

a tremendous renewal of faith and its outreach mission has gone above and beyond the confines of our community. With its vision of holistic empowerment, grounded in biblical principles, Bethel Apostolic Temple evokes a spirit of excellence grounded in compassion and charity not only to its members, but to all those who seek refuge and solace in its sanctuary.

With the establishment of the Bethel Temple Community Development Corporation, My Sister's Closet (a boutique for women and families going from Welfare to Work), along with the Bethel Computer Lab, the Bethel Institute for Living, Bethel Partners in Dominion, and its Youth Ministry Council, this faith institution has truly become not only an instrument of spiritual enrichment, but also a vehicle for economic development. It is in this context that I commend the tremendous work of Rev. Nash, and cherish the memory of Dr. Atkins and Dr. Moss who bequeathed to her a vibrant Church and an active congregation.

Through the longevity of its faith-action service, Bethel Apostolic Temple has truly persevered in showing us the Way and expounding for us the Truth that emanate from our knowledge of the Gospels. It is through this ministry that its role has been defined and is wisely articulated by the injunction that the genuine measure of our love for God is conditioned by our commitment " * * * to the least of these."

Indeed, Rev. Nash's timely and inspiring leadership is genuinely admirable. As a servant of God and as a community leader, she has indeed earned our deepest respect and superlative commendation. This is the legacy of Bethel Apostolic Temple on its 50th Anniversary. Our entire community shares the joy of this occasion and extends best wishes for the future.

HONORING UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN WOMEN'S HOCKEY

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Wisconsin women's hockey team, which on March 26 defeated the Gophers of the University of Minnesota 3-0 to claim the 2006 NCAA national championship. This is the first national championship won by the Badger women's hockey team, and in fact it is the first NCAA championship for any UW women's team since 1985. This also marks the first Division I women's hockey title won by a school outside the State of Minnesota.

The championship victory was a fitting end to an amazing year for the Badgers, which included a record 36 victories and a Patty Kazmeier National Player of the Year Award winner in junior forward Sara Bauer. The final game was also UW's fifth victory of the season in six games against the archrival Gophers, a team that had dominated the Badgers in years past.

For Badgers coach Mark Johnson, this accomplishment can stand beside his greatest as a player, including the 1977 NCAA men's championship and the "Miracle on Ice" 1980 Olympic gold medal. In each of his 4 years as

head coach, the Badgers have set a school record for victories, showing steady improvement on the way to this year's ultimate prize.

Coach Johnson's players, of course, deserve the bulk of the credit for their own success. And during this year's tournament, no Badger star shone brighter than goaltender Jessie Vetter. A freshman from Cottage Grove, Wisconsin, Jessie allowed one goal during three tournament games. Prior to this year, no goalie had ever recorded a shutout during the women's Frozen Four. Jessie earned two, in the semi-finals and the championship. It is no surprise, then, that she was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player.

It is, however, not an individual honor but the accomplishment of a team that I wish most to recognize today. Some of the players joked after the game that they had now stolen away from their neighbors to the west the title of "the State of Hockey." Wisconsin couldn't be prouder.

CONGRATULATING FRANCES KOVALESKI UPON BEING NAMED "WOMAN OF THE YEAR" BY THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Frances Kovaleski of Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, who has been named "Woman of the Year" by the Lackawanna County Federation of Democratic Women.

Mrs. Kovaleski is a daughter of Marguerite Schmidt Roland and Francis Roland, of West Scranton. Her parents were active in Democratic Party politics and they impressed upon their daughter the political values they shared.

Even in high school, Frances volunteered to work in a Scranton mayoral campaign for former Democratic Mayor James J. Walsh.

Frances graduated from St. Patrick's High School in Scranton and went on to cosmetology school, after which she and a friend opened their own beauty salon.

Frances married Kenneth Kovaleski in 1971 and the couple had three sons. Several years ago, Mrs. Kovaleski worked on the campaign of Linda Munley, who was running for register of wills in Lackawanna County. Mrs. Munley won and appointed Mrs. Kovaleski to serve as her deputy.

Mrs. Kovaleski is also active in other civic endeavors. Besides serving as a member and treasurer in the Lackawanna County Federation of Democratic Women, Mrs. Kovaleski also works tirelessly for St. Joseph's Center, serving as president in 2005 and presidential advisor this year. She also served on its board of directors and many of the committees.

Mrs. Kovaleski served as president of the Society of Irish Women in 2004.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mrs. Kovaleski. Her devotion to Democratic causes and her commitment to family and community have touched the lives of many people in a positive manner and have improved the quality of life in Lackawanna County.

CONGRATULATING KIMMIE MEISSNER ON HER PERFORMANCE AT THE 2006 WORLD FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kimmie Meissner, who on Saturday, March 25, won the gold medal in Ice Skating at the 2006 World Championships in Calgary, Alberta.

Kimmie was raised in Bel Air, Maryland, just a few miles from my home town of Baltimore. She began skating at age 6, and it was then that she began preparing for competition. With the help of coach Pam Gregory, Kimmie has trained at the University of Delaware Figure Skating Club since she was just 8 years old. In 2004, she won the State Farm Junior U.S. Championships. In 2005, she landed the bronze medal at the U.S. Championships and became just the second U.S. woman ever to land a triple axel.

Last February, Kimmie represented the United States at the Winter Olympics in Torino, placing sixth out of 24 competitors. Along with Sasha Cohen and Emily Hughes, she was part of the trio of Americans to finish in the top 10. Although it was her first Olympics, Kimmie performed beyond all expectations and was confident even in the company of her impressive competition.

On Saturday, however, Kimmie truly shone above all others. Her performance was simply amazing; it featured seven triple jumps, including the only two triple-triple combinations of the day. It earned her a personal best 129.7 points—more than enough to land her first place and win the admiration of thousands of fans. Although she entered the final program in third place, Kimmie did not let that discourage her. Instead, the Fallston High School student whose motto is, "Do what you enjoy; enjoy what you do," surprised everyone by winning the championship. In doing so, she became the first woman to win the World Championships in her first appearance since Oksana Baiul's victory in 1993.

Kimmie's performance was special—and I am certain that it will be remembered by her family, friends and fans for a long time. ESPN has called her victory "one of the biggest upsets in World Figure Skating Championships history." After the event, Kimmie remarked, "Standing on the podium and watching the flag . . . was such a proud moment for me." Mr. Speaker, I want Kimmie to know that she has also made Maryland and the United States proud, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating her.

HONORING FORMER AIR FORCE CAPTAIN JOHN HAYES

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize former Air Force Captain John M. Hayes for receiving The Silver Beaver Award,