

investigating in Hale County, I learned that there had been a recent highly contentious election, and on the night of that election, election materials, including absentee ballots, were placed for safe keeping in a local bank vault so that those materials could be reviewed the next morning by election officials. Overnight that bank was set on fire. No one was ever prosecuted for that burning. Again, the Voting Section did not end up filing a VRA lawsuit in either of these Alabama counties for a number of reasons, including on-going voting fraud investigations by the state Attorney General's office in those counties. I have recently learned that several African American political officials have been convicted for absentee ballot fraud in Hale County. Again, I came away from the Hale and Perry County investigations with the clear impression that some individual African Americans in those counties were involved in acts of racial discrimination against whites.

In pointing these examples out, I am not suggesting that minority election and poll officials or minority political activists are more likely to commit voting law violations than are their white counterparts. What I am pointing out is that I believe that some minorities are just as likely to resort to lawlessness in the voting area as are some whites. For the CRD and Voting Section to pursue enforcement practices that ignore VRA violations by members of minority groups will encourage lawlessness in the voting area by those who will have no fear that the Federal Government will enforce the federal law against them. In our increasingly multiethnic society, that is a clear recipe to undermine the public's confidence in the legitimacy of our electoral process.

I have heard some argue that prosecutors, both criminal and civil, have prosecutorial discretion that gives attorneys in the CRD and the Voting Section the authority not to bring VRA lawsuits against minority wrongdoers. It is certainly true that prosecutors have discretion to decide what cases to bring based upon resource issues and other legal considerations. But we do not have the discretion to decide not to enforce the law based upon the race of the perpetrators or the race of the victims of the wrongdoing. Those discretionary decisions cannot constitutionally be based upon race.

In conclusion, I thank you for the time you have given me to testify on these important enforcement issues. I commend the Civil Rights Commission for making inquiries into these areas. Individuals of good will, regardless of their race, ethnicity or language-minority status, should be concerned about the CRD not enforcing laws in a race-neutral manner. As important as the mandate in the VRA is to protect minority voters, white voters also have an interest in being able to go to the polls without having race-haters such as Black Panther King Samir Shabazz whose public rhetoric includes such statements as "kill cracker babies" standing at the entrance of the polling place with a billy club in his hand hurling racial slurs. Given this outrageous conduct, it was a travesty on justice for the DIN not to allow attorneys in the Voting Section to obtain nation-wide injunctive relief against all four of the defendants.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA WOMEN'S ROWING TEAM

**HON. THOMAS S.P. PERRIELLO**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the University of Virginia Women's Rowing Team for their victory at the 2010 NCAA Championships on May 30, 2010. This victory gives the University of Virginia its 20th National Championship in school history.

I commend Head Coach Kevin Sauer and Associate Head Coach Steve Pritzker for their leadership. I also wish to recognize the members of the First Varsity Eight, Coxswain Sidney Thorsten, Jennifer Cromwell, Katrin Reinert, Desiree Burns, Kristine O'Brien, Martha Kuzzy, Helen Tompkins, Nora Phillips, and Summers Nelson, and the members of the Second Varsity Eight, Coxswain Cristine Candland, Victoria Burke, Marie Long, Lauren Hutchins, Sarah Borchelt, Caroline Sweeny, Christine Roper, Claudia Blandford, and Lauren Shook. These young women exemplify the best tradition of the student-athlete: hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence in sport, in academics, and in teamwork.

The Cavaliers' Varsity Four, Ruth Retzinger, Hunter Terry, Chelsea Simpson, Inge Janssen, and Coxswain Sarah Pichardo, were also victorious in their own event, finishing more than a boat's length ahead of their closest competitor. Their NCAA Championship marks the final victory in an undefeated season. They are the seventh crew team in Virginia history to win the award, and the first since 2007. I congratulate these dynamic young women for their tremendous hard work, and for the leadership and inspiration they brought to the entire Women's Rowing Team.

I congratulate the women of the rowing team for their exciting victory. Their hard work, determination, and competitive spirit are a credit to the University of Virginia and the Commonwealth. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating these impressive student-athletes on their accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING THE AUBURN ALL-STARS LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD SERIES

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Auburn, Washington's Little League Baseball team, the Auburn All-Stars, for their performance in the Little League World Series.

The 646th Little League World Series began August 20, 2010 and the Auburn All-Stars advanced to within one game of the United States Championships. The tournament hosts 16 national teams comprised of our country's top young baseball players. The Auburn All-Stars achieved a great accomplishment by reaching the Little League World Series, and

even more so for coming so close to advancing to the United States Championships.

Mayor Peter Lewis of Auburn has recognized the team's success in the 2010 tournament. Mayor Lewis has also praised the Auburn All-Stars for bringing the Auburn community together. During the tournament, the Auburn Avenue Theater opened its doors to the public and showed the game free of charge. Many other local businesses supported the team in several ways such as contributing to the players' travel and other expenses. It is clear that the entire community embraced their team through immense pride.

Together, the Auburn All-Stars advanced further than any other team from Washington State since 1982. They should be extremely proud of what they have accomplished through each team member's hard work and dedication.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating the Auburn Little League Baseball team and their outstanding success in the Little League World Series.

HONORING JANE McLAUGHLIN

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share with you and my colleagues my pride in an incredible woman who has the distinction of being the oldest active paramedic in Oregon. Jane McLaughlin is 74 years of age and is completing service as the Emergency Medical Services Chief for the Chiloquin Volunteer Ambulance Service, capping off a long and distinguished career.

Jane began her EMS career almost three decades ago when her youngest son suffered an accidental wound and was treated and transported by Chiloquin Volunteer Ambulance Service. From that day on, she knew that her calling was to meaningfully serve and comfort those in need of emergency medical assistance.

Since accepting this calling, Jane has served her community for over 28 years in a variety of emergency response functions. She has held every level of EMS certification the State of Oregon authorizes and has volunteered thousands of hours of service. Jane has never stopped learning and she has never stopped growing. At 61, she completed her fire fighting academy training.

The many awards and accolades presented to Jane are a strong testimony to how much her community and others value her service to her fellow man. The Klamath County United Way has recognized Jane both with their Accommodation for Excellence and Volunteer of the Year Award. The State of Oregon Department of EMS and Trauma Systems awarded her the Meritorious Service award as paramedic of the year. Jane was chosen by the mayor of Chiloquin to be the grand marshal in the 2009 Fourth of July Parade for her outstanding service.

Madam Speaker, however noteworthy Jane's age, years of service, and many