

SELECTION OF JOHN WOODEN FOR  
MEDAL OF FREEDOM IS MOST  
DESERVED

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 23, 2003*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible achievements of John Wooden, famed educator, coach, and basketball player. Coach Wooden was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor, in a ceremony at the White House today.

What Coach Wooden accomplished during his 40 years of coaching will never be surpassed. He compiled an 885–203 record, leading the UCLA Bruins to 10 NCAA Men's Basketball Championships. During his time at UCLA, the Bruins had four undefeated seasons and 88 consecutive victories, including 38 straight NCAA tournament victories. Among his many honors Wooden was named NCAA College Basketball Coach of the Year six times. Coach Wooden nurtured and inspired many of the greatest basketball players of all time who would go on to fame in their own right, including Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Bill Walton.

Wooden was also a standout athlete. Born and raised in Martinsville, Indiana, Wooden led his high school squad to the state title in 1927. Later, at Purdue University, he won letters in basketball and baseball as a freshman, and then went on to captain Purdue to the 1932 National Collegiate Championship. Wooden's accomplishments on the basketball court led to him being one of only two men enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame as both player and coach.

But it is his role as an educator where he has made his greatest mark. Wooden developed the "Pyramid of Success", a graphic representation of the ideals that form the basis of Wooden's outlook on life and explain much of his success on and off the court. Emphasizing such traits as skill, poise, and confidence, the Pyramid of Success has helped millions be their best when their best was needed.

Coach Wooden has not been content to sit back as a legend. He is a best-selling author, active on the public speaking circuit, and has devoted much of his energies to public service. Wooden was the first sports figure to be awarded the Bellarmine Medal of Excellence, whose other recipients have included Mother Teresa and Walter Cronkite. He received the 1994 Landry Medal for Inspiration to American Youth and also has a number of honorary degrees. The National Father's Day Committee has named him "Grandfather of the Year" and the National Urban League has honored him for his years of humanitarian service.

Mr. Speaker, John Wooden's philosophy benefits us all. Be quick, but don't hurry. It's not how tall you are, but how tall you play. Make each day your masterpiece. Character is what you really are; reputation is what you are perceived to be. Through his life's work and his great accomplishments, Coach John Wooden has earned every award he has received. More importantly, he has earned our respect and admiration. Please join me in congratulating this legendary coach and educator on his latest award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO  
JONITA WHITAKER

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 23, 2003*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation to an outstanding professional, Ms. Jonita Whitaker, who has served as a State Department Pearson Fellow in my Washington Congressional Office for the past year. Under this excellent program, Foreign Service Officers work on Capitol Hill, learning the legislative process and sharing their expertise in international relations. I believe the program provides tremendous benefits to both members of Congress and to the State Department professionals who participate.

Over the past year, Jonita has proven to be a shining star on my staff. As a member of the House International Relations Committee, I have benefited tremendously from her extensive knowledge, her expertise in foreign affairs and immigration law, her foreign language skills, and most of all, her passionate dedication to public service. Jonita quickly mastered the many complex global issues we deal with on a daily basis.

Jonita has played a leading role as an advisor on a number of key issues, including developments in Iraq, the movement to return the Parthenon Marbles to Greece, efforts to reach a political settlement in Cyprus, the peace process in Northern Ireland, daily updates on developments in Africa, and the eradication of polio world-wide, among her many other contributions. Reports she provided to me when she traveled to Northern Ireland to witness the Orange Order parades were enormously helpful.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to thank Jonita Whitaker for all of her hard work and to wish her continued success as she moves forward in her career.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY KISLING

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 23, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to Larry Kisling of Grand Junction, Colorado. Through hard work and dedication, Larry has received national attention for the quality of his competitive racing engines, which he builds and maintains for racing teams across the country. Larry's work provides him with the ability to be involved in the sport he loves, and I am proud to speak of his accomplishments here today.

Moving to Grand Junction in 1990, Larry set up his shop and began business. Larry's hard work is evident in his high quality products, which is why his customers keep coming back. Larry's business expanded so much that he recently moved into a new location and a brand new 3,400 square foot facility. Today he works on all kinds of engines, from forklifts to boats.

Larry's passion, however, will always be high-performance racing engines, despite the

fact that they are the least profitable part of the company. Larry does the work because he loves it, noting the personal satisfaction he gets when he sees one of his engines on the track. Larry gets the most fulfillment when a driver returns to his shop and lets him know his race car has never gone faster.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues here today in applauding the hard work of Larry Kisling. I commend Larry on his successful business endeavors and the respect he has gained from his peers. I wish him all the best in the years to come.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF APSA  
SCHOLARS PROGRAM

**HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 23, 2003*

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, the American Political Science Association (APSA) is commemorating the 50th anniversary of its Congressional Fellowship Program this year. I join my colleagues in commending APSA for the service that it has provided to the U.S. Congress.

APSA fellows have made a valuable contribution to the work of personal and committee offices in both the House and Senate. The program draws on the talents of a variety of professionals who are interested in learning about and contributing to the legislative process. The APSA program is held in high regard by Members for the quality of the fellows it makes available to offices at no charge. Among its distinguished alumni is Vice President DICK CHENEY.

My office has been pleased to host two fellows in recent years. Tim Johnson, a 1994 journalism fellow, remained on my staff and currently serves as my Legislative Director and Press Secretary. Ben Brown, a 2001 fellow from the FDIC, brought valuable banking expertise to the House Financial Services Committee during its formative first months.

The APSA Congressional Fellows Program merits our recognition for the ongoing contributions that it makes to the legislative process.

FREEDOM FIESTA WEEK

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 23, 2003*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, in my home district of El Paso, Texas, Operation Iraqi Freedom will always be remembered for the tragic ambush of the 507th Maintenance Company. In a city that is home to nearly 60,000 veterans and thousands of troops and their family members stationed at Fort Bliss, we felt for these soldiers as if they were members of our own families. We mourned for those who had lost their lives, and prayed for the safe and speedy return of those who had been captured. The losses suffered by the 507th Maintenance Company were the first combat casualties to be experienced by Fort Bliss in at least a quarter century. These soldiers are heroes, and they are more than deserving of all of the honor and respect they have received.