

Presently, she serves as the chairperson of the Women's Ministry, is the director of the Feeding Ministry, serves as the director of the Shekina & Praise Dancers, and is the instructor of the Senior Missionary Circle. Priscilla Lyon also finds time to perform liaison work for the Women's Fellowship.

Born in South Hampton County VA, she is the third of six children. Her hobbies are sewing, crocheting, drafting, millinery, and decorating. Respected and adored by her fellow church members, she was honored at the Henry House in September 1996. She is a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. It is my privilege to highlight her achievements and contributions.

CHAMPIONS OF THE PRAIRIE

HON. JOHN THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, lately, football fans across the Nation are talking about the Green Bay Packers. Today, I'd like to inform my colleagues about an outstanding championship team that hasn't received much national attention. They are the NAIA Division II National Football Champions—The University of Sioux Falls Cougars. With their victory in the championship playoff game in December, the Cougars became the first South Dakota college team to win a national football title.

This group of young men had a remarkable season—an exclamation point to their emergence as a football powerhouse. Many of the players spent the last 4 years playing together. While each of these seasons has been significant, the Cougars 2–8 record in 1993, didn't even foreshadow the greatness just around the corner. Head Coach Bob Young was concerned he'd lose many of his talented freshmen. Instead of dwelling on past disappointments, the young players and their coach pulled together and focused on a winning future. They have proven that commitment, loyalty, and hard work can and do pay off. In the three seasons since that disappointing 1993 season, the Cougars compiled and impressive 32–4 record, made three straight playoff appearances, and won the 1996 National Championship. For the last 2 years, the South Dakota Sports Writers Association have selected the Cougar Football Team as the Men's College Team of the Year.

The sportscaster who coined the expression "this is the one for the record books" had no idea how fitting it would be for the 1996 Cougars. Nearly half of the school's individual records were set by that team.

Quarterback Kurtiss Riggs completed the regular season without throwing an interception. He set a national collegiate record 290 pass attempts without an interception. He also holds the NAIA division record for most touchdowns in a season with 55. Yet, when he was asked about his personal records, Kurtiss said he'd give them all up for the national championship. Fortunately, he didn't have to make that sacrifice.

Senior wide receiver Kalen DeBoer finished the year with 17 touchdowns, 99 receptions, and 1,372 yards, including 182 in one game. Sophomore running back David Ruter had 19 touchdowns and 1,726 yards rushing, includ-

ing 315 in one game. When you have that kind of offensive trio achieving those kind of stats, it means you have an equally impressive offensive line doing the job up front. The Cougar defense led by Phil Porter, Larry Wilson, Chuck Morrell, Travis Dumke, and Ray Smith were ranked in the top 10 nationally both in scoring and rushing defense.

As a team, the undefeated Cougars recorded the 19th best season scoring total in collegiate history with 636 points. They achieved this record by averaging 45 points per game and defeated their opponents by an average of 30 points. These figures are even more impressive considering one game was played in a blizzard and Coach Young's practice of benching the first string players once the game was in hand. It wasn't unusual for starters to play only half the game, giving younger players valuable game experience. With such an overwhelming offense, some may have been tempted to run up the score. But Coach Young's success is grounded in good sportsmanship and an eye toward the future. The Cougars also marched to the record books without much home cooking. They had the home field advantage for only two games this season.

When the Cougars took the field for the Championship game in Tennessee on December 21, they faced Western Washington, a team with a school enrollment 10 times that of University of Sioux Falls. It was a modern-day version of David and Goliath. The outcome was the same as the Biblical tale—Sioux Falls slew Western Washington with a decisive 47-to-25 victory.

The University of Sioux Falls never was ranked No. 1, but the Cougars won their championship on the field, not in the polls. And for his leadership, Coach Bob Young was named the NAIA Division II Football National Coach of the Year.

I also want to pay tribute to the character of the players and the entire coaching staff, which was shown at the end of each game when the entire team would huddle on the field and give thanks to God for their success. This weekly demonstration of faith is a stark and moving contrast to the typical bravado we see sometimes during professional games.

Faith, loyalty, commitment, and teamwork. In a day when many look to sports for heroes, the 1996 University of Sioux Falls Cougar football team have earned two titles: local heroes and national champions. They are champions of the prairie. On behalf of the city of Sioux Falls and the State of South Dakota, I am pleased to say congratulations, Cougars We're proud of you.

ADOPT A FARM FAMILY

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an organization that is working hard to bring about economic and spiritual renewal in rural America. Headquartered in Sikeston, MO in my congressional district, the Adopt a Farm Family of America organization has been a tremendous force for good in southern Missouri and throughout the country. The volunteers and

coordinators of Adopt a Farm Family are sponsoring a rural restoration conference in Sikeston next week, continuing their tradition of spiritual outreach and support for farm families.

America's farmers and ranchers are the best in the world, but they face an increasingly complex set of challenges. Uncertain markets, changing environmental conditions, and new government policies all contribute to the challenge of operating a farm in rural America. The job calls for long hours, old-fashioned values, and a strong faith in God. Adopt a Farm Family has stood by our Nation's farmers since its inception in 1988. Today, it continues to provide the kind of assistance and expertise that makes a real difference in the lives of thousands of Americans.

At next week's rural restoration conference, from Sunday February 16 to Tuesday February 18, Adopt a Farm Family will invite farmers to come together as a group to discuss methods of improving farm life. The entire Sikeston community, many of whom are providing financial and other support to the conference, is participating in a concerted effort to make the event educational and rewarding. Seminars and speakers will address a broad variety of topics, including farm finances, soil nutrition, marketing techniques, and family issues. I should also note that I have the high honor of speaking at the conference, and I am looking forward to contributing to the special purpose of the occasion.

Mr. Speaker, Adopt a Farm Family of America is one of the best examples in America of a group of people determined to help, and who then make it happen. You can see it in founder and current director of ministry, Mrs. Mary W. Myers, in her husband and current President Peter, and in the many folks who play a part in Adopt a Farm Family programs—the belief in the idea that through hard work and faith in God, good things are possible. I commend the people who are part of the Adopt a Farm Family of America organization, and express the hope that we can help them fulfill their mission of fighting to keep farm and ranch families on the land.

RECOGNITION OF MAYOR KIERAN O'HANLON

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the accomplishments of Kieran O'Hanlon, the mayor of Limerick City, Ireland. The mayor has been invited to Queens for the celebration of St. Patrick's Day and to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Charter of Limerick City, thereby making it the oldest chartered city in Europe.

As the founding member of the Progressive Democrats in Ireland, Mayor O'Hanlon has served as an inspiration to the members of his party as well as to the rest of the world. Having only entered the formal political arena in 1991, Mr. O'Hanlon has already made an indelible mark on politics in Ireland.

The anniversary of Limerick should remind us of the importance of maintaining the integrity of our own communities. Mr. Speaker, I hope all of my colleagues will join me in wishing Mayor O'Hanlon all the luck in the future.