and on. These are simple things. They are things we could be doing, I say to my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support my wide-reaching package as a beginning of an indication that the Federal Government cares and will work in partnership with communities and concerned citizens and parents and kids to resolve this problem.

COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2001 NCAA WOMEN’S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, the famous sports writer Grantland Rice once wrote these words: "Outlined against a blue-gray October sky, the four horsemen rode again. In dramatic lore they are known as famine, pestilence, destruction and death."

These famous words name the four horsemen with the University of Notre Dame football team. With the women’s national championship win, with the Notre Dame basketball program Sunday night, we have at least four new names in Irish legend and in “Hoosier Hysteria.” They are Ratay and Ivey, Riley and Siemon, players that fought with tenacity and heart to come back from a 16-point deficit against the defending champs, the University of Connecticut, in a semifinal game and win by 15 points. They are the team that came back from 12 points down in the national championship game against the respected intrastate rivals, the Purdue Boilermakers with all-American Katie Douglas, and won the national championship by 2 points Sunday night.

I have to say to my colleagues in the House of Representatives, this was a flat-out exciting game that was one of the best national championships fought between men or women’s games in the history of national basketball tournaments. This was a game that was exciting to watch in person or in one’s living rooms for men and women and boys and girls across the country, to see Ruth Riley, the all-American star for the University of Notre Dame, score 28 points, rip down 13 rebounds and block 7 shots, all-American standards by any definition.

When we talk about high-caliber standards, nobody sets them better than the coach, Muffet McGraw, who has been at the helm of the University of Notre Dame for 14 years. This past year, she won three coach of the year awards, the Naismith Award, the Associated Press Award, and the WBCA National Coach of the Year Award, for her stellar coaching performance, in a 34 wins and 2 losses season. She did not do it by herself. Coach Owens, Coach McGraw, Coach Washington all helped her and these great teammates to win the national championship.

They had a lot of talent on this stellar team, not just the four names that I mentioned that go down in Irish lore, but the entire team dedicated to high academic standards and playing their hearts out on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude by recognizing their outstanding season. I was privileged enough to attend their very first practice on October 15 and talk to the team and try to encourage them on to have a successful season. Those are high standards that we live up to in Indiana, where we have the legend of Larry Bird, where we have high school basketball in Indiana, 2,200 and 12,000 people for great games at the high-school level, and where tiny, small, little Milan High School won the State championship in 1954, creating the legendary Hoosiers movie. We now have the University of Notre Dame Fighting Irish 2001 national champions to enter into the lore, the legend, and the “Hoosier Hysteria.” Congratulations. We are proud of you. Congratulations to the continuing ascendency of women’s basketball in America.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the University of Notre Dame Women’s Basketball Team. The Fighting Irish claimed the 2001 NCAA Women’s Basketball National Championship on April 1 in St. Louis, Missouri against intrastate rival, the Purdue University Boilermakers, in a classic Hoosier contest that will be long remembered as one of the best championship games in history.

By winning the national championship on Sunday, the Fighting Irish provided a fitting end to another historic season. The record was an outstanding thirty-four wins and only two defeats. This team embodied the true spirit of college athletics and the two hard fought games in the Final Four serve as a testament to their heart. In the semifinal game against the defending national champion and Big East Conference rival, University of Connecticut, the Irish staged a remarkable come from behind victory thanks to the dominant play of Naismith National Player of the Year, Ruth Riley, and the Frances Pomeroy Naismith Award winner, Niele Ivey. As the second half commenced, Connecticut cut into a 21-point Irish lead. This Irish team has certainly found a place in Indiana’s rich basketball lore, known as “Hoosier Hysteria.”

Ruth Riley excelled as a student-athlete. She became Notre Dame’s first player to win the Naismith Women’s College Player of the Year and she was an unanimous Associated Press first team All-American, with class and with the highest of academic standards. Coach McGraw’s assistant coaches, Carol Owens, Kevin McGuff, and Coquese Washington (Notre Dame ’92) must also be honored for their dedication to the team and to Notre Dame.

Coach McGraw’s expectation to win with class was put into practice by this year’s seniors. The strong character and the fierce determination of Riley, Ivey, Niele Siemon, Meaghan Leahy, and Imani Dunbar set the tone for this year. They were able to end their illustrious collegiate careers with a victory and a championship.

The Irish saved more heroics for the National Championship game against intrastate rival Purdue. Trailing by as many as twelve points, the Irish responded with grit and determination. Notre Dame relied on balanced scoring. Junior Ericka Hanly contributed thirteen points. Ivey had twelve points, and senior Niele Siemon tallied ten points. Ratay tied the game at 62 with less than one minute to play. With 5.8 seconds to play, Riley was fouled and headed to the foul line with the national championship literally on the line. Riley made both free throws to seal the victory and the championship for the Fighting Irish. Riley finished the game with 28 points, 13 rebounds, and 7 blocked shots and was awarded the distinction of Most Outstanding Player.

In Muffet McGraw’s fourteen years as head coach of the Women’s Basketball team at Notre Dame, fans have grown accustomed to watching the Irish win with class and with the highest of academic standards. Coach McGraw’s assistant coaches, Carol Owens, Kevin McGuff, and Coquese Washington (Notre Dame ’92) must also be honored for their dedication to the team and to Notre Dame.

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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

5329

April 3, 2001

East Most Improved Player award and she was also voted to the honorable mention all-Big East team.

Junior Ericka Haney served as valuable and versatile starter for the Irish. Haney helped spark the Irish comeback against Connecticut in the semifinal game. Sophomore Alicia Ratay proved to be one of the nation’s top perimeter shooters and she was a candidate for All-American honors. Ratay led the nation in three point shooting percentage and was honored with a third-team all-Big East distinction.

Sophomore reserve players, Amanda Barksdale, Monique Hernandez, and Karen Swanson, and freshmen Jeneka Joyce and Le’Tania Severe provided valuable minutes throughout the season. With such young talent, the Irish basketball program has a promising future.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, the 2001 Notre Dame Women’s Basketball Team deserves to be recognized for their Championship caliber play, their tenacity and their exemplary sportsmanship. I am proud and deeply honored to recognize this magnificent achievement. Go Irish!

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule 1, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. Accordingly (at 12 o’clock and 54 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Ronald F. Christian, Lutheran Social Services, Fairfax, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Mr. Speaker: God of all mercy and grace, look kindly upon all Your people this day in both the celebrations and the sufferings of life. Shield the joyous from pride and relieve the grieving of their sorrow.

Where health of body and mind is in jeopardy, grant a full measure of Your healing and hope. Where conflict and distrust between people are present, provide a quiet and calm refrain in the clamor of their strife. And where hunger and thirst are Your children’s basic needs, challenge all those with an abundance of this world’s possessions the desire to be good stewards and to share with others from their own storehouses of wealth.

Wherever hate outranks love, wherever sadness is more common than joy, wherever retaliation is the first acceptable alternative to mercy, then and there, Oh God, we pray, give to all of Your people a sense of what Your justice for our world might mean, and let Your peace ever rule in our lives. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day’s proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule 1, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. UNDERWOOD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

IN MEMORY OF JAKE SINIAWSKI

Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, Jim and Carol Siniaaski lost their little boy last month. Their son Justin lost his brother. I lost a special friend. It was an honor and a privilege to have gotten to know Jake Siniaaski. Jake suffered from a rare blood disorder called Fanconi anemia, which ultimately claimed his life. He was only 10 years old.

While he was quite ill for much of his short life, his obituary in the Cincinnati Post noted that Jake was an inspiration to everyone and lived life to the fullest every day.

The medical community worked hard to provide a cure for Jake. The good people of St. Bernard’s Church sponsored a marrow-typing blood drive in an effort to find a compatible bone marrow donor. His family and friends and neighbors always remembered him in their prayers. Those who loved him did all that they could.

I have talked about Jake on this floor in the past, and I know my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in expressing our condolences to Jake’s loving family.

Madam Speaker, we can help boys and girls like Jake by participating in the National Marrow Donor Program. All it takes is a simple blood test. It could save a life. God bless you, Jake.

SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONS

Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, China is holding two dozen American citizens who were forced to make an emergency landing after an air collision that appears to be the fault of the Chinese Air Force. They are not just holding American citizens, they are also holding very sensitive American technology. Causing this collision and holding the plane and its crew are flagrant violations of international agreements China is party to. What other agreements will they violate? It may be