

at an uncle's house. At this house the boy did not have a bed. He slept on the couch. He did not have toys, but he did find a role model. In fact, he found two role models, the uncle and the uncle's partner in crime, both of whom had outstanding warrants and both of whom were suspected drug dealers.

The house they lived in was a suspected crack house with more than 40 sales per day conducted at all hours of day and the night. Neighbors claimed they heard gunshots at night; and police were building a case against the owners, but had not yet made any arrests. So we had a little boy living in a crack house with no bed, no father, no mother and two drug dealers as his role models.

At school, the boy was displaying the effects of his confused and tormented childhood. He was suspended for fighting, and in one instance even stabbed another child in the neck with a pencil. The school identified him as potentially violent and scheduled him to see a psychologist, but the appointment was scheduled for one week too late. Even though everyone knew this child was in trouble, no one bothered to go to his house, no one bothered to help him.

That is the true failure here. It is not guns or not enough restrictions on second amendment rights. The true failure was this little boy falling through the cracks of a system that let him down. His role model stole guns or maybe traded drugs for stolen guns, no one is quite sure. But we are quite sure that the boy was taught that violence, not words, was the way to solve problems. One neighbor remembers the uncle threatening to shoot up his house while holding the little boy in his lap.

Sadly, many of the remedies that people have pointed to would have done nothing to change the outcome of this tragic event.

This little boy with one parent in jail and the other reported drug user was living with two drug dealers who threatened their neighbors and traded in stolen guns, and in the meantime he was watching the violence that is so rampant on today's television. All of this was going on while he was in his most impressionable formative years. He had yet to learn right from wrong, and no one cared to teach him. The result was almost predictable. So anyone who claims that a trigger lock, a storage law, or any law at all would have prevented this tragedy is simply wrong.

What would have prevented this tragedy? That is a good question. The only thing that would have prevented this tragic event is if this innocent child had two loving parents. Only when violent repeat offenders are incarcerated and away from our children will this type of crime be prevented. The need here is not for unenforceable mandates, the need is for real solutions to violence. Let us work together to find ways to strengthen families and help parents teach their children right from wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I call on all of my colleagues to focus on the real solutions that will help restore and protect our families and our communities.

#### NATIONAL CHAMPION MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues from Michigan to pay tribute to the National Champion Michigan State Spartans Men's Basketball team.

On Monday night, this group of fine young men provided us with a display of sportsmanship, dedication, and perseverance that all of us must admire. This group, affectionately known as the "Flintstones" because of several players who hail from the Flint area, overcame many adversities, such as halftime deficits and injuries throughout the tournament on their way to the championship.

The heart and soul of the Michigan State team is their senior leadership. At a time when many college athletes make a quick jump to the professional ranks, it is refreshing to see this talented group of young men stay in school, get their education, and use their God-given talent and their experience to lead the Spartans to the National Championship.

Often times people place too much emphasis on athletics, especially college athletics. But this Michigan State team has taught us an important lesson. We have learned that through hard-work, dedication and loyalty you can achieve your dreams. Young people often look to sports figures to role model and the young men of the Michigan State basketball team are truly worthy of that admiration.

I would like to salute Head Coach Tom Izzo, Seniors Mateen Cleaves, Maurice Peterson, and A.J. Granger, Saginaw native Jason Richardson, and the entire Spartan team for an outstanding season. You have made us proud, not just as Spartan fans, but as Michiganders. Congratulations.

#### PERMANENT NORMAL TRADING RELATIONS WITH CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak this evening in support of Permanent Normal Trading Relations with China. I want to commend the Speaker of the House for setting a date when we will have the vote before Memorial Day.

I want to commend the President for the extraordinary effort that he is putting into this. I want to commend Ambassador Barshefsky; Secretary of Agriculture, Dan Glickman; and Secretary of Commerce, Bill Daley for their strong effort to help us pass Permanent Normal Trading Relations with China.

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We must approve permanent normal trading relations with China in May, or our economy will suffer for years to come. It will be a terrible mistake for this country not to approve this agreement. There are 1.3 billion people in

China, 20 percent of the world's population, one of the fastest growing economies in the world. This is a good deal for America. It cuts overall tariffs from 24 to 9 percent by 2005, cuts overall agriculture tariffs from 31 to 17 percent, it gives us five times more market access for cotton, 20 times more market access for rice, an unbelievable potential for poultry, beef, pork, soybeans, wheat and nearly every other ag product, and a huge potential for technology, banking, telecommunications, insurance. We give up nothing in this agreement, Mr. Speaker. This agreement grants us access to their market. It does not give them any additional access to our markets.

China has had access to our markets for the last 20 years. The Chinese want a seat at the international trade negotiating table. They must give access to get that. If this agreement does not happen, we will lose out and the rest of the world will gain. Literally the rest of the world will laugh all the way to the bank. China is going to enter the World Trade Organization whether we pass this agreement or not. Our choice is whether we want to have the same access to a market of 1.3 billion people as the rest of the world. The only choice for us to make is to approve permanent normal trading relations with China.

#### CONGRATULATING NCAA CHAMPION MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARY MILLER of California). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Spartans of Michigan State University, which my son Paul attended, on winning the National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball championship. The Spartans defeated the Florida Gators 89-76 in the championship game to capture the NCAA championship. It was certainly an exciting game that showcased some of the best talent the NCAA has to offer.

The Spartans are a great example of what hard work, determination, and a passionate desire to win can accomplish. The Spartans were led by seniors Morris Peterson and Mateen Cleaves and junior Charlie Bell, the Flintstones as they are commonly known in Michigan. All three grew up in my hometown of Flint, Michigan. They have brought a sense of spirit and optimism to our community and our State. I could not be prouder of these young men. They played basketball together and against each other at Berston Field House, a recreational center in the heart of downtown Flint. Over the years, Berston Field House has provided young men and women with not only a great place to play sports but also a safe alternative to the streets.

Peterson, Cleaves, and Bell have all been guided by strong family values