JUNCTION CITY HIGH SCHOOL'S RECORD-SETTING SEASON

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 20, 2004

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, on the afternoon of December 13, 2003, at War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock, the Junction City High School Dragons team made history by capping off a perfect 15–0 season and winning its first Class AA state football championship. It was celebrated by a community, which braved the winter conditions to see the culmination of a record-setting season. This team personifies the spirit of determination and hard work that has always distinguished Arkansans.

As a parent, I understand the demands that our young people face. As members of the community, we are all aware that education is as important as any other issue we face. Each day, our children learn lessons in the classroom that will prepare them for the days and years ahead, and we work hard to see they are given the tools they need to compete and succeed in life. The success of the Junction City High School football program exemplifies how the lessons learned on the field of competitive athletics can often supplement the education learned in our classrooms. I have long been an advocate of athletics and extracurricular activities as those activities broaden academic excellence by instilling leadership, character, and teamwork in its participants.

At a time when our country needs youth leadership more than ever, this team has answered the challenge and set a course that can serve as an example for us all. Along with the school's first-ever championship, the records compiled by this team are truly impressive: An all-time state scoring record, the longest winning streak in school history, and the most wins in school history. It's about more than records or trophies. Championships are won in the heart as much as on the field. The will to overcome adversity, the daily drive to succeed, and the mental toughness to perform under pressure carried these young men during their championship season, and will provide them with a well to draw from throughout their entire lives.

It brings me a great deal of pleasure to again congratulate the Junction City High School football program on their tremendous season and first-ever Class AA High School Football Championship. We all take pride in you and all you have accomplished.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING RITA DUTTON

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 20, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Rita Dutton has devoted herself to serving the Union Local School District for the past eleven and a half years; and

Whereas, Rita Dutton has served as the President of the Union Local School Board in 1996, 1998, and 2003; and

Whereas, Rita Dutton supported the construction of and served as Board President during the groundbreaking of a new high school and elementary school; and

Whereas, Rita Dutton has given selflessly of her time and talents to improve the quality and facilities of the Union Local School District;

Therefore, I join with the Union Local School District and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Rita Dutton on her retirement from the Union Local School Board.

HONORING OLIVER BIRCKHEAD AS A GREAT LIVING CINCINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 20, 2004

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Oliver Birckhead, a dear friend and constituent, who will be formally honored on February 26, 2003 by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce as a Great Living Cincinnatian, one of our region's highest honors. The recipients of this prestigious award are selected on the basis of special professional achievement; an awareness of the needs of others; civic service; leadership; and distinctive accomplishments.

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Mr. Birckhead graduated from Trinity-Pawling School in Pawling, New York; Nichols College in Dudley, Massachusetts; and the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers University. Mr. Birckhead says the banking business was really in his blood: his father was the first Supervisor of National Banks in President Taft's administration. In 1937, Mr. Birckhead began his career in the banking business with the Peoples National Bank and Trust Company in White Plains, New York.

After a stint in the U.S. Air Corps, Mr. Birckhead was appointed assistant national bank examiner in the Second District of New York. From 1948 to 1951, he worked for Chemical Bank, then joined Central Trust Company (now PNC Bank) in Cincinnati. At Central Trust, he was elected an officer in 1951 and became executive vice president and director in 1967. In 1968, Mr. Birckhead was involved in the founding of Central Bancorporation and became CEO of its lead bank, The Central Trust Company, a position he held for 17 years. When he became president and later CEO of Central Bancorporation, the company's assets were approximately $500 million; when he retired in 1988, the company's assets were $5.2 billion. When Central Bancorporation merged into PNC the result was a $43 billion regional banking company, and Mr. Birckhead served as vice chairman and director of PNC Bank until he retired in 1989.

Mr. Birckhead's civic accomplishments have touched nearly every facet of Greater Cincinnati. He was a trustee, vice president and executive committee member of the Cincinnati Art Museum, and advisory board member and vice chairman of the Salvation Army. He also served on the boards of the Boy's Club of Cincinnati; the Cincinnati Association for the Blind; and the Cincinnati Council on World Affairs. He has been a leader for Xavier University's Capital Fund Drive; the University of Cincinnati's Annual Business Campaign; the National Conference of Christians and Jews (now the National Conference for Community Justice); the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce; the Cincinnati Business Committee; and the Statue of Liberty Centennial Commission. With several others, he led the original financing that formed the Cincinnati Bengals.

The recipient of many awards for his community service, Mr. Birckhead was honored by Ohio Governor John Gilligan with the Governor's Award for Community Action and by the Urban League. In 1986, he was presented with the Israel Peace Award by the State of Israel.

He is also devoted to his family, and his wife, Jane, is an active and effective volunteer in Greater Cincinnati. All of us in Greater Cincinnati thank Mr. Birckhead for his service to our community and congratulate him on being named a Great Living Cincinnatian.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE OF TOMMY SANFORD

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 20, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize Tommy Sanford for his 22 years of service as the assessor of property in Rutherford County, Tennessee. Tommy was first elected in 1982, and since then, he has never had an opponent. But he has decided to retire from that position at the end of his current term.

During Tommy's tenure, the number of property parcels in the county has more than doubled, and the appraised value of all county property has increased by more than $10 billion. To keep up with all the work fueled by the county's phenomenal population growth, Tommy's staff has grown from 8 to 33 employees. And he is quick to give his employees credit for the success of his office.

Tommy also organized and supervised the county's reappraisal department and oversaw the implementation of the county's new digitized mapping system. A progressive and dedicated public servant who strives to treat all Rutherford County property owners fairly, he has received more than 40 awards, including the 1989–90 Tennessee's Outstanding County Official.

His unflinching dedication and tireless service to the county will be sorely missed. I congratulate Tommy on his outstanding career in public service and wish him well in his future endeavors.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF LOUIS L. RAMSAY, JR.

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 20, 2004

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to rise in honor of the life and legacy of Louis L. Ramsay, Jr. who passed away at the age of 85. Louis Ramsay, Jr. was born in 1918 in Fordyce, Arkansas, in rural Dallas County. Through his lifetime, Louis distinguished himself as a husband, father, businessman, and church and community leader.