

NORTH CAROLINA'S NATIONAL  
CHAMPIONS

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

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as a proud alumnus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I am pleased to join several North Carolina colleagues tonight in honoring our amazing Tar Heels.

It has been six weeks since the Tar Heels were crowned the 2005 NCAA Men's Basketball National Champions, but the news accounts of their victory still paper the front door to my office. My staff tells me that nearly every day a Capitol visitor spots the coverage and walks in unannounced to say that his or her children want to go to UNC. That is music to our ears.

We know it is not all because of the basketball program, of course. UNC Chapel Hill is a fine school with an excellent academic reputation. The university consistently ranks among the Nation's top public institutions, and last year, it joined Harvard and Stanford as the only schools with prestigious Rhodes, Luce, Truman and Goldwater scholarship winners.

It sure is nice to also be among the Nation's athletic elite.

The UNC team knows what it is to come back from adversity. The championship win was especially sweet for North Carolina's three seniors, who helped lead an impressive comeback from freshman year challenges to the glory of that final game, and we are well aware of the challenges next year's team will face without these seniors and some other fine players.

But Coach Roy Williams has led Carolina to victory once, and he is going to do it again, with the same spirit and heart and dedication that he inspired in this year's championship team. Coach Williams long ago established himself as one of the premier recruiters in the country, and the talented class of 2006 that he has landed, which already includes the number one point guard in the Nation, should give us all comfort that the future we are going have is a bright future for the men in Carolina blue.

So, Mr. Speaker, I suppose that tomorrow we may finally take that newspaper down off of the front door of my office and put it in a scrapbook, but I am not the least bit worried.

That championship banner hanging from the rafters in the Dean Smith Center in Chapel Hill will be there forever alongside the many other banners that recount the proud history of one of the most storied programs in college basketball, and it will not be long before we have new banners to take pride in and more good news with which to paper our front door.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I join my friend the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) and my other colleagues tonight because I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the University of North Carolina's men's basketball team on their latest national championship. As has been already stated, soon the North Carolina Tar Heels will be raising the school's fourth NCAA basketball championship banner in the rafters of the Dean Dome.

In North Carolina, college basketball is as much a part of our culture as barbecue and sweet tea. Children know whether they support Carolina or Duke or Wake Forest or North Carolina State before they can walk, and a good basketball season is almost a birthright in North Carolina. It has been 12 years and a few close calls since Carolina's won a championship, but after a spectacular season, the nets have again been cut and another championship trophy is in Chapel Hill.

In the NCAA champion game in April, the Tar Heels defeated the Illinois fighting Illini 75 to 70 in an outstanding display of teamwork and outstanding talent. Led by the performance of now former players Raymond Felton and Sean May, the Tar Heels played strong basketball on both ends of the court, along with the other members. They were able to make critical baskets when the game was on the line and played tough defense that stifled their opponent when necessary.

Just 2 years ago, Coach Roy Williams came home to North Carolina to coach a Tar Heel team coming off an 8-20 season. His leadership turned a group of talented young men into great players with heart and determination. They made a commitment to work hard, to become a better team, and now they will join the ranks of other North Carolina basketball championship players, and the list is long, two of whom I will mention, Michael Jordan and James Worthy.

As the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) has previously stated, UNC is well-known for producing student athletes who not only succeed in the NBA but in every walk of life, and this is important, from the university with a rich history.

I wish the best of luck to the graduating seniors and expect that they will continue to have success in their future endeavor, and I am proud to join again my colleague the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) and my other North Carolina colleagues this evening in congratulating the University of North Carolina players, coaches and their fans on this singular accomplishment. Go Tar Heels.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA:  
A NATIONAL POWER IN COLLEGE  
BASKETBALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from North Carolina (Mr. MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, there are a few things in life about which I am certain.

I am certain that the word "barbecue" means chopped pork with a vinegar-based sauce.

I am certain that ordering grits north of Richmond is a terrible gamble.

And I am certain that the order of the universe, the plan of salvation, provides that the University of North Carolina will be a national power in college basketball.

Mr. Speaker, it was tough for a couple of years, but order has been restored.

With the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCINTYRE) I attended this year's Final Four in St. Louis. I honored the tradition begun by Roy Williams, who was then an assistant to Dean Smith, at the Final Four in New Orleans in 1982: I spat in the Mississippi River for luck.

I went to the top of the Gateway Arch, and I spat in Mississippi. I visited the Museum of Westward Expansion, and I spat in the Mississippi. I visited the old courthouse where the Dred Scott case was tried, and I spat in the Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I went through the weekend with a cotton mouth. At times I was dizzy from dehydration, all from the constant spitting, but my efforts were amply rewarded in the semifinal against Michigan State and in the final against Illinois.

North Carolina played tough defense. They hustled they played team ball and they won it all.

I am proud of my alma mater, and I am proud of our basketball program. I am proud that our program has always taken academics seriously, and even those players who left early for NBA careers have usually returned to summer school to complete their degrees. I am proud that our program has taken NCAA rules seriously, and of course, I am proud of our victories.

I want to congratulate the coaches and the players from the 2005 National Championship team, as well as the students, the faculty and staff, the alumni and the fans. I thank our players for the joy they brought all Carolina fans by their victory.

Next year may be tough, with our seven leading scorers all either graduating or leaving for the NBA, but Jawad Williams, Jackie Manuel, Melvin Scott, Sean May, Rashad McCants, Raymond Felton, Marvin Williams, but Mr. Speaker, I am confident that we will again be back to the Final Four and soon.

We have talented young players from this year's team, this last year's team, who are returning, who welcome to our program a strong class of incoming freshman. They are very talented high school juniors who are now contemplating scholarship offers and the opportunity to be part of the Carolina basketball tradition.

All these incoming players will come to understand what the Carolina basketball tradition means. It is about