

member Don Bonker in January of this year to see first hand the accomplishments that have been made since 1991. While in Kazakhstan we spent considerable time with members of the President's Cabinet and the current speaker of the senate, Nurtai Abykayev learning about current work going on in their country and their endeavors in making Kazakhstan a real leader in Asia and the world.

In the first few years after independence, Kazakhstan successfully rid itself of the fourth largest nuclear arsenal in the world and closed the world's largest nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk, an unwanted legacy from the U.S.S.R., and continues to be a model for the global community. In 2005, the U.S. Senate unanimously adopted a resolution congratulating Kazakhstan on the 10th anniversary of the removal of all nuclear weapons from the country and commended Kazakhstan-U.S. cooperation in this sphere as a "model." Earlier this year, this House unanimously adopted resolution 905 congratulating Kazakhstan on the 15th anniversary of the closure of the world's second largest nuclear test site in the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan and for its efforts on the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Kazakhstan condemned the terrorist attacks against the U.S. on September 11, 2001 and has been a staunch supporter of the U.S. led international coalition against global terrorism since. Kazakhstan provides free overflight rights and a major international airport for U.S. and coalition aircraft for operations in Afghanistan. Kazakhstan works with the international community to bring peace and stability to Iraq following the U.S. led campaign to end Saddam Hussein's regime. Kazakh military engineers in that country have destroyed more than 4 million pieces of ordnance since 2003.

On a visit to Astana in 2005, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said, "Today, Kazakhstan is poised and ready to break a path for a new Silk Road, a great corridor of reform . . . A strong and prosperous and democratic Kazakhstan will once again energize the global transmission of learning, and trade and freedom across the steppes of Central Asia. This nation has a glorious past and it is destined for a hopeful future. Kazakhstan's greatest days lie ahead of it. And the United States wants to be your partner."

During his 2006 visit to Washington President Nazarbayev and President George W. Bush signed a joint statement which says, "We are satisfied with the progress made by Kazakhstan and the United States of America in the promotion of our strategic partnership, and announce our commitment to promote stability, prosperity and democratic reforms in Central Asia and outside of the region." The joint statement also stipulates the U.S. support for Kazakhstan's plan for accession to the group of the 50 most competitive countries in the world, according to the strategy of President Nursultan Nazarbaev, and for Kazakhstan's membership in the WTO. The document recognizes Kazakhstan's leadership in regional integration, considering its significant contributions in Eurasia and Afghanistan. The joint statement outlined a number of directions of the bilateral cooperation underlining "we announce our intention to further strength-

en our strategic partnership via strengthening strategic dialogues on energy, military collaboration, trade, investments and democratization. We express solid confidence that our enhanced strategic partnership will assist to security, prosperity and democracy development in the 21st century."

President Nursultan Nazarbayev has called for a massive transformation of Kazakhstan's political life and strengthening the country's move to democracy in a March 2006 speech to the first session of the State Commission. The priorities include significant strengthening of the role of the national Parliament, increasing the numbers of deputies in both houses of Parliament; continuing the introduction of elections of akims—mayors—at district levels, and the introduction of a bill on local self-government. "Democracy is the choice of civilized people, and it is our choice too," President Nazarbayev said.

Mr. Speaker, because of Kazakhstan's peaceful transition to democracy, its strong commitment to eliminating nuclear weapons, and her strong support for our country in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks, I rise today to congratulate all her people on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of their independence.

H.R. 4766, ESTHER MARTINEZ NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES PRESERVATION ACT OF 2006

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4766, the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act of 2006. H.R. 4766 will help to preserve all the indigenous languages that are still being spoken.

It is estimated that only 20 indigenous languages will remain viable by the year 2050. Providing grants to Native American language programs consisting of language nests, survival schools, and restoration programs will help to preserve this important part of our Nation's history and culture.

By encouraging a greater focus on Native language programs, we are not only striving to preserve the identity of the Nation's tribes, but we're encouraging greater academic performance among Native American students as well. H.R. 4766 requires that Native American language survival schools work toward a goal of all students achieving both fluency in a Native American language and academic proficiency in mathematics, reading (or language arts), and science. It is my intention that students in survival school programs demonstrate adequate progress in English proficiency according to their appropriate grade level.

It is also my intention that the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Native Americans administer this program in such a way that Native American survival school grantees be required to obtain parental permission for students to enroll in the survival schools. Parents should be able to make decisions about their children's education, and

H.R. 4766 provides Native American parents with new opportunities to do so.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DEMOCRACY

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, the Democratic Pacific Union (DPU) will be hosting an International Symposium on Democracy and Congress this December 8 through 10, 2006 in Taipei, Taiwan.

The DPU is a non-government organization established in 2005 for the purpose of enhancing stronger ties among members of parliaments around the Pacific Rim. DPU's goals are to train young leaders to install democracy in their own countries, to consolidate democracy and to compromise on regional differences.

This year's symposium will attract participants from Canada, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, the Republic of China and other countries. Participants will discuss such topics as the workings of congresses, presidential systems, and prospects for democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will find the time to go to Taiwan to participate in the symposium and to visit with the leaders in Taiwan regarding bilateral relations, the war on terror, and the crisis in the Korean peninsula.

Also, I offer my best wishes and congratulations to Taiwan's Vice President Annette Lu for putting this symposium together. I applaud her leadership.

HONORING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE BY FIDELITY ASSOCIATES INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fidelity Associates Insurance and Financial Services for their 100 years of service to Spokane, Washington. Fidelity Associates is one of the Inland Northwest's largest locally owned, independent insurance agencies, and one of its richest in terms of history and tradition. Fidelity Associates is a family-owned business and has the distinction of being one of the few to be passed from the hands of the third generation to those of a fourth.

In 100 years, this proud company has become a leader in the insurance world. From humble roots, it has grown to manage premiums in excess of \$40,000,000. This places Fidelity in the top 5 percent of all United States insurance agencies. Its employees are directly involved with over 8,500 clients through risk management, insurance, employee benefits and financial services. On top of all this, the employees of Fidelity Associates post thousands of hours toward community service each year.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and thank Fidelity Associates Insurance and Financial Services, the Jones Family, and the exemplary employees for their 100 remarkable years of service to our community, and I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating this company and the family which has led it for so long.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HILLIARD DAVIDSON WILDCATS, THE 2006 OHIO HIGH SCHOOL STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations and adulations to the 2006 Hilliard Davidson Wildcats football team, which on Saturday, December 2, earned the title of State Champions in the Division I Ohio State Football Playoffs, and finished its storybook season a perfect 15–0.

No superlative or tired sports cliché can effectively capture the magic of the Wildcats' season. Consistently overlooked and routinely outsize by its opponent, week after week, Davidson utilized its underdog role, its unglamorous but methodical offense, and its blistering defense to knock off yet another favored adversary. Davidson won with discipline, with heart, and perhaps most importantly, with class and dignity.

Quietly, Davidson has amassed a 73–25 record under the leadership of Coach Brian White, and has firmly asserted itself as a premier, dynastic program in central Ohio. However, each year, Davidson and other central Ohio high school football programs are largely ignored by the football experts and pundits, and relegated to the shadows of storied, goliath programs in the northeast and southwest parts of the state.

This year, however, one by one, the Goliaths fell to David—or in this case, Davidson. In its heart-stopping, double overtime victory on Saturday, Davidson fully entrenched itself in the hearts and minds of central Ohio football fans, and served notice to high school football aficionados across the State and Nation that Hilliard Davidson is second to no one.

Throughout its historic championship run, Hilliard Davidson represented the ideal virtues of amateur athletic programs—teamwork, tenacity, competitiveness, and dignity—and its storybook season will be recounted for generations to come in central Ohio.

I could not be more proud than to represent Hilliard Davidson High School in Congress, and I congratulate the players, coaches, fans and parents who made 2006 such a memorable one.

IN HONOR OF JEANETTE GRASSELLI BROWN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in esteem of Jeanette Grasselli Brown's lifetime of profound accomplishments. Ms. Grasselli Brown has contributed immensely to the world through her distinguished career as a chemist, and since retiring she has been just as busy working to improve northeast Ohio.

After beginning her career as the only female chemistry major at Ohio University, Ms. Grasselli Brown continued to work for 39 years at BP America, retiring as the director of corporate research. At BP, Ms. Grasselli Brown fought to ensure that female employees received salaries equal to their male coworkers, and that they received flexible schedules while raising their children. While working full time, she earned her master's degree in organic chemistry, and wrote a monthly column called "Letter from America," for a European spectroscopy journal. Ms. Grasselli Brown also has served as an advisor for The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Energy, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the International Women's Forum, the Ohio Academy of Sciences, the Smithsonian Institute, and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry. Furthermore, Ms. Grasselli Brown is a champion within the scientific world and is considered the outstanding woman chemist in the United States. She received the Garvan Medal in 1986 from the American Chemical Association, and the Fisher Award in 1993 from the American Chemical Society. In 1999, she followed these accolades with the American Chemical Society's Award for Encouraging Women into Careers in the Chemical Sciences. She has been recognized by the Society for Applied Spectroscopy with their Distinguished Service Award; she has received 13 honorary doctoral degrees from universities in both the United States and Hungary; and she is listed in both The World's Who's Who of Women and Foremost Women of the Twentieth Century. In 1989, Ms. Grasselli Brown was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame, and she was the first woman to be inducted into the Ohio Science and Technology Hall of Fame. In addition to her full time job at BP, she has been a director of six corporations, three of which are Fortune 500 companies.

Ms. Grasselli Brown has been a tireless worker in the corporate, civic, and philanthropic realms, and continues her commitment to northeast Ohio through her work on numerous committees and boards of regents, acting as trustee and chair.

Today I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and achievements of this amazing woman, Ms. Jeanette Grasselli Brown.

RECOGNIZING KYLE HERNDON FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Herndon, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Kyle has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. It is with extreme pleasure that I commend the dedication Kyle has shown.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kyle for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am proud to represent Kyle in the United States House of Representatives.

FRISCO RECEIVES COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Frisco and the Frisco Economic Development Corp. in the 26th District of Texas for receiving the Community Economic Development Award. The city of Frisco excels in bringing leadership, partnership, and creativity to the economy, and is the winner of the 40,000 to 100,000 population category.

The Texas Economic Development Council presents this prestigious award to member cities in recognition of exceptional contributions to their community. Superior projects in Frisco include the T-Mobile USA Technology Campus, DebtXS, Technisource, Inc., and the National Breast Cancer Foundation. These projects have created and maintained over 1,600 jobs for the community, and brought new investments of nearly \$64.2 million to the city of Frisco.

I am proud to recognize the city of Frisco as recipients of the 2006 Community Economic Development Award. Under the capable direction of Mayor Mike Simpson, City Manager George Purefoy, and the Economic Development Corp., the city of Frisco has cultivated a standard of excellence and leadership, and serves as a role model for all other communities.