

all Members of the House to join me in celebrating the life and service of a wonderful husband, father and American.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE TO FOREST PARK HIGH SCHOOL TROJANS FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the players, coaches, and managers of the 2004 Forest Park High School Trojans football team in recognition of their outstanding season. After losing 17 seniors from last year's team, the Trojans not only made the playoffs, but made it all the way to the Division 8 State Finals on November 26, 2004, at the Pontiac Silverdome. This group of young men from the Crystal Falls area in Michigan's Upper Peninsula truly deserves our hearty congratulations.

While their 12-2 record is impressive in its own right, the way the Forest Park Trojans won is even more remarkable. After losing their first game of the season, the Trojans made some changes and rose to the occasion, winning their next 12 straight games.

They were a team of young men that brought an unselfish attitude to the game that many college and professional players could learn from. Each one of them knew they had a role to play, and cared more about helping the team win than being the "star." Throughout the season, the team's motto was, "Whatever it takes."

After defeating Baraga High School for the District title, Posen High School for the Regional title, and a dramatic 12-8 win over a Beal City team that seemed unbeatable in the Division 8 semifinal, the Forest Park Trojans faced off against Climax-Scotts High School at the Pontiac Silverdome for the State championship.

The Crystal Falls community was behind their team 110 percent. One call to a local radio station letting people know that they could make donations to help the team, cheerleaders and the band make the trip down-state for the championship game yielded over 100 contributions.

When the big day finally came, the Trojans suffered a heartbreaking loss. But they handled it with the same class and character that got them to the finals in the first place. They realized that they achieved their goal just by playing in that championship game, and that they would be back. Many of the players who are returning next year are already hitting the weight room and looking forward to a new season, and to passing on the tradition of teamwork and hard work that made this season so special.

Mr. Speaker, each member of this team deserves to be recognized, and I want to take a moment to share their names with my colleagues.

Team members: Dan Surface, Clay Roberts, Cory Padilla, Joe Mussatto, Kyle Roberts, Andrew Gussert, David Lesandrini, Brandon Stebbins, Ryne Neyrick (All-U.P. First Team

running back and All-State Honorable Mention), Seth Chernach, Joe Chernach (Captain, All-U.P. and All-State first team defensive back and return specialist), Bryan LaChappelle, Erik Peterson, Scott Santilli (Captain, All-U.P. First Team defensive end), Tim Wheeler, Kyle La Vacque, Stefan Randjelovic, Nick McCarthy, Ryan Martin (All-State First Team offensive guard), Kevin Takala, Calix Sholander, Gary Willman, Rob Boussum, Eric Lato, Dustin Skibo, Mark Harrison (All-U.P. First Team lineman), Josh Bicigo, Brian Fabbri, Jody Gillespie, Nikos Kosmopoulos, Brad Anderson, Pat Peterson (All-U.P. First Team tight end), and Josh Novak.

Head Coach Bill Santilli; Assistant Coaches Dave Graff, Gerard Valesano, Bill Todish, Jeff Chernach, and Dan LaPoint; Trainer Mark Nylund; and Managers Bryant Wheeler, L.J. Burns, and David Burns.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Forest Park High School football team, their classmates, parents, and community on their exceptional season and in wishing them well when they take the field again in the fall.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN MARK FRANCIS MCCORMACK

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Santa Clara County Fire Captain Mark Francis McCormack, whose life was tragically cut short on Sunday, February 13, 2005. Mark was the first firefighter killed in the line of duty in the 58-year history of the Santa Clara County Fire Department. Members from more than 100 fire departments throughout the State of California gathered at his memorial service to show support for one of their own.

Mark began his career as a firefighter in 1989. He was serious about his work, and was constantly working to improve his skills in order to serve his community better. Mark's hard work showed in 2001 when he received the Award of Valor for his contributions to both the Santa Clara County Fire Department and the community. He was a model firefighter, an enthusiastic team member, and a good friend to his colleagues.

When Mark wasn't fighting fires, he worked as a volunteer counselor for the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation's Champ Camp, a summer camp in the Sierra Nevada for young burn victims. As a child, Mark was badly burned on an electric stove and had to undergo several surgeries to repair the injury. Mark always found the silver lining in any situation, and that's exactly what he did with his burn experience. He used it to help children realize that they are not alone—to help them realize their inner beauty. Mark was a favorite around camp, serving as a role model to many of the children he met there.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to say "thank you" to Mark McCormack for devoting his life to helping others, and for his service in keeping my home district safe. And

my deepest condolences to his wife, Heather, who wrote to her husband, "You are my life, my hero, and without you my heart will forever be broken." I wish that hearts could be mended with words, and that I could find those magical words to say to you. Heather, please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you, and that your husband was not only your hero, but Santa Clara County's, too.

IN COMMEMORATION OF COATS, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in commemoration of Coats, North Carolina. On March 5, 2005 Coats will celebrate its 100th Birthday. Coats is located in the Eastern part of my home county, Harnett County in the 2nd Congressional District of North Carolina. Coats' humble beginning is especially personal to me as my great, great Uncle James T. Coats bought the first acres of farmland that would grow to become this warm and hospitable Southern community.

Coats' history is rich with individuals like my uncle, who envisioned a town where future generations could work, live, and raise their families in the bright light of America's promises. I think of Ed Williams and John Talton who were among the first entrepreneurs to establish stores in Coats. I think of John McKay Byrd, a former sheriff of Harnett County, who contributed greatly to the industrial life of the community. And I think of the first mayor, J.K. Stewart who when elected installed the first electric lights in the town.

Coats has never strived to be an urban hub, more comfortable with its small town population of only 1,900. Yet, its residents are proud of their community. As a former Harnett County Commissioner, I have always enjoyed a special connection to the people of Coats, NC. It is a place rooted in appreciation for one's family, faith, and country. The Town of Coats and its residents exemplify the common-sense values of North Carolina that I am so proud to represent in Congress.

Mr. Speaker in closing I would like to send my best wishes and gratitude to the people of Coats, North Carolina in wishing them a Very Happy Birthday. I know that in the future this town will continue to be "a good place to live and make a living."

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE TO NEWBERRY HIGH SCHOOL INDIANS FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the players, coaches, and manager of the 2004 Newberry High School Indians football team in recognition of their outstanding season. The 10-3 Indians went to