

Which brings me to today. All of the aforementioned guidance that has previously been given to us in vast bundles, will soon shrink. Not because of lack of concern or interest, but rather an increase in physical distance. We, the alumni to be, of Orange Park High School, will soon be out on our own. We will blaze our own trails, straying from the beaten path, and make our own decisions. For the first time in our young lives, we will be completely responsible for ourselves. We will have to deal with large decisions, such as what to do after graduation, and small, seemingly unimportant ones, like what to eat for dinner.

Each decision that we make, will shape our futures, no matter how small the matter seems. Our slates are clean, and the books of our lives are waiting to be written, by us, alone. We need to take our precious gift of life, and run with it. We need to live our lives for ourselves, and nobody else. We need to remember that the decisions we make, can never be changed, and must be thought out, for ourselves alone.

But, most importantly, we need not look back on our pasts and ask what if, but rather, look only at the present, and to the future. If we wonder about, and dwell upon the past, our lives will pass us by. Pondering over the past brings nothing but pain, regrets, and the deepest of sorrows. So, we, the senior class of 2001, must walk the fine line of remembering the past, but not dwelling on it.

Finally, I leave you, my fellow classmates with this. We, for the first time in our lives, have nothing hanging over our heads, and the world at our feet. We must not waste this opportunity, for we will never have one like it, ever again.

For, it is not until we have lost everything, that we are truly free to do anything.

HONORING "SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER" AWARD WINNER, MR. HOMER LUTHER

### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment and thank Mr. Homer Luther for his service to the National Park Service. For over a quarter of a century, Homer has dedicated his life to protecting our national parks. For that Mr. Speaker, he deserves the thanks of Congress.

Homer is the Director of the Yellowstone, Grand Teton, and Mesa Verde National Parks Foundation. On May 16, 2001, he was presented the "Shoulder-to-Shoulder" award in recognition of his personal service, commitment and dedication to national park units within the Intermountain Region.

Homer started working with the National Park Service during President Nixon's second administration. One of the big issues facing newly appointed Parks Director Ron Walker was the use of snowmobiles in national parks. Ron recruited Homer to join him on a five-day personal research snowmobiling outfit. In the 70's, Homer served his first term.

Following two terms on the National Park Foundation Board, Homer decided to form the

National Park Foundation Alumni Council, where he still serves as the Chair. He decided to form this council because it was critical not to lose the talents and energies of those whose terms were expiring.

A few years ago, the staff at Mesa Verde National Park became aware that a critical parcel of land was going to be sold. Homer was concerned that it would be developed in a way that would harm the areas natural values. "He challenged other Foundation board members to join him in raising sufficient funds to purchase the tract of land to preserve the gateway experience to the park. Thanks to Mr. Luther's leadership, this land is now protected," said Regional Director Karen Wade.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 30 years, Homer Luther has helped to keep America's National Parks beautiful and well maintained. His expertise and leadership on this issue has been a real benefit to the Park Service and to everybody who uses the National Parks. I would like to thank him on behalf of Congress for all his hard work and dedication.

### GREAT SOFTBALL IN THE 6TH DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

#### HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2001

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, on June 3, the Sixth District of North Carolina became the home of the 2-A state championship softball team—Southwestern Randolph High School in Asheboro. The Cougars completed their title run with a season record of 24-3. After making it to the state championship series the past three years, the team finally brought the title home when they beat East Bend Forbush 2-1.

Jennifer Hurley, senior pitcher for Southwestern Randolph, allowed just one hit for the duration of two games on Saturday. On Sunday, during the title game, she yielded one run on three hits, but slammed the door on any further scoring by Forbush. Lee Harris's home run during the title game was all the offensive firepower the Cougars would need when in the first inning she went deep. This two-run homer, the first in Harris's career at Southwestern Randolph, set the Cougars on their way to the title. For her efforts, Harris was named the tournament MVP.

Southwestern completed an inspirational season thanks, in no small part, to a compelling figure who never played a single inning—Jennifer Hurley's younger brother Drew. For the 14 years of his life, Drew has battled a condition similar to cerebral palsy. He is unable to speak, can hear in only one ear, and his limbs move in sudden jerks. Despite this constant struggle, Drew is at every game. The Cougars drew inspiration from Drew. After every victory, Drew would put on a batting helmet, and Jennifer would push him around the base paths in his wheelchair until he crossed home plate. It became a team ritual that brought the Cougars together and inspired them to victory. I read Drew's story in the Greensboro News & Record, and that prompted my attendance at one of the early Cougars' playoff games.

Congratulations are in order for Head Coach Steve Taylor along with his assistants Lee McCaskill and Harry Daniel. Supporting the team efforts were Managers Stacey McCaskill, C.J. Taylor, Heather Taylor, and Kurtis Taylor along with Statistician Luanne Deaton.

Members of the championship team included Megan Moody, Natalie King, Abby Auman, Kari McLeod, Crystal McPherson, Jennifer Hurley, Krystal Parker, Ashley Vereyken, Wendy Heath, Jodi Johnson, Beth Auman, Emily Ivey, Lesley Greene, Wendy Seawell, Lee Ann Chandler, Erica Tackett, Cristina Tedder, Mary Beth Sillmon, Crystal Hudson, and Lee Harris.

Everyone at Southwestern Randolph High School can be proud of the Cougars. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District, we congratulate Athletic Director Trent Taylor, Principal Dr. W. Thrift and everyone at Southwestern Randolph for winning the state 2-A softball championship.

### THE TRUTH BEHIND THE CARIBOU UPROAR

#### HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends a May 25, 2001, editorial from the Omaha World Herald, regarding the firing of the U.S. Geological Survey contract cartographer who posted an Alaskan caribou map on the Internet, causing an uproar in the environmental community. There was more to this story than originally reported. The information in the map was outdated and inaccurate, and the cartographer had no expertise or responsibility for caribou studies. The cartographer since has become a martyr for environmentalists opposed to drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), albeit under false pretenses.

#### THE PURGE THAT WASN'T

[From the Omaha World-Herald, May 25, 2001]

Members of Congress have railed about it. More than 80 environmental and other groups sent Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton an angry letter in response to it. Foreign newspapers featured breathless coverage of it. An article in a British newspaper concluded that, because of it, the Bush administration "actually appears to be bear a grudge against the natural world."

The hubbub is over Ian Thomas, a cartographer for the U.S. Geological Survey who was fired in March after he posted a map of caribou migrations in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a portion of which the Bush administration has proposed for oil drilling. The geological survey also had the map removed from the Web.

In their letter to Norton, the 88 environmental and other groups claimed that the firing of Thomas indicated a disturbing politicizing of government research and sent "a chilling message to all government scientists."

The day after he was fired, Thomas accepted a job with the World Wildlife Fund and is now hailed as a martyr to the environmental cause.

It seems a straightforward story, a tale of nefarious Republican misdeeds and shameless toadying to oil interests. Certainly that

was the impression one got from following Garry Trudeau's version of it in "Doonesbury." But, as a Washington Post article explained this week, that now-familiar version of events "isn't the whole story."

Examine all the facts, and a host of surprising details pop up. Details, that is, that undercut many of the main accusations against the administration.

Thomas, for example, was a contract worker, not a full-time civil servant. The caribou map, which Thomas created in 15 minutes, was far removed from the scope of his contract and was based on obsolete data.

Thomas had no expertise in Alaska wildlife matters and had been reprimanded earlier for posting sensitive Pentagon data on the geological survey's Web site.

As described by The Washington Post, "the decision to cancel his contract was made not by Norton or any other bush appointee, but by the top biologist at his research center, a self-described liberal Democrat who opposes drilling in the Arctic refuge. Another career bureaucrat—the chief USGS biologist, also a Democrat and a conservationist—made the call to pull the caribou map off the Web." No evidence has surfaced, the article said, "that Norton or her aides played any role in his termination."

The geological survey's main experts on Alaskan wildlife are its Alaska-based biologists. When they saw Thomas' map, they expressed consternation that a Maryland-based contract worker, with no expertise in caribou studies, was posting inaccurate, albeit official-looking, material on that topic.

A geological-survey caribou biologist inquired about the map and subsequently sent Thomas a pointed e-mail message: "The material you posted is terribly out of date. It is inconceivable that you have posted this outdated material in view of the recent and intense interest in" the refuge.

Not that such details appear to matter as far as the episode's actual political fallout. As the Post observed, regardless of the facts, "the notion that the Bush administration ousted Thomas for political reasons has taken root around the world, thanks to the power of the Internet and the tenacity of environmentalists."

This episode, now help up by Bush critics as a cause celebre, illustrates the ability of politics to trample the truth. It is regrettable, but revealing, that so many have rushed to warp the facts.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE DAN DALLEY

#### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise at this time to recognize the life of a distinguished public servant, Daniel C. Dalley. Dan spent his life protecting the citizens of Fruita, Colorado. This man was known for his honor and kindness, and is worthy of the recognition of Congress.

Born and raised in Fruita, Colorado Dan was an asset to the community even at a young age. During high school Dan worked hard in and out of school, holding a job at Youngs Ranch while attending Fruita Monument High School. After high school Dan went on to college at Mesa State College in Grand

Junction, Colorado, where he received an associates degree in Criminal Justice. Continuing with his passion for the law, Dan graduated from the Police Academy at Colorado Northwestern Community College in Rangely, Colorado.

After graduation Dan joined the Fruita Police Department as a Reserve Officer in 1992. Dan also served as a Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, Drug Recognition Expert, Sergeant and Detective Sergeant and was then promoted to Acting Chief. The nine years Dan spent on the force were filled with awards and recognition for a job well done. In 1996 Dan received Employee of the year from the Fruita Police Department, and then for two consecutive years, 1997 and 1998, the Mesa County Optimist Club honored Dan with the title of Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

In addition to Dan's commitment to upholding the law, Dan also was very involved in his community. Dan added to his community duties by serving eight years as a volunteer EMT for the Loma Volunteer Fire Department. Being active in his church was also important to Dan, and the Grace Community Church was lucky to count Dan among its members. His commitment to God and Country are admired by all. He will be greatly missed.

As his family and friends grieve the loss of Dan Dalley, Mr. Speaker I wanted to take the opportunity to recognize his life. His wife, Cybill, and sons, Alan, Tyler, Dalton and Luke should take pride in the fact that Dan made so many contributions to the State of Colorado. Everyone that knew Dan was in awe of his kindness and service. That, Mr. Speaker, is why Dan is worthy of the praise and thanks of the United States Congress.

#### HIV/AIDS COMMEMORATION

#### HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, a disease which is devastating both in scope and severity.

The past decade has seen approximately 40,000 new cases of HIV/AIDS each year. In the U.S., the disease continues to ravage countless communities, and the worldwide statistics are staggering, as well. One out of every 100 people on the planet is afflicted with AIDS, about 53 million people are living with HIV, and 17 million have died.

It must be noted that a great deal of progress has been made in the past twenty years. In the 80's, individual activists and groups such as the then-Human Rights Campaign Fund, tirelessly attempted to educate the public about HIV/AIDS. This was a task made all the more daunting by the incredible stigma attached to the disease. Misconceptions about how the disease was transmitted, backlash from religious conservatives, and a general fear fueled discrimination and hostility toward people with HIV and AIDS. However, the efforts of activist groups gradually began to pay off.

The Ryan White Care Act, which eventually became law, was the first major government

investment in treating people with HIV/AIDS. Banned from school because of his HIV infection, the public battle of White helped turn the national spotlight on the disease. Needle-exchange programs were launched in cities throughout the United States. And now, research funding has shed hope in the new vaccine trails.

Despite these glimmers of hope, we have far from exhausted all of our efforts. With AIDS ranking as the top cause of death for people between the ages of 25 and 44, and the recent explosion among African-American communities, it is clear that more needs to be done to expand our AIDS education. Indeed, it has been shown that despite increases in knowledge about AIDS, Americans still exhibit many dangerous information gaps.

Internationally, the situation is equally dire. In some nations, an astounding quarter of the entire population is infected with HIV. African countries face a particularly steep uphill battle, and the precipitous prices of antiretroviral drugs are only aggravating the global plight. These drugs, which currently represent the only hope for people living with HIV/AIDS, cost more than the per-capita income of many developing countries.

Our Nation must continue to make funding for the treatment, research, and prevention of HIV/AIDS a top priority. A comprehensive approach is needed in order to render the HIV/AIDS crisis a thing of the past.

I request that the attached summary of the AIDS/HIV facts and figures compiled by my staff, be included at this point of the RECORD.

#### AIDS/HIV FACTS AND FIGURES

Casualty Rates: 17 million Africans have lost their lives to AIDS out of the 22 million worldwide; mortality rate rising: 2.2 million Africans died of AIDS in 1999, 2.4 million in 2000; and more than 5 million affected with HIV in the year 2000, 4 million from Africa.

Sub-Saharan Africa makes up 10% of the world's population but makes up more than 70% of the worldwide total of infected people. 1.1% overall infection rate worldwide with 8.8% in Sub-Sahara Africa.

19% of Deaths in Africa caused by HIV/AIDS in 1998 (next highest was malaria at 10%)

Adults HIV Infection rates (%): Botswana, 35.80%; Zimbabwe, 25.06%; South Africa, 19.94%; and Senegal, 1.77% (active AIDS policy).

UNAIDS projects that half or more of all 15 year-olds will die of AIDS in some of the worst-affected countries.

Only region where women are infected with HIV at a higher rate than men: 53% Women infected in Sub-Saharn Africa; 37% Caribbean; and 20% North America.

An estimated 600,000 African infants become infected with HIV each year through mother to child transmission.

12.1 million African children have lost either mother or father or both to AIDS.

Uganda—succeeded in lowering infection rates from 14% in 1989 to 8% by 1997, mostly by employing a public awareness campaign

Fiscal Amounts to combat HIV/AIDS: FY 2001: \$300 Million apportioned; and FY 2002: \$396 Million (President's Request).

Hyde Bill: FY 2002: \$469 Million plus \$50 Million for pilot treatment program for a total of \$519 Million. FY 2003: \$469 Million plus \$50 Million for pilot treatment program for a total of \$519 Million.

Information supplied by Congressional Research Service.