

and applied that knowledge to her teaching strategies.

She always admired educators and their ability to create challenging and novel ways to encourage students in learning. As a bilingual teacher, she strove to make education an exciting, joyful, and motivational tool. She was one who is able to motivate and challenge students in a positive and stimulating manner where students are encouraged to reach their potential and value their own self-worth. She was that person. Most importantly, she was an outstanding teacher, and she was one who loved and enjoyed teaching.

Paulette believed some of the major challenges today are low achievers, child and drug abuse, gangs, and development learning disabilities. And she promoted the importance of the individual increase in parental involvement providing parent education, smaller classes, and tutoring programs as possible solutions.

Paulette was not only committed to her students and her family, but the community at large. For many years, she served on the planning committee for the NAACP Image Awards. She was an active fund-raiser for the Chrysalis Homeless Center, the United Negro College Fund, and other charitable organizations. She participated in the Literacy Campaign for the American Broadcasting Company, and volunteered in food and clothing drives.

For the last 2 years, Paulette served as scholarship chairperson for the San Diego African American Alumni Association, and with her husband, Roland, served as president for 4 years. She secured funding for more than 100 students, making it possible for them to pursue a college education.

On December 4, 1982, Paulette married Roland McFarland, vice president for broadcast standards and practices at Fox Broadcasting Company, at Hollywood Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles, California.

Her memory lives on through her beloved husband, his children, Curtis McFarland and Roslyn Daniels; mother, Odessa Mahan; father, David Mahan; sisters Beverly Cummings and Margo Mahan; brother, Garner Mahan, and many cherished grandchildren, family, and a host of friends. May she, indeed, rest in peace.

#### BORDER PATROL AGENTS RAMOS AND COMPEAN

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today is 324 days of incarceration for two former U.S. Border Patrol agents. Agents Ramos and Compean were convicted in March of 2006 for shooting a Mexican drug smuggler who brought 743 pounds of marijuana across our border into Texas. These two decorated Border Patrol agents, who were doing their duty to

protect the American people from an illegal alien drug smuggler, are serving 11- and 12-year prison sentences.

This week, the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans began hearing oral arguments for the agents' appeal. During the hearing, one of the three judges on the case, Judge E. Grady Jolly, said, "It does seem to me that the government overreacted here. For some reason, this one got out of hand."

The judges in this appeal will need to examine why the judge allowed the smuggler to plead the fifth amendment despite his immunity agreement, and why the jury was not allowed to hear crucial evidence that the smuggler was a repeat offender. The judges will also need to look at why the prosecutor charged the agents under a statute that was intended for violent criminals carrying guns, not for law enforcement officers acting in the line of duty.

Nothing can erase the suffering these agents have undergone and the months they have spent in prison in solitary confinement away from their families. However, a judgment in favor of Ramos and Compean in this appeal would be an important victory and the first act of justice these agents have seen since their arrest.

Mr. Speaker, the injustice of this case should not go unexamined. Last night, I hand-delivered a letter to JOHN CONYERS, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, to request a hearing on this case. Chairman CONYERS responded that he would carefully review my letter and my request.

In the eyes of the American people, the prosecution of these border agents was not justified. The comments by the appeals judge are justification enough for the House Judiciary Committee to review this case to determine exactly why this case got out of hand.

An unbiased review of this case by Attorney General Mukasey, a hearing by the House Judiciary Committee, and a Presidential pardon for these agents are all steps that can and should be taken to rectify this gross miscarriage of justice.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the family of these two border agents, Compean and Ramos, that we in Congress will not give up the fight for justice until their loved ones are at home.

#### ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. As a strong supporter of H.R. 6, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, I wanted to take a few moments to speak about this important bill, which we passed earlier today in the House, and how delighted I am and my constituents are for its passage. It is a historic step forward in our goal toward reaching energy independence.

H.R. 6 raised CAFE standards to 35 miles per gallon by 2020, cutting oil consumption by 1.1 million gallons per day, also, eliminating greenhouse gases equivalent to 28 million cars from our roads. That's 28 million cars.

Among many important additional initiatives, it includes new energy efficiency standards to reduce demand. It extends renewable energy tax credits for solar and other renewable sources. It includes a renewable fuels standard that contains safeguards to reduce carbon emissions and protect our environment. It also contains a renewable electricity standard, requiring utilities to get 15 percent of their power from renewable sources by 2020. It also assists and empowers small businesses to cut costs and scale up innovative energy solutions.

It will create thousands of new good-paying green jobs and build on the work that has begun in places like the Ella Baker Center in my district in Oakland, California, which is helping to lead the green jobs revolution.

Mr. Speaker, this bill takes the right steps forward to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, to save our constituents money, and to fight global warming. Most importantly, it echoes the innovative steps that have already been taken by individual cities, States and districts like my district in the East Bay of California, Alameda County, to be specific.

In many ways, the California Bay Area, and my district in particular, are in the forefront of the innovation and research on alternative energy climate change and the environment. Ongoing research into alternative and renewable energy at the University of California at Berkley, one of the premier public universities in the country, of course I am an alma mater of the University of California at Berkley and very proud of that, we hold the promise of a cleaner and brighter future for our children, our country and the world.

Businesses in my district have also taken the lead in greening their activities to reduce waste, improve energy efficiency, and save water, minimizing the impact on our environment.

Innovative programs like the Ella Baker Center, which I already mentioned, and funded in part through the City of Oakland, are also training youth in my district about the importance of environmental stewardship and providing them with new job opportunities and new career paths. Community-based organizations in my district have also taken the lead in advocating for environmental justice and equity for all of our constituents. Together, my community is at the forefront of a robust environmental movement that is quite literally changing the world for the better.

The passage of the Energy Independence and Security Act will help these grass-roots efforts expand and grow through Federal initiatives designed to put the United States on a path to energy sustainability.

Again, I am very pleased that the House passed H.R. 6, and I look forward to its final passage by the Senate.

In my district, we have the City of Albany, Berkley, Piedmont, Oakland, California, Ashland, Cherryland, Fairview, Castro Valley, unbelievable innovations which this bill will certainly support and enhance. So I urge the President not to reject this proposal and hope that he signs the bill when it reaches his desk.

#### OHIO'S OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOLS

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the congressional district that has so many outstanding high schools. Not only do these schools excel in academics, but they are home to some of the most gifted scholar-athletes in the Nation.

Just this fall, Cincinnati witnessed two of our young women's high school volleyball teams, Mother of Mercy and Mount Notre Dame, meet for the second State championship in the last 2 years.

After spending much of the season at the top of the rankings, Mercy senior leadership kept them strong at the end. Seniors Missy Harpenau, Stephanie Vorherr, Michelle James, and Kelly O'Connor lead the charge during the final games. Though Mount Notre Dame's standout players, Rachel Adams and Abbie Rees, rallied teammates for wins in the first and third sets, the Cougars couldn't hold on for a repeat of their 2006 success in winning the State championship.

Mercy avenged last year's championship loss with a 15-11 victory in the last minutes to finish a great season for Mercy and Coach Denise Harvey, as well as Mercy's fourth volleyball State title in program history.

In the interest of full disclosure, Mother of Mercy is near and dear to my heart because my wife, Donna, and my daughter, Erica, and my sister, Carol, are all Mother of Mercy graduates.

A third Cincinnati area high school, the St. Ursula Academy Bulldogs, have become a mainstay in the State soccer tournament, advancing to their third finals in 7 years. Down 1-0 at the half, St. Ursula rallied with goals by Tori Huster and Alexandra Berry to beat Strongsville 2-1. St. Ursula finished with a remarkable 20-1-2 record and a third State championship, the other two coming back in 1991 and 1993.

And, finally, I have the honor of congratulating St. Xavier High School for its second Ohio High School Division I State Football Championship in the last 3 years. On its way to a perfect 15-0 record, St. Xavier had probably the toughest schedule in the entire Nation, beating State champions from Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, and national power-

house DeMatha from locally here in Maryland. St. X also had the distinction of being the number one ranked team in the State the entire year and number one in the Nation in some polls.

St. Xavier's victory gave the district that I have the honor to represent its fifth division I State football title in the last 6 years, five out of the last 6 years, including Elder High School, who won it twice. I have two nephews, Joe Del Prince, who graduated last year, scored a number of touchdowns on the team last year, and his brother, my nephew, Mike Del Prince, who scored a touchdown against St. X. Unfortunately, when he scored that touchdown, he was hit pretty hard; and I ended up seeing him in the hospital a couple days later. But he's doing well, and he'll be great as a senior next year. And my brother, Ron, also is an Elder grad, played first singles tennis there some years ago, was on student council, and that kind of gave me my interest in politics, seeing my brother Ron succeed in that respect.

But this also, this victory by St. X was their 38th State title in all sports, the most of any high school in the State. St. X was led by a senior class that compiled a record of 40 wins and two losses in their 4 years at the school, including Fred Craig, the Ohio defensive player of the Year, and Danny Milligan, the Ohio co-offensive player of the year, and running back Darius Ashley, who set a division I record by rushing for 271 yards and two touchdowns in the championship game. Just incredible.

Kudos to head coach Steve Specht and the entire coaching staff for their tremendous accomplishments. Congratulations, St. X. And, again, in the interest of full disclosure, our son, Randy, is a senior at St. X and one of their great band field commanders under the leadership of Anthony Palm.

All of these student athletes have learned invaluable lessons about commitment, teamwork and perseverance that will serve each of them well as they prepare for the future. Both on and off the field they have helped further the tradition of excellence at their schools for which all of Cincinnati can be proud. It is an honor for me to congratulate these young men and women on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

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#### OMAHA MALL SHOOTING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a very heavy heart. Yesterday, our Nation witnessed yet another act of gun violence, this time at a mall in Omaha, Nebraska. I know my colleagues from Nebraska are going to be talking about this later.

My hearts go out to them for the people that they represented. Eight people were murdered in the rampage. Five others were wounded, two critical. These victims did nothing wrong to deserve their fate. They were mothers, fathers, sons and daughters. They were just trying to do their shopping, and many of them were working at the mall. But the actions of a crazed gunman changed that in a matter of seconds.

Yesterday's shootings was a terrible tragedy. But unfortunately events like this happen almost every day. Every year we lose over 30,000 people to gun violence. Take a second to think about that. Every year, 30,000 victims. I have been here for 11 years. That is 330,000 people that have been killed because of gun violence while I was in Congress. When you want to put that in perspective, that is the City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Three hundred and thirty thousand victims.

When you think about it, what these families are going to be going through in the months ahead with the holidays coming, the pain they are going to be facing, the community, the pain they are going to be facing, I know a lot about that. Tomorrow is December 7. December 7. It was 14 years ago that we had the Long Island Railroad massacre. On that particular day, six people died, one of them my husband. On that day, 19 people were injured, my son critically. Fourteen years later, he is still suffering from that.

We, as a Nation, have to start looking how are we going to have this dialogue? I have never tried to do anything to take away the right of someone legally to be able to own a gun, and yet because of the way the laws are in this country and the way we do things backhandedly in this country, it is so easy to get guns. If you want to talk about what the health care costs are, it is over \$100 billion a year the health care costs for those that survive these kind of incidents.

Think what we could do with that money. Maybe we could educate our young people and reach out to them a little bit better so they don't go into the world of violence. Maybe they won't join gangs. Maybe a good mental health program for this Nation so those like the gunman wouldn't have fallen through the cracks and gotten the help that he needed.

We, as a Nation, on a daily basis, face inconveniences. Tonight when I fly to go home, I will be getting on a plane. I am going to be going through security, all in the name of security and safety. When you go to get your driver's license, long lines. We do this for security and safety. It is an inconvenience. Getting a passport today is an inconvenience. Can't we serve a little bit of inconvenience and come together to make sure that those that are getting guns have the right to have a gun by passing background checks? Can't we make sure with a little inconvenience that we don't make it so easy for these