A PROCLAMATION HONORING ANNA RADU

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Anna Radu was born on March 8, 1902; and

Whereas, Anna Radu is celebrating her 100th Birthday today; and

Whereas, Anna Radu, from Garbova, Romania, became a citizen of the United States of America on September 8, 1939;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Anna Radu as she celebrates her 100th Birthday.

HONORING STAN BLEDSOE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Stan Bledsoe on the occasion of his retirement as head baseball coach at Clovis West High School in Fresno, California. Clovis West, in conjunction with Clovis Unified School District, is dedicating and naming the baseball field at Eagle Stadium "Stan Bledsoe Field."

This 2001–2002 baseball season will cap Bledsoe's twenty-three year stint as head coach of the Eagles and thirty-two years of service coaching athletes and training coaches. There has been only one other head coach in the history of Clovis West. Stan has supported and been a mentor of the summer baseball program in the Clovis West area since its inception. His dedication to the athletes at Clovis West cannot be measured.

Coach Bledsoe has also been active in education and administration for the high school. He has been a valuable asset to the physical education department and has served in athletic administration for the past four years.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stan Bledsoe for his service to the Clovis West community and honor him as he retires as head baseball coach. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his dedication to education and athletics and wishing him many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY PHILLIPS, U.S. MERCHANT MARINE

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to fellow Alabamian Henry Phillips, a merchant mariner, member of the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association, and educator. This month, Henry will hang up his boiler suit one last time and retire after nearly 30 years of involvement with the U.S. Merchant Marine, most recently as director of the Calhoon MEBA Engineering School.

Henry is himself a 1972 graduate of the MEBA School. He is the first alumnus appointed director of the school, the country's premier institution of maritime continuing education. After graduation, Henry became a member of the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association (MEBA), the nation's oldest maritime union. Henry began a long and rewarding career in the Merchant Marine sailing as chief engineer with a number of U.S. flag companies including Keystone Shipping, U.S. Lines, and most recently with Sea-Land.

In January 2000, Henry Phillips left the deck plates for good, having been appointed director of the Calhoon MEBA Engineering School in Easton, Maryland. Henry's combination of real world experience at sea and his participation in establishing the Calhoon School's instrumentation course in the 1990's prepared him for the responsibility and complexities of running a world-class maritime educational facility. The school, a joint labor-management operation, ensures that America's Fourth Arm of Defense—the U.S. Merchant Marine—is well stocked with professional engineers and deck officers in the event our country is in conflict.

Henry and his wife Margaret are residents of Daphne, Alabama. Both their children, Bubba (Henry, Jr.) and Elizabeth are attending college. Henry plans to return there, run a small business, and spend time with his family.

Both inside and outside the maritime community, Henry is known for his keen wit and humble manner. I had the opportunity to spend some time with Henry on a flight from Alabama to Washington earlier this year. We talked about the health of our Merchant Marine and its importance to our country's security. And of course we talked about retiring from the work we love and our eagerness to move back to Alabama to be with family and friends.

Henry rose to the pinnacle of his profession after a career spanning three decades of involvement in the Merchant Marine. He made lasting contributions to his union's school, improving the curriculum and enhancing its professional standing. Henry is an exceptional person and first-class marine officer. Mr. Speaker, my Congressional colleagues, please join me in thanking Henry Phillips for his service to America's Merchant Marine.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 2002 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Women's Basketball National Champions, the University of Connecticut Huskies. On Sunday, March 31, the Lady Huskies completed their perfect season with an 82–70 victory over the Oklahoma Sooners, finishing with a record of 39–0.

Of the five starters, four of them were seniors: Sue Bird, Swin Cash, Tamika Williams, and Asjha Jones. Over their four years at the University of Connecticut, the team had a record of 136–9, made three Final Fours, and won two National Championships. They were only the fourth team in women's college basketball history to complete a season undefeated, tying the record for the most wins in a season. The team had an average margin of victory of 35.4 points and never trailed in the second half of a basketball game.

Members of team won various awards this season. Senior Sue Bird won the Wade Trophy for National Women's Player of the Year, Naismith Player of the Year, and was selected for AP First Team All-America Honors. Swin Cash and sophomore Diana Taurasi were selected to the All-America Second Team, Asjha Jones made the All-America Third Team, and Tamika Williams received Honorable Mention All-America. Coach Geno Auriemma was selected as Naismith Coach of the Year and 2002 Russell Athletic/WBCA Division I National Coach of the Year.

Commentators for women's college basketball claim that this Husky basketball team is the best team in the history of women's college basketball. While the Huskies tend to shy away from that statement, opponents tend to agree with those in the media. I believe the ultimate compliment was paid to this team when Pat Summitt, coach of the Tennessee Lady Vols, an archrival of the Huskies, responded if she was relieved to see these four seniors graduating by saying: "[Geno's] done a great job with them and they're big play people all across the board. And what I really admire about this Connecticut team is how hard they play and how inspired they are in every possession. I did not recall seeing a player not play hard every possession. And that speaks for their character and what they brought to the court tonight against us. But I may go to the graduation and cheer. You think they'll let me go? I might be there."

I would like to extend my personal congratulations to the UConn Lady Husky basketball team. The entire State of Connecticut is proud of the Husky team, who has helped turn Connecticut into the center of women's college basketball. I would also like to extend my best wishes to the four graduating seniors, and I am confident that they will be successful in their future endeavors.

I am also submitting for the RECORD an article by Randy Smith of the Journal Inquirer, who captured the essence of the team and their outstanding coaches.

[From the Journal Inquirer, Apr. 8, 2002]

AWAY FROM ARENA, ALL BETS OFF FOR HUSKIES

(By Randy Smith)

There are many beautiful elements attached to the University of Connecticut women's basketball program, but none is more essential. That is the first stone upon which everything else has been built. When a young basketball player honors the game, she, in turn, honors herself and the uniform she wears.

As soon as players step over the lines and away from the arena, all bets are off.

UConn's undefeated national champions took swipes at one another and laughed their way around the streets of Hartford during a parade Saturday, witnessed by throngs of people estimated at 150,000. When Diana Taurasi egged on the crowd while coach Geno Auriemma was trying to speak at the state capitol, he wondered aloud if the WNBA could make an exception and draft Taurasi, say, in the next five minutes. The crowd booed.

The energy these people emit is contagious. They are constantly on the go. They

smiled and waved and signed autographs and said thank you a million times. The spotlight agrees with them. Lord knows, they earned it. They played hard, had fun, and won 'em all.

Stop and think. When was the last time you did anything successfully 39 times in a row? I'm not sure if I could count from one to 39 successfully 39 straight times. I'm bound to skip, say, a 23.

The first thing Auriemma did, it's worth remembering, was thank his staff. Because of his position and the power of his personality, he is the main character in all of this, but couldn't be who he is or do what he does without a strong supporting cast. Associate head coach Chris Dailey has worked alongside him for 17 years. She is as demanding as he is, and sometimes, even more so. A diligent sentry who stands guard on the whole concept of "Connecticut basketball," Dailey is part-coach, part-educator, and part-den mother. Problems, big or small, go through her. Tonya Cardoza, in her eighth year, and Jamelle Elliott, in her fifth, are bright and tireless.

The closer one gets to the women's program, he is struck by two revelations: how good they are at playing the game of basketball and how much fun they seem to have together both on and off the court. The team's signature is a smile.

Auriemma hinted that Hartford's fourth parade in eight years—three for women's national champions and one for UConn's men—may not be the last.

"My guess is we might be here again down the road," he said.

If there is another shindig at the Capitol, organizers would be wise to get a smaller podium or a taller coach. The only people who could see Auriemma were behind him. Those in the bleacher seats probably thought they were listening to the voice of God, although chants of "Geno, Geno" indicated otherwise.

This year, he was Cortez in Mexico. Upon landing there, the 16th-century Spanish conqueror burned all ships to send a message to his troops that there was no turning back. In a town built, in large part, on remembering the Alamo, Auriemma instructed his team to remember St. Louis and last year's loss to Notre Dame in a national semifinal game. After eliminating Tennessee and reaching the national championship game, Auriemma delivered a Cortez-like message to his team in San Antonio.

"I told them about Mt. Everest," he said. "in the last 500 yards, everybody dies."

The thought made him roll his eyes.

"Man, you've got to keep coming up with things," he said.

Auriemma was guilty of coaches-speak when he said there was no pressure on UConn to win. Part of a coach's job is to absorb as much pressure as he can and prevent it from seeping into his team's locker room. Auriemma is good at it. Before the Tennessee game, he said, "I'm the most nervous man in America." Before meeting Oklahoma in the national title game, he openly worried that fate and the elements might be conspiring against UConn. He understood that there was only one way out for this senior-laden group. They had to win them all.

Knockers were everywhere, ready to pounce. Kelli Anderson wrote, "UConn is a perennial favorite that has won just one title in the last six years," in the March 18th edition of Sports Illustrated. How's that for revisionist history? Presumably, a half-dozen or more editors read the copy without bothering to change it. UConn had won two titles in seven years and now has won three titles in eight, finishing undefeated twice. The Huskies sure went from 1-of-6 to 3-of-8 in an awful hurry, didn't they?

Like most of his players, Auriemma enjoys his time on a national stage.

"We're ready, that's all I can tell you," he said upon arrival in San Antonio.

"Players decide games" and "I'm always amazed when players do what I tell them" were a couple of his other nuggets. He relishes his time with media and rarely holds anything back.

"My biggest strength is I give you guys a lot to write about and my biggest weakness is I give you guys a lot to write about," he said. "Like a lot of people, my greatest strength is my greatest weakness."

Connecticut state troopers shaded the rules by getting autographs at a third-floor press conference in the Capitol after the parade. Players signed the inside brims of their hats. If a chief back at the barracks asked the troopers to remove their hats to show him how they had spent their day, there would have been a whole of pump-faking going on.

Hartford police, meanwhile, walked the women's team from the capitol, underneath the Soldiers' and Sailors' Arch to the P-3 level of the Civic Center to watch the Phoenix WBCA All-America High School Game. Try as they did to sneak in the back door, the women were greeted by a standing ovation from more than 10,000 fans.

Applause wanes. Appreciation of a 39-0 national champion team never will. And neither will those jabs that seem to keep everybody in place and everything in its proper order.

"I've been around Geno for 17 years," Dailey said. "I don't think he's funny, charming, or good-looking. And you can quote me."

Nothing is sacred except the game.

44TH ANNUAL LOYALTY DAY

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our 44th annual Loyalty Day, which is celebrated on May 1. On this day, let us reflect with pride on our great country and remember with gratitude the contributions of the many loyal and courageous Americans; such as fire fighters, law enforcement officers, community service leaders, and military personnel who have given so much of themselves both at home and around the world to preserve our freedom.

Although we don't know the exact start of Loyalty Day, it did start in the 1930s as a counteractant of the May Day Communist exhibition. The Public Law 85–529 was signed by President Eisenhower in 1958 to officially commemorate this special day. Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars thought that these "disruptive forces of the communism" needed to see that the loyalty of Americans could not be uprooted so easily. They decided that they would organize parades and ceremonies, with other patriotic organizations joining in. With an extensive letter-writing campaign, and the help of the speaker's bureaus the theme of loyalty of Americans began to mold into something. Plays and tours of our national shrines aided this. The motto is to instill the ideals of our founding fathers to "remain loyal to America". Indeed, it is a day; meant for making all of us in America feel proud of our country. The country to which we belong.

Join me and the members of The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, George O. Breece Post 401 in recognition of Loyalty Day 2002.

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN PROTECTION ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Protection Act. This legislation takes a common sense approach to reduce nutrient and sediment loss in the Upper Mississippi watershed by coordinating existing public and private water monitoring initiatives. I believe that such a partnership promotes the river's health and is beneficial the communities and people of eastern Iowa.

Most of the farm families I represent live and make their living either along the Mississippi, or its many tributaries. Soil erosion is a problem for farmers by reducing long-term sustainability and income potential of their acres. It is my understanding that farmers in the Upper Mississippi River Basin lose more than $300 million annually in applied nitrogen to soil erosion. In addition, sediment fills the main shipping channel of the Mississippi that family farmers depend on to get their commodities to markets.

Farmers live close to the land, and are committed to being good stewards. This legislation helps farmers and local conservation groups assess where problems are occurring in their watershed, and how to efficiently and effectively solve the problem.

I believe this legislation is beneficial in mending our environment along the river, and better protecting it in the future. Sediment is a threat to the Mississippi's fish, birds, and other wildlife by filling wetlands. Sediment reduces wetlands'ability to be an adequate water filter and provide habitat to the creatures that live all along the Mississippi River. It is estimated that the Upper Mississippi contributes 31 percent of the nitrogen that impairs the water quality of the Lower Mississippi basin.

Part of the Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge is in my district. I believe this refuge is an important treasure for Iowa. What makes this area special is, of course, the unique wildlife that lives there. This legislation helps promote wildlife by monitoring and computer modeling data to ensure scientifically sound and cost-effective decisions in promoting water quality.

Additionally, a healthy Mississippi River is very important to the communities of eastern Iowa. The Mississippi is recognized throughout the United States and abroad as "America's River". The Quad Cities area is a popular destination of international travelers who want to see and touch the water. For the residents of the Quad Cities area, the riverfront is the center of social life, with a historic district, baseball diamond, and several annually held festivals.

The city of Dubuque boasts over one million visitors thanks to the Mississippi. This community has chosen to make its story of the river the cornerstone of its urban renewal with a million dollar investment in the revitalization of the riverfront. The America's River project and historic Port of Dubuque represent the community's dedication to growing its tourism industry.