

Coach Ladouceur's guidance, the Spartans of De La Salle have recorded a historic 151-game winning streak over a 12 year period and are the inspiration behind the recently released film, "When the Game Stands Tall".

In 1979 at just 24 years of age, Bob Ladouceur was hired as both a religious studies instructor and Head Coach of the De La Salle Varsity Football Team to mold an athletic program in the early stages of development. Coach Ladouceur masterfully shaped an outstanding program and by 1995 he was named the National Football League's first National High School Coach of the Year. In 2001, he was inducted into the National Federation of State High School Associations Hall of Fame and has been named "Coach of the Year" by both ESPN and USA Today.

In addition to the winning streak, the statistics for the De La Salle Spartans are quite simply amazing:

- 399–25–3 overall record
- 20 undefeated seasons, including 12 in a row, resulting in the 151 game winning streak
- 49–7 average margin of victory during the streak
- 28 CIF North Coast Section titles
- No. 1 in national rankings seven times
- A dozen future NFL players began their careers as Spartans.

But the story of De La Salle football is more than touchdowns and field goals. To quote Coach Ladouceur, "I always placed the huge value in our program in how our kids treat each other; what kind of students they are. Are they learning things under our care?" He masterfully developed this outstanding program to guide his students to excellence not just on the field but through life.

Mr. Speaker, I invite this chamber to join with me in recognizing Coach Bob Ladouceur for his tireless service to the students of De La Salle and to congratulate each of the members of the Spartans Football Team for their dedication to the game and to values they have carried with them off the field.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT RECIPIENTS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proudly honor thirteen high school seniors from the Sixth Congressional District of Minnesota who earned the Congressional Certificate of Merit for their exemplary citizenship and academic excellence. The award winners include: Spencer Clark, Andover High School; Kevin Bloch, Immaculate Conception Academy; Brooke Volpone, Monticello High School; Brandon Fabel, Central High School; Carissa Nelson, PACT Charter School; Cole Anderson, Becker High School; Natalia Velenchenko, Buffalo High School; Austin Schmitt, Royalton High School; Grant Tesdahl, Elk River High School; Abbey Halonen, Dassel-Cokato High School; Jiahui Jiao, Delano High School; Gino Fraboni, Princeton High School; and Luke Anderson, Legacy Christian Academy.

These students have made significant contributions to their schools and communities and stand out to faculty as the "cream of the

crop." They have shown they can set and achieve goals, work as team members, be leaders, and volunteer—all while maintaining a proper school work/life balance.

I ask this body join me in congratulating them and wishing them the best in their assuredly bright futures. They are the pride and joy of Minnesota, and I expect they will continue to astound us.

HONORING AMBASSADOR U KYAW
MYO HTUT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF MYANMAR

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Myanmar for its positive developments in political transition and economic affairs.

After decades of isolation, Myanmar started a series of drastic political and economic reforms under President U Thein Sein in 2011 that present a promising opportunity for sustainable development toward democratization, freedom, rule of law and peace—crucial factors for a life of dignity.

President U Thein Sein was welcomed to the White House in May 2013, the first Myanmar leader to visit the United States in 47 years. He updated President Obama on key developments since Obama's visit to Yangon half a year earlier and both leaders praised Myanmar's political and economic progress. A year after U Thein Sein's visit to the U.S. 49 companies were registered in Myanmar, among them GE, Chevron, Coca-Cola and Colgate-Palmolive. In November 2014, President Obama joined regional leaders for the 25th ASEAN summit in Myanmar and met both President U Thein Sein and opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

The Myanmar government is represented in the U.S. by His Excellency U Kyaw Myo Htut, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of the Republic of Myanmar to the United States. Ambassador U Kyaw Myo Htut has been the Myanmar Ambassador to the United States since September 2013. Prior to that he served as Ambassador of Myanmar to the United Kingdom (2011 to 2013) and in this role played a crucial part in the lifting of the European Union's sanctions on Myanmar.

Ambassador U Kyaw Myo Htut aims to promote trade and strengthen bilateral ties with the United States. An essential part of his job is to push for more U.S. investment in Myanmar while addressing human rights issues. In that regard, he works towards re-allowing the Generalized System of Preference (GSP) for trade with Myanmar, which Congress stopped extending in July 2013.

In his role as Ambassador, U Kyaw Myo Htut also serves as an economic facilitator and regularly advises U.S. investors and companies wishing to enter the Myanmar market. U Kyaw Myo Htut takes a strong stand toward the improvement of human rights in Myanmar and shows continuous efforts to encourage the United States to acknowledge ongoing reforms.

Since 2011, the Myanmar government has strongly welcomed private and foreign investment. The Myanmar government revised sev-

eral outdated laws, granted licenses for airport construction and telecommunication projects and began to rebuild its infrastructure in a bid to attract foreign capital. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) estimates that the current growth rate of 6.5% could triple per capita income by 2030 on the grounds that Myanmar will overcome the challenges ahead. These figures are supported by the McKinsey Global Institute, which estimates that Myanmar's economy will quadruple by 2030 to over USD 200 billion.

Being a resource-rich country with a single market of 60 million people and a developed private sector and middle class, Myanmar's economy suffers from an outdated financial system and banking sector. In 1990 the Central Bank Law reestablished the country's own Central Bank. Although new commercial banks were established, Myanmar was affected by Western sanctions. Due to these sanctions, the banking system could not be connected to the rest of the world at that time.

In 2013, President U Thein Sein signed a new Central Bank Act giving the Central Bank more independence while local banks expanded their branches and services rapidly. The opening up of the financial sector was further strengthened by the country's decision in September to grant a provisional banking license to nine institutions, providing them with the authorization to deal with foreign companies, local banks and—in cooperation with a local institution—with Burmese companies. Among the nine banks that have been selected from a total of 25 applications are the three major Japanese houses: Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking and Mizuho Bank. Singapore is also well represented with the OCBC and UOB. Further banks taken into account are Australia and New Zealand Banking (ANZ), Malaysia's Maybank, the Bangkok Bank and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC). American banks did not participate in the application process.

The Myanmar government hopes that the admission of international financial institutions will provide an important impetus to the expansion of direct investment, as the nine selected institutions represent the major investor countries. This is important considering the many challenges faced by the banking sector. The country is still struggling to recover from the 2003 banking crisis, which had a lasting impact on the now mainly cash-based economy. It will require a strong regulatory framework, updated information technology infrastructure and skilled personnel to be ready for the challenges ahead.

Much more could be said about the work of Nobel Peace winner Aung San Suu Kyi, about President U Thein Sein's policy of openness, and about the country's positive developments in regard to religious freedom, healthcare and education. However, the policy of openness is not irreversible and the international community must do all it can to ensure that Myanmar's course is set right for sustainable development. It is essential that stability is achieved through economic and social prospects for all people, and I commend all who are working towards this goal.