

Council's 2000 volunteers throughout 2008 and for years and decades to come.

It is with great respect and gratitude that I commend these dedicated and committed volunteers. I am honored to be able to stand with the Daniel Boone Council in recognizing their hard work and service.

CONGRATULATING CARLOS BOOZER, COREY COGDELL, AND MATT EMMONS ON THEIR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE 2008 SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Carlos Boozer, Corey Cogdell, and Matt Emmons, three Alaskans who recently returned from competing in the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing. These three Alaskans, joined by their fellow athletes from across the country, traveled to Beijing, and represented the United States in an extraordinary manner. The U.S. Olympic team distinguished the United States from other nations by winning 110 medals, the most of any country. Carlos Boozer, Corey Cogdell, and Matt Emmons each won medals, and boldly represented the United States in their specific competitions.

I truly believe that the importance of the contributions of these three talented Alaskan athletes to our country cannot be overstated, which is why it is important that we honor their great accomplishments. For this reason I am introducing the following resolution to honor these three athletes for their accomplishments and representation of our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, due to preparations for and recovery from Hurricane Ike, which impacted my district, I unfortunately missed the following votes on the House floor on Thursday, September 11th and Monday, September 15th.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall Nos. 586, 587, 589, 590, and 591.

HONORING JOSEPH MOORE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph Moore of Blue Springs, Missouri. Connor is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of Amer-

ica, Troop 1332, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joseph has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joseph Moore for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

WELCOMING THE 37TH RYDER CUP TO KENTUCKY

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome athletes, fans, and sponsors of the PGA Tour to the City of Louisville for the 37th Ryder Cup. The competition will take place at the Valhalla Golf Club September 16–21, 2008.

The Ryder Cup matches the 12 best American golf professionals against the best 12 from Europe. The competition will be seen by hundreds of millions of golf enthusiasts throughout the world.

In the spirit of Olympians, athlete participation is grounded in the prestige of representing their country rather than prize money. I would like to make special note of two fellow Kentuckians, Kenny Perry and J.B. Holmes, joining the American team. Their competitive spirit and good sportsmanship will make our state and country proud.

I applaud the PGA of America, the PGA Tour, and First Tee for the charitable contributions they will generate through this event. The Ryder Cup will directly raise over \$780,000 in funds for charity. An additional \$2.6 million will be donated on behalf of the U.S. Ryder Cup captain and team.

It is my great privilege to recognize the athletes, sponsors, and hosts of the 37th Ryder Cup for their collective contributions to charity and international goodwill through this special event.

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS AND INCREASING ADOPTIONS ACT

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, important legislation that improves and strengthens the Federal programs that assist foster care and adoption assistance programs.

Under current law, States are reimbursed by the Federal Government for eligible foster care or adoption assistance programs through Title IV–E of the Social Security Act. Unfortunately, these very same services are not directly reimbursed when provided by an American Indian tribe. This was not a deliberate adoption

policy decision, but instead a drafting error that has meant that some tribes have been left without the Federal resources they need to support services for these priceless children.

My bill would provide parity to Native American children living on tribal land by allowing Indian tribes to have the same direct access to Federal funding for foster care and adoption services that States currently receive via Title IV–E. This legislation improves the Native American child welfare system by requiring tribal adoption and foster care programs to meet the same requirements that are required of States to ensure the safety of children placed in tribal foster care programs, while entrusting the establishment and maintenance of these programs to tribes.

The critical importance of this legislation was driven home to me when I met recently with the Mitzel family from West Fargo, ND. They have served as foster parents for 13 children throughout the years and are now adopted parents for a sibling group of five precious Native American children who were scattered from one another in the foster care system. For their persistent efforts to reunite this sibling group, I nominated the Mitzels this year for the Congressional Coalition on Adoption's Angels in Adoption Award.

I am deeply grateful for the commitment of tribal leaders to make certain that these children were united and raised as a family even though in this particular case it means that these children will be raised off of the reservation. Meeting these children powerfully drove home to me just how important it is that all of our children, including American Indian children receiving services from a tribe, have the same level of support.

This compromise bill with the Senate puts tribal adoption and foster care one step closer to being on equal footing with States and gives tribes the ability to provide their children with the culturally appropriate care they deserve. I am hopeful that this bipartisan legislation will quickly pass the Senate and be signed into law.

I urge my colleagues to support the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act to ensure that all children in foster care get the services, education and healthcare that they need.

RECOGNIZING THE YORK COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR 50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend the York County Economic Development Corporation, YCEDC, for providing economic development leadership to the York community for 50 years.

YCEDC was established in 1958 to attract new industry, promote industrial development, and create new jobs. Since its inception, YCEDC has facilitated funding in excess of \$73 million toward an estimated 150 economic development projects, creating and retaining more than 10,200 jobs throughout York County.

YCEDC has facilitated effective community and business partnerships and has evolved its