

contributed to this impressive victory. Members include: Rachael Acquaye, Courtney Brandenburg, Laura Brentnell, Chloe Christian, Courtney Cole, Kierra Crutchfield, Naadia Crutchfield, Julia Gomez, Asha Gray, Dionne Harp, Tyera Herbin, Shea Jackson, Tay Jackson, Portia Jordan, Emily Kimmel, Savannah Lloyd, Jessica McCray, Raven McKliver, Albiana Mustafa, Charlse Nelson, Lakeya O'Neal, Briana Overdiep, Cary Quillian, Mercia Perry, Nikkita Rowlings, Paisley Robinson, Mollie Rogers, Eunique Singleton, Rachel Smith, Caitlin Thornley, Cecilia Woke, Antioinette Walker, Katherine Webb, Amy Wenner, and LaNisha Woods.

After 25 years of coaching, Head Coach Sam Bays capped a tremendous career by bringing in a state title. The players recognize him as the reason for much of their success, and he is obviously proud of them in turn. Neither the coach nor the track and field team could have jumped this hurdle without the help of Assistant Coaches Ronnie Smith, Tommy Norwood and Zachary Crutchfield.

We are late in congratulating the Ragsdale women's tennis team for capturing the state tennis title last year. Congratulations to: Tianna Carter, Cameron Chatman, Chelsea Chatman, Sruthi Cherkur, Kiera Crutchfield, Naadia Crutchfield, Jeanette Edwards, Ashley Johnson, Grace Kennerly, Hanae Matsui, Sirena Pickett, Paris Sims, Jessica Wise and Catherine Wood. Congratulations also to Head Coach Zachary Crutchfield for leading this group of extremely talented women to victory.

On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate the Ragsdale Tigers on the amazing achievements of both teams. Congratulations to Principal Dr. Kathryn Rogers, Athletic Director Mike Raybon, the teachers, staff, students, parents, and fans of Ragsdale High school for bringing academic as well as athletic excellence.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ANOKA
CITY HALL

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2006

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the rededication of the City Hall building in Anoka, Minnesota on its 50th anniversary.

This building, with its unique construction in the shape of a revolver, was furnished to the city as a gift from its largest employer, Federal Cartridge. Anoka has had a long and proud history of dedication and sacrifice to our country.

Anoka rightly takes pride in its status as the first city to provide volunteers to the Union Army during the Civil War. These brave men exemplified Minnesotans' enduring commitment to freedom, and proved their courage during the First Minnesota Regiment's famous charge at the battle of Gettysburg.

I am delighted, today, to join the city of Anoka in celebrating its proud history. I know this is only the beginning of what's to come.

CONGRATULATING THE CITY OF
DESOTO FOR BEING NAMED AN
ALL-AMERICAN CITY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend DeSoto on being named an All-American City by the National Civic League. Each year, the All-American City Award is given to ten communities that exemplify the true American spirit, and show outstanding abilities to identify problems and collectively conquer community-wide issues.

It takes collaboration from the whole community to be an All-American City, and DeSoto serves as a shining example of what can be accomplished when community members, government, businesses and non-profit organizations work together to address critical local issues.

I would like to congratulate my outstanding constituents in DeSoto; especially Mayor Michael Hurrst and the DeSoto City Council. Through their leadership, DeSoto has produced several exceptional grassroots initiatives including: DeSoto Dining and Dialogue, the Empowered Homeowners Associations Program, and the Youth Initiatives including the Hip Hop Summit.

DeSoto might be a small suburb of Dallas but has done a huge job in bettering the lives of average Texans through cooperation and grassroots initiatives. The accolades DeSoto is receiving are imminently well deserved, and I am confident of continued success for years to come.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER
AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT
ON H.R. 4939, EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND HURRICANE RECOVERY, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery Conference Report, H.R. 4939. This supplemental bill, totaling \$94.5 billion, is the largest that the House of Representatives has ever considered. This is almost \$3 billion more than the bill the House considered earlier this year.

As I have said repeatedly on the House floor, I strongly oppose using so-called "emergency supplementals" to fund nonemergency, clearly foreseeable expenditures. This bill provides \$72 billion for continued military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The fact that our troops are on the ground in these dangerous places is not a surprise. They have been in Iraq for almost 3 years. Their needs are well known to everyone, except, it seems, the President and his budget staff. Every year, the President fails to budget for the cost of

military operations, and every year he pretends that the war is an unforeseen "emergency."

Funding our soldiers this way is dangerous because it leaves them ill-equipped and subject to last minute actions like this by Congress. If, by contrast, we funded military operations through the normal budget process, funding decisions would be made in the open and with the appropriate scrutiny they deserve. It would also allow for long-term planning and more thoughtful budgeting. We have all read about the contracting waste and fraud that has occurred in Iraq. A number of no-bid and open-ended contracts have wasted billions of taxpayers' dollars. This waste probably has made a few crooked businessmen wealthy and done nothing to protect our troops or help build a more stable democracy in Iraq.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, I refuse to continue to fund a failed policy. I opposed this war because I did not think the President had made a convincing case for the existence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and I opposed his illegal doctrine of preemption. Since then I have only been heartbroken by the utter incompetence of the planning and execution. Our service members are doing outstanding work, and I salute their sacrifice. But the policymakers in Washington have let them down and put them in an impossible situation. As I said in a letter to Secretary Rice last September, it is time to begin bringing our soldiers home. Spending good money after bad on a failed policy puts our troops and our national security in even greater risk.

Let me talk for a moment about the other good portions of this bill which were attached by the majority in a cynical attempt to buy votes for the overall bill.

There is true emergency funding in this bill. But it is money for Sudan and the gulf coast, and the preparation for the avian flu, not Iraq. This bill contains \$1.9 billion to meet the pressing border security needs that exist because the President has not made funding for border security a priority. Unfortunately, the bill contains \$708 million to pay for the deployment of National Guard troops to the border. This is a bad idea that will further burden National Guard units across America at a time when they are stretched historically thin.

This bill also contains \$19.8 billion to help ensure that we meet our commitments to rebuild and restore the gulf coast. As we begin another hurricane season, my prayers are for the safety of all Americans who live near the coast. Yet prayers alone will not prevent flooding and help towns recover from hurricane related destruction. A strong federal commitment is needed to ensure that we remain at the highest state of readiness possible and that we can respond to all hurricane related natural disasters.

Finally, this bill includes desperately needed funds for the Sudan. I am glad that this bill will provide \$350 million in emergency humanitarian food assistance. There is additional funding for international disaster assistance and famine assistance, and \$126 million to sustain the African Union Mission in Sudan peacekeeping forces.

I am sorry that these true emergency funds were attached to the foreseeable spending for the ongoing operations in Iraq. I have voted in the past for rebuilding the gulf coast and ending the genocide in Darfur, and I will continue to do so. But I will not fund a failed policy in

Iraq that is jeopardizing our soldiers needlessly, stoking the insurgency, draining our national resources, and doing nothing to protect Americans from terrorism at home.

RECOGNIZING THE START OF THE
U.S.-KOREA FTA NEGOTIATIONS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2006

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) between the United States and the Republic of Korea commenced last week in Washington, DC. I would like to recognize this historic undertaking and emphasize the significance of a U.S. trade accord with the Republic of Korea.

On February 2, 2006, then-U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Rob Portman and Korean Minister of Trade Hyun-Chong Kim announced our two countries would negotiate an FTA. Both sides hope to complete negotiations by March 2007.

I applaud the decision by the United States to negotiate a bi-lateral, free and fair trade agreement with a country that is not only a strong economic partner, but an important geographic ally as well. As my good friend and former USTR Rob Portman has noted, this agreement, if successfully concluded, will constitute the largest and most commercially significant FTA the United States has negotiated in 15 years.

The numbers are truly impressive. Korea is the 10th largest economy in the world with a GDP of nearly \$1 trillion and a per capita income of over \$20,000. It is the United States' 7th largest trading partner and our 5th largest market for U.S. agricultural products.

Trade between our countries surpassed \$72 billion last year alone and U.S. exports to Republic of Korea reached nearly \$28 billion during the same year, and included important goods like computer chips, industrial machinery, organic chemicals, agricultural produce, and civilian aircrafts.

Bolstered by an FTA, U.S. exports to Korea will no doubt increase substantially. A study by the U.S. International Trade Commission in 2001 revealed that an FTA with Korea could increase U.S. exports by over 50 percent, and agricultural exports by more than 200 percent within four years.

South Korea's average tariff on goods is just over 11 percent—three times higher than the U.S. equivalent. The average tariff applied by Korea on agricultural products is even higher—52 percent. An FTA will lock in duty-free access and help to reduce other non-tariff barriers for U.S. goods and agricultural products, providing significant opportunities for U.S. businesses, farmers, and ranchers, and provide another lucrative market for America's auto manufacturers and U.S. beef and beef-product exporters.

This FTA will also help to stimulate job growth in the United States, not only as a result of increased trade but increased domestic investment as well. Koreans have invested nearly \$20 billion in the United States, and have created American jobs through companies like Hyundai Motors, Samsung Electronics, and Kia Motors. And as the largest investor in Korea, the United States already has a leading presence in that country as well.

An FTA would also benefit the great State of Indiana, which I proudly represent in Congress. Korea is Indiana's 10th largest export market, and Indiana exports \$303 million in goods to Korea annually. And outside the realm of international economics, almost 10,000 Korean-Americans reside in the State of Indiana and more than 2,000 Korean students study at Indiana's prestigious academic institutions.

In fact, Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels and his staff are actually preparing to return to Asia to visit Japan and South Korea later this week so they can develop better economic and trading partnerships between Indiana and Asia. Governor Daniels is determined to make long-lasting economic relationships in Asia, especially with Korean companies, as he works to improve Indiana's economy, create new and better Hoosier jobs, and ultimately drive ahead Indiana's economy well into the 21st Century.

In addition to being a strong economic partner, Korea is a key U.S. ally and a very important one strategically. The United States and Korea have a mutual defense treaty that dates back to 1953, and Korea has supported U.S. military efforts abroad, as recently as in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Further, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Korea pledged over \$30 million in aid for relief and recovery efforts—the 4th largest amount donated by any foreign country.

This new partnership between the United States and South Korea is sure to be a win-win for both of our countries. I look forward to working closely with the U.S. and Korean negotiators as talks proceed, so that we can ensure the best opportunities for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to extend my remarks to recognize the historic occasion of the start of formal trade negotiations between the United States and the Republic of Korea last week. I strongly encourage my colleagues to offer their own expressions of support for this important endeavor.

ONE SCHOOL, TWO STATE
CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2006

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that a school in the Sixth District of

North Carolina, in addition to continued promotion of academic excellence, has produced not one but two state championships recently. The first victory for Ledford High School was brought home by sophomore, Megan Williams, in the pole vault competition of the track and field championship. The second was achieved by Ledford's golf team.

In only her second year as a pole vaulter, Megan Williams battled through a knee injury to claim the title. All nerves resulting from an imperfect freshman season seemingly disappeared, allowing the true champion athlete to break through. Although not new to state level competition, with two previous cheerleading titles to her credit, this event appeared to be especially meaningful because of her success in the face of little experience. The combination of her determination, gymnastic skills, and training from her dedicated coach, Shawn Loggins, drove Megan to continue pursuing and obviously achieving excellence. Looking forward to new poles and new heights, it's no wonder that Megan Williams was named athlete of the week by The (Lexington) Dispatch.

The golfing Panthers of Ledford High School showed extreme poise under the pressure of defending a state title as they defeated Cardinal Gibbons by a remarkable 13 shots in their final performance of the year. Head Coach John Ralls was quoted by The High Point Enterprise as beaming, "Today we had six scores in the 70s . . . we had six guys who were capable." These scores are themselves an amazing feat, but more impressive is that Ledford has won in back-to-back years in such a difficult conference.

We are pleased to recognize all the members of the Ledford golf team who contributed to the victory. Players include: seniors Paxton Davis and Zack Smith, juniors Jake Dykhoff, Nick Goins (whose individual score placed him third in the state), and Logan Peck, and sophomores Jeff Boyan, Curtis Brotherton, Matt Lawson, Chris Moore, Jordan Stiles, and Ethan Worley.

The fantastic individual efforts of the players would not have been enough to bring home a championship, but through the collaborated efforts of the entire squad and the excellent coaching staff including Head Coach John Ralls and Associate Head Coach Jim Brotherton, it was possible to work together and clench the title as a team. The coaches were no doubt proud of their players as they led the Ledford High School golf team to yet another state championship.

On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate the Ledford Panthers golf team as well as Megan Williams and the rest of the track and field team. Congratulations to Principal Bill Butts, Athletic Director Don Palmer, the teachers, staff, students, parents, and fans of Ledford High School.