prelim time of 1:38.42 and a finals time of 1:38.36, but the Wildkits didn’t win the title by almost two seconds.

And he responded to a big challenge in the 100 butterfly, where Champaign Central stud Dan Trupin was the odds-on favorite—until Silkaitis broke the state record of 49.54 with a time of 49.36 in the prelims.

That thrust a scare into Trupin, who responded by resetting the record at 48.69 Saturday. Silkaitis settled for second best at 49.34.

“It was nice to win the 200 again, especially being a senior year,” Silkaitis said. “Today was definitely harder than in the prelims. I’d have said no way coming into the meet that I could go a couple of 1:38s, but after yesterday I thought I could do it again. I felt good today.

“Was I disappointed in the fly? Not at all. If you’re going to lose, lose to the best. I knew Trupin would be there and I just gave everything I could.”

Also producing points for the new state champ—with legendary coach Dobbie Burton, who led the Wildkits to five state titles in the 1960s, watching from the stands—were McCaffrey (fourth in the 200 freestyle, second in the 100 freestyle), Wallace (sixth in the 50 and sixth in the 100), Silkaitis (11th in the 100 backstroke) and the medley relay unit of Anderson, Justin Froelich, Taylor Hales and Seth Weidmann that finished 12th.

Both of Anderson’s relay triumphs turned out to be the fastest times in the country this season, Silkaitis, Weidmann, Wallace and McCaffrey beat out rival New Trier with the 1:38.15 in the 400 meter relay and the 49.34 in the 400 meter medley relay.

Wildkits have won that event in their history. This year the whole team got behind that philosophy.

“I wouldn’t have come here if I didn’t believe the potential was here to win a state championship,” Silkaitis said. “I was confident they were capable of doing it, and gave them the work to back it up.”

A TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF RUDOLPH V. MARSHALL

HON. BARBARA LEE
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of loss that I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Rudolph “Rudy” V. Marshall, the founder and chairman of the Bay Area Black Media Coalition, who recently passed away at the age of 64.

Rudy Marshall proudly served this country for 30 years. He enlisted in the United States Navy. He worked at the Veterans’ Hospital and the Alameda Naval Supply.

Rudy demonstrated his leadership abilities in the community. He was often involved with service projects, which helped to build and to strengthen the neighborhoods. He developed a trust and a bond with the people.

One of Rudy’s greatest achievements was his founding and chairing of the Bay Area Black Media Coalition in 1979. He was a tireless advocate of the racial diversification of newspaper and broadcast facilities. Rudy utilized all legal avenues to ensure the fair treatment of African Americans and other minorities by the media.

He conducted workshops and seminars for young people to have the opportunity to experience broadcasting and media work firsthand. Rudy provided mentors from the communications industry in hopes of fostering an interest for a career in journalism.

Rudy Marshall was a pioneer in bringing to the people’s attention the demand for fair and diverse representation in the media industry. He had a deep passion for justice, fairness, and professionalism.

He touched us all. Rudy Marshall, beloved husband, father, grandfather, friend, and community leader will be deeply missed.

IN SUPPORT OF THE MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT AVAILABILITY ACT

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of medical savings accounts. As we begin the 107th Congress, I am sad to report that over 43 million Americans are without health insurance. One solution to help alleviate this problem is medical savings accounts (MSAs). Figures recently released by the Internal Revenue Service confirm that MSAs are insuring the uninsured at an astounding rate. According to the IRS, since the program began in January of 1997, 32 percent of MSA purchasers were previously uninsured.

This success is in spite of restrictions placed on the pilot program, which was part of the bipartisan Kassebaum-Kennedy health care bill that President Clinton signed into law in 1996. As of now, you can only get an MSA if you work for a company with 50 or fewer employees or if you are self-employed. However, many thousands of uninsured people have been purchasing MSA policies because MSAs are making health insurance affordable for the first time. In addition, MSAs allow for choice of doctor and put healthcare decisions in the hands of the individual, not a managed care administrator.

Today, following in the bipartisan spirit under which MSAs were originally created, Chairman THOMAS and I have introduced the Medical Savings Account Availability Act, with strong bipartisan support. This bill would repeal the 750,000 cap and making MSAs permanent. The legislation also expands the eligibility of MSAs to all individuals with a qualified high deductible plan. Repealing the 750,000 cap and making MSAs permanent are key to continuing the success of MSAs. Last year, Congress extended MSAs for 2 years. Nevertheless, many insurers are reluctant to invest the capital to market MSAs if they will expire soon. The Medical Savings Account Availability Act would make MSAs permanent. Insurers have also been hesitant to offer MSAs because the cap restrictions limit the size of the market in which MSAs could be offered. Therefore, repealing the cap would encourage the mass marketing of MSAs and increase Americans’ awareness of the benefits of MSAs.

It has been 8 years since the first Medical Savings Account bill was introduced with bipartisan support. MSAs have a proven track record of insuring the uninsured, giving individuals choice in their healthcare, making health care affordable by reducing the cost of premiums, and encouraging Americans to save for long-term health care expenses. With 43 million Americans vulnerable and uninsured, it’s time to make MSAs available to everyone.

I look forward to working with Chairman THOMAS, members of both parties, and others who want all consumers to be able to reap the benefits of MSAs. I urge my colleagues to join us and support the Medical Savings Account Availability Act. The 43 million uninsured Americans will thank you.

CELEBRATING GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 180th anniversary of
Greece’s independence from the Ottoman Empire, and to celebrate the shared democratic heritage of Greece and the United States.

On March 25, 1821, after more than 400 years of Ottoman Turk domination, Greece declared its independence and resumed its rightful place in the world as a beacon of democracy.

The people of Greece and the United States share a common bond in their commitment to democracy. Our Founding Fathers looked to the teachings of Greek philosophy in their struggle for freedom and democracy. And the American experience in turn inspired the Greek people to fight hard for their independence 180 years ago.

This bond between our two peoples stretches beyond the philosophy of democracy. The relationship between the U.S. and Greece has grown stronger and stronger through the years, and Greece remains today one of our closest partners.

Greece has made many valuable contributions to the United States and to the lives of all Americans. Greek-Americans are a vital part of our cultural heritage, and I feel fortunate that my district in New York has benefited from the active participation of Greek-Americans in our community.

I am proud to stand today in commemoration of Greek independence and in recognition of the contributions Greece and Greek-Americans have made to our country.

BANGLADESH NATIONAL DAY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 30th Independence Day of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh.

On this occasion, we should all remember the people who sacrificed their lives and others who endured immense suffering to achieve political self-determination. Despite this, and since achieving independence, the people and government of Bangladesh have played an increasing role in global peacekeeping and democratic consolidation.

Bangladesh is roughly the size of the State of Wisconsin but has a population estimated at roughly 130 million. It is bounded by India from the north, east and west and by the Bay of Bengal and Myanmar from the south. Bangladesh has a rich historical and cultural past as a consequence of the influx of varied races and nationalities, including the Dravidian, Indo-Aryan, Mongol-Mughul, Arab, Persian, Turkic, Dutch, French and the English cultures.

The area that is now Bangladesh was under Muslim rule for five and a half centuries, followed by British rule for another two centuries. It was, most recently, a province of Pakistan for 26 years. The people of Bangladesh achieved their independence through a difficult nine month long war of liberation in 1971.

Since Independence, the people of Bangladesh have overcome formidable challenges, including rapid population growth and food shortages. The country is consolidating democratic principles at home, is a partner in global peacekeeping efforts, has vast amount of undeveloped gas resources, and has become an exporter of development best practices abroad.

The U.S.-Bangladesh bilateral relationship is deepening through trade and investment partnerships and an ongoing high-level official dialogue. President Clinton made a historic visit to Bangladesh in March 2000 and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made a reciprocal visit in October of that year.

To build on these achievements, I have established a bipartisan Congressional Bangladesh Caucus and invite all of my colleagues to join me in this endeavor. The Caucus will examine issues relevant to our bilateral relationship with the Bangladeshi government, and issues affecting the Bangladeshi-American community in order to facilitate the formation of coherent foreign policy with regard to Bangladesh.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the people of Bangladesh on the milestone of their 30th Anniversary as an Independent nation.

RECOGNITION OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF BANGALDESH

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute and congratulate the nation of Bangladesh for thirty years of independence.

Founded in 1971 after gaining its independence from Pakistan, Bangladesh has evolved into a moderate Muslim democracy where the United States enjoys high prestige and respect. Bangladesh plays a moderating and welcome role in international fora like the G-77, the Nonaligned Movement and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Since independence, Bangladesh has struggled with an enormous population of 128 million crowded into a nation the size of Wisconsin. Subject to regular monsoons and flooding, Bangladesh has made significant social and economic progress in a number of areas. In particular Bangladesh has made major strides to meet the needs of its growing population and is now largely self-sufficient in rice production. Bangladesh is also a leader in microenterprise lending. The world famous Grameen Bank has provided small business loans to more than 2.4 million customers in 39,000 villages. The bank has a 98 percent loan recovery rate from its customers, 94 percent of whom are women. In a recent and promising development, 40-50 trillion cubic feet of natural gas have been discovered giving Bangladesh a long term source of energy and enough to become a natural gas exporter. U.S.-Bangladesh relations have also grown in recent years. The United States is Bangladesh’s number one trading partner. U.S. investment in Bangladesh has grown from $25 million to over $750 million in the last four years. But economic interests are not the only ties that bind the U.S. and Bangladesh.

Bangladesh has played a significant role in international peacekeeping activities. Several thousand Bangladeshi military personnel are deployed overseas on peacekeeping operations. Under U.N. auspices, Bangladeshi troops have served or are serving in Somalia, Rwanda, Mozambique, Kuwait, Bosnia, Haiti, and East Timor. Regionally, Bangladesh is a nation at peace with its neighbors and focused on regional integration through the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

In addition, Bangladesh has demonstrated its commitment to environmental preservation by becoming the first country to participate in a debt for nature swap under the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998. This program allowed Bangladesh to exchange a portion of its concessional debt to the United States in return for the preservation of more than 3 million acres of tropical forest home to the world’s last genetically viable population of Bengal tigers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in commendation of the nation of Bangladesh for 30 years of independence.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in commendation of the nation of Bangladesh for 30 years of independence.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR GINETTE (GIGI) DENNIS

HON. HON. SCOTT McINNIS
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Colorado State Senator Gigi Dennis for her years of service to the State of Colorado and to wish her good luck in her new position. Senator Gigi has served in the Colorado State Senate since 1995, but is resigning at the end of the month to accept an appointment from President George W. Bush to become the Colorado Director of the Department of Agriculture’s Office of Rural Development. “I’m proud of her,” said her husband Dean Dennis. “I’m proud of her accomplishments.” I know that Gigi’s friends and neighbors in south-central Colorado, her colleagues in the Colorado legislature, and elected officials all across Colorado—including me—share Dean’s sentiments. We are all proud of Gigi!

Senator Dennis has held numerous positions of real significance during her seven years in office, including Vice Chair of the Transportation Committee, a Member of the Legislative Council and Chairman of the Majority Caucus. Senator Dennis also served as the Rio Grande County Republican Secretary. Additionally, she served as a member of the State Accountability Commission on Education, and the Vice Chairman of the Education Committee (NCSL).

Senator Dennis summed up her feelings like this: “This resignation is not like walking away from my constituents, but creating a bigger circle of people I can impact through this office. In the end, it doesn’t make any difference who gets the credit or who wins the fight . . . but whether Colorado citizens are better off for what we do. I’m extremely honored that President Bush has selected me for this position. This is another terrific opportunity to continue to help the State of Colorado, particularly the rural areas that I’ve represented over the years.”

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Senator Gigi Dennis on