For this team, this program, and this community, the championship is indeed a great honor. At times, it is easy to get wrapped up in all of the hype surrounding college athletics, but I think Cloud County coach, Brett Erkenbrack, said it best: “Great team, a tremendous bunch of young ladies, and a great crowd.”

Cloud County is the first Kansas team to win the women’s title in the 27 year history of the NJCAA tournament. The team includes three players selected to the All-Tournament Team, including Paulette Valentine, N’Keisa Richardson, and the tournament Most Valuable Player, Mikkiannet Tennial.

The talented players on Coach Erkenbrack’s team fought a difficult road on the way to earning the National title, defeating the number 5 and number 1 seeds, as well as enduring an overtime victory in the semifinals. The Concordia community also rallied around their home team. Attendance at the championship game was the biggest of the tournament and beat last year’s mark by over 25%. This is a story of teamwork, preparation, and hard work, combined with a supportive community, and families all pulling together for a championship run. It is a great story to tell and a story worth repeating.

Congratulations again to the Cloud County Women’s Basketball team. They truly are champions.

RECOGNIZING EVAN DOBELLE’S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HARTFORD COMMUNITY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON
OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2001

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to my colleagues’ attention a true leader in the First Congressional District of Connecticut, and a good friend of mine, Dr. Evan Dobelle. For the past six years, Dr. Dobelle has served as the President of Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. In those six years, he has expanded that role of president of the private college to that of an effective leader in the surrounding urban community—transforming the outlook and prosperity of both the school and the community. It is now with bittersweet enthusiasm that I must wish Dr. Dobelle well as he embarks on his newest endeavor to become the President of the University of Hawaii.

Never one to shy away from a challenge, Evan Dobelle began his commitment to the community in his twenties, serving two terms as the Mayor of Pittsfield, MA. At age 31, Dr. Dobelle was selected United States Chief of Protocol for the White House and Assistant Secretary of State with the rank of Ambassador under the Carter Administration. Before assuming his position at Trinity College, he served as Chancellor and President of City College of San Francisco, and president of Middlesex Community College in Lowell, MA.

In 1995, Evan Dobelle came to Hartford to serve as the eighteenth president of Trinity College; a school synonymous with rigorous academics and affordable college for all in one of the economically depressed area of Frog Hollow. It is a picture of pristine academia located within the heart of one of Hartford’s forgotten neighborhoods. With Trinity, Evan faced one of his toughest challenges. Not only did he have to enhance the quantity and quality of applicants, and increase Trinity’s endowment, Evan was responsible for improving relations with the neighborhood surrounding the gates of Trinity. Recognizing the benefits that both the community and the school had to offer one another, Evan embraced the surrounding neighborhood and called upon both the community and the college to work in partnership for mutual improvement. While successfully achieving the goals outlined for enrollment and endowments, Dobelle also used his innovation and leadership to play a vital role atorchestration and execution of the Learning Corridor, a $250 million neighborhood redevelopment project, consisting of four public elementary schools, a boys and a girls club, a center for family services, a limited housing renovation, and effectively satisfying the third requirement of his presidency and creating a national model. It is for this accomplishment he will be remembered so fondly for by the people of the city of Hartford.

The Learning Corridor redevelopment project has been one of the most celebrated and successful ventures the City of Hartford has seen. It is due largely in part to the dedication and leadership of Dr. Evan Dobelle. In his six years as president of Trinity College and a resident of the City of Hartford, Evan Dobelle has become an inspiration to his adopted community in Hartford.

Dr. Dobelle has gone beyond the call of duty and done a tremendous job not only for Trinity College, but the entire city of Hartford. I commend him for his excellent work, and wish him the best, as I know he will give nothing less than that to the students of the University of Hawaii and its surrounding communities.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2002

SPONSORED BY

HON. JIM LANGEVIN
OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 83) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2002, revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2001, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2011:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong opposition to this budget resolution. In particular, I object to its cornerstone: an enormous tax cut that is skewed towards the wealthy and based on unreliable ten-year surplus projections. Furthermore, it usurps funds that should go to other critical priorities—including long-term debt reduction, creating a stable defense, improving education, providing affordable health care, and strengthening Social Security and Medicare.

What is most important to me and many of my colleagues is that we enact a budget based on principles, not politics. I believe we should start by honoring our promises, and I remain committed to paying down the national debt, while providing responsible tax relief and ensuring our most pressing needs are met.

The Administration’s budget calls for a $2 trillion tax cut (including the resulting increased interest costs) that disproportionately benefits the wealthiest one percent of our society. However, the budget fails to explain how our other national needs can be funded. When properly accounted for, the $1.4 trillion “re-serve,” which the budget resolution delineates as available for “additional needs,” would not even ($5B) would receive a cut of over 46 percent in its overall budget. Small businesses are the backbone of Rhode Island’s economy and account for more than 95 percent of the jobs in the state. They bring new and innovative services and products to the marketplace and provide business ownership opportunities to diverse and traditionally underrepresented groups. Many of these small businesses rely on the valuable loan assistance and technical training programs offered by the SBA. These cuts could severely impact Rhode Island’s workforce and our community just when we need their contributions the most.

I support a more balanced approach to our federal budget that allows for a significant tax cut, but also takes into consideration a wide