seasons, the Falcons have compiled an outstanding total of 91 wins, including 18 wins in the postseason. Defense had been their greatest strength, holding opponents to an average of 32 points for the two playoff contests before the final.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to recognize the Minnechaug Regional High School girls' basketball team. The seniors are Melissa Kowalski, Christal Murphy, Abigail Lipinski and Maureen Leahy. Underclasswomen include Christina Conway, Cheri Murphy, Laura Mulcahy, Erica Bacon, Katie Clark, Sara McCarthy, Marybeth Maziarz and Julie Sullivan. The team is coached by Dave Yelle, and he is assisted by Pete Kowalski, Jason Fenlason and Elizabeth Ouellette. The Falcons are managed by Amy Gregorius, Tom Loper and Meghan Mitchell and the team trainer is Jason Patterson.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honored to extend my congratulations to the 1999–2000 Minnechaug Regional High School girls' basketball team. Their consistent record of dominance and excellence is certainly worthy of the attention of this Chamber. I wish Coach Yelle and the state champion Falcons the best of luck in defending their title next season.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN SUPPORT OF H. CON. RES. 282
AND H. CON. RES. 228

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 10, 2000

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am supporting H. Con. Res. 282, The GI As Person of the Century Act, and H. Con. Res. 228, Honor Vietnam-era Armed Forces Act. These important bills recognize the sacrifices endured by our men and women who fought to protect the freedom we cherish.

Throughout our distinguished history, we have been blessed with the courage and determination of brave Americans who were willing to preserve democratic beliefs with their lives. From the gas-filled trenches of World War I to the flaming deserts of the Gulf War, our veterans wrote much of the history that transformed the United States from a young and naive country into a world leader and global superpower. It's a history lesson that makes you proud to be an American and respect those who fought for the freedoms we cherish.

Each regional conflict the United States entered there was always one consistent factors—a brave American in the trenches fighting to stop aggression. These brave men and women defended the most basic of the beliefs on which our Nation was created—that freedom is worth putting our lives in harms way to preserve. We owe them a great deal of gratitude and respect.

That is why I support legislation that designated the "American GI" as the "Person of the Century". We honor them because it was their blood, their resolution, and their love of country that became infectious and spread from one generation to another.

Lastly, we should never forget those brave men and women who never returned home from fighting to protect what our flag symbolizes. Many were either captured or killed. In Vietnam there are still over 2,000 soldiers classified either Prisoners of War or Missing in Action. The anguish they suffer, as well as their families, is indescribable.

The Honor Vietnam-era Armed Forces Act recognizes the service and sacrifices by members of the Armed Forces and federal civilian employees who, during the Vietnam era, served proudly to protect those in need. This measure also honors the sacrifices and hardships endured by the families of individuals who lost their lives or remain unaccounted during this tumultuous era.

Vietnam veterans, like their fallen brethren before them, exemplify a spirit of nationality and patriotism that continues to thrive today.

Veterans are the unsung heroes who define our American heritage. They are ordinary citizens who answered their call to duty and fought for something they believed in. They remember the places they were stationed, their training, and they certainly remember their days in combat. It is an experience the rest of us can only read about and marvel at. Although we can never adequately express our thanks to those who could not return to us, we remember them by supporting the legislation before us today.

April 10, 2000

IN HONOR OF THE SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 10, 2000

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to recognize the Simon Wiesenthal Center—Museum of Tolerance Library and Archives, an extraordinary institution in the 29th District of California, which I represent, that is dedicated to teaching the importance of Holocaust remembrance and the defense of human rights. The Library and Archives is being honored this week in conjunction with National Library Week; chosen by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) as one of four libraries, nationwide, to receive the first annual National Award for Library Services.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center Library and Archives' broad collections document the Holocaust in Nazi Germany and the many other tragic genocides of the 20th century. The library holdings of over 30,000 books and periodicals document antisemitism, racism, and related issues, and are available to researchers, media, students and the public. The archives, containing an extensive array of original documents, manuscripts, personal narratives, diaries, artifacts, photographs, magazines, newspaper, maps, and original artwork, have evolved into a primary research depository for materials dealing with the Holocaust and the pre-World War II Jewish experience.

In partnership with the Simon Wiesenthal Center Museum of Tolerance, the Library and Archives maintains a number of excellent education programs to fulfill its mission of teaching the dangers of bigotry and the importance of tolerance. In addition to answering over 500 inquiries a week, hosts numerous visiting authors, scholars and civic leaders to bring its message to the community. The Library and Archives also sponsors a dynamic "Contact a Survivor" program of direct, electronic, eye-witness discussions between Holocaust survivors and students.

The IMLS award is a tribute to the power of libraries to reach families and communities across America and around the world, and the Simon Wiesenthal Center Library and Archives is a deserving recipient. Under the leadership of Adaire Klein, it continues to make a tremendous contribution to preserving the lessons of the Holocaust and the legacy of its victims for future generations. We owe the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Ms. Klein and her staff a debt of gratitude for this distinguished record of accomplishment. I thank them for the devoted service and extend my best wishes for the future.

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD LUCK TO SHEREKA WRIGHT

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 10, 2000

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate a great high school student and basketball