

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. RICK
HOFFENBERG AND THE MARY-
WOOD CAMPUS CHOIR

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Marywood Campus Choir under the direction of Dr. Rick Hoffenberg. The choir filled the rotunda on Marywood University's campus on May 2–3 2015 for a program entitled "Almost A Cappella." The performance was unique in that it featured musical accompaniment for the first time in the four years that the University has been giving choral concerts inside the rotunda.

The concert opened with Richard Rodney Bennett's "A Farewell to Arms" with the Campus Choir singing to cello accompaniment, beginning with a cello solo elegy performed by Mrs. Christiane Appenheimer-Vaida. This memorable piece was followed by Henryk Gorecki's "Lobgesang" featuring the glockenspiel performed by Christopher Morrison.

Next on the program were two selections by Stephen Chatman, "Alas, that Spring should vanish with the rose" and "Thou whose harmony is the Music of the Spheres." The former featured the florid accompaniment of a clarinet performed by Ms. Katie Morell who did ascending scales and trills as part of the flowery duet with the choir. The latter featured accompaniment by oboe performed by Mr. Thomas Heinze, and here the musical embellishment was melancholy and blended with the wistful sounds of the choir.

The Chatman selections were followed by Stephen Paulus' "Meditations of Li Po." The piece concluded with a draining of the voices to the sound of hand bells performed by Ms. Mary Ann Rutkowski. The concert concluded with two selections of Giovanni Gabrieli, his "O Quam Suavis" and his "Angelus Domini Descendit," to the accompaniment of oboe courtesy of Thomas Heinze, clarinet courtesy of Katie Morell, bassoon courtesy of Alyssa Speicher, and horn courtesy of Sarah Schouten. These selections were caught in the jaws of articulation between the Renaissance and Baroque periods of music and sounded a bit like music from both time periods.

It is an honor to recognize Dr. Rick Hoffenberg and the Marywood Campus Choir for their excellent performance. May they continue to contribute to the cultural value of Marywood University and its surrounding community in greater Scranton, Pennsylvania.

ESSAY BY SAKU GOPINATH

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds

a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Saku Gopinath attends Seven Lakes High School in Katy, Texas. In your opinion, what makes the political process in Congress so challenging?

Anyone can see that Congress as it operates today is largely ineffective, failing to represent its constituents, and the numbers support this opinion. As a Gallup poll stated, the approval rating for Congress was at an all time low during the 2013–2014 period at 14.5%, indicating the lack of faith the American people have developed in it. In my opinion, it is the attitude towards politics that makes the political process in Congress so challenging—an attitude that sacrifices democratic values to pursue victory above all else.

The political process of Congress is essentially the rules, procedures, and practices by which the majority organizes the institution to achieve its goals of policymaking and resource allocation; this process creates a power struggle, five different struggles to be exact, but each is necessary for Congress to function per its design. Of the struggles between the President and Congress, the House and the Senate, the political parties, the elected majority party leaders and majority party committee chairmen, and the individual members to get the most for their districts and states from the Federal government and thereby ensure their reelection, I will focus on that between the political parties. A clash of contrasting ideals is an old story in America, its origins dating back all the way to America's creation with the opposition between the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists with differing ideas of the scope and purpose of the new government. At that time, however, the parties chose to compromise, and incorporated principles from each belief to create stronger policies. The fact is that the rivalry between these two broad philosophies often proved highly productive, and this cooperation was able to take place because they shared a commitment to democracy.

The competition between opposing views has begun to degenerate into something toxic, however, creating an environment in which politics is treated as war, and compromise is seen as a weakness. While it is unclear what the exact cause of this problem is, its symptom is clear: ineffectiveness. Evidence of this is provided by the 234 bills passed by the 113th Congress, the lowest recorded total in congressional history. It is obvious that the fervor to win too often trumps everything else—including respect for opponents, the integrity of institutions, and even the health of the democracy itself. A clear example of the detrimental effect this attitude is having on the political process of Congress is the 16 days the government was shut down in October of 2013 due to Congress's inability to compromise. The time has come to remedy this problem, and for politicians to adopt a new attitude—or rather, return to an old state of mind.

The only way to simplify the political process of Congress is to create a renewed sense of commitment to democracy—above party interests and ideology, or economic interests. It is only in the context of such a shared commitment that differences in opinions and beliefs can be fruitful and benefit the American people.

CONGRATULATING NETHALINE
HOPE NOTHNAGEL ON HER 90TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nethaline Hope Nothnagel, of Willard, Missouri, on her 90th birthday. Hope, as she's known by loved ones, has led a truly remarkable and full life over the course of her 90 years.

Starting in her home state of Minnesota, she has lived in states far and wide, ranging from Alaska to North Carolina due to the military career of her husband Ervin—to whom she has been married for more than 50 years. Hope has 6 children: Ervin, Monica, Nelda, Joe, Jim and Norm. She additionally has 7 grandchildren: Renee, Eric, Perrin, Adam, Matt, Sam and Katie. Finally, Hope has 9 great-grandchildren: Cassie, Cruize, Kelsey, Kylie, Brooks, Owen, Davis, Gavin and Everrett.

Even with a family this large, Hope was not content to merely serve as a matriarch. She worked various jobs during her life, ranging from executive secretary, to managing libraries and bookstores to serving as a professional seamstress for many years. Currently, Hope keeps occupied through her passion for reading and love of the outdoors. She often feeds and observes the wildlife on her 18 acre farm, and still shows off her green thumb with her love of gardening.

Mr. Speaker, Nethaline Hope Nothnagel has lived an accomplished life and raised a wonderful family. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Hope for reaching this tremendous milestone and living her life as a role-model for the younger generations in her family.

CONGRATULATING TORI MCCOY

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tori McCoy on being selected as a member of the 2016 McDonald's All American Basketball Team.

Since 1978, the McDonald's All American Basketball Games have helped raise more than \$11 million for Ronald McDonald House Charities. Tori will join athletes like Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan, and Shaquille O'Neal in this distinguished honor.

She was selected from more than 750 nominees to represent some of the best high school basketball talent in the country. Born and raised in Champaign, Tori is a senior who currently plays as a forward for the St. Thomas More Sabers. She first earned the attention of many college recruiters two years ago when she helped the Sabers win a state title as a sophomore. Since then, she has been considered a top prospect for many basketball programs across the country, but will join the Ohio State Buckeyes after graduation.

The first Girls Game for the McDonald's All American Basketball Games was held in 2002,