

without the great contributions from Greece. I will continue to work in Congress to support Hellenic causes and our strong and important alliance. I would like to join my colleagues in congratulating Greece on the anniversary of its independence.

TRIBUTE TO WEST VIRGINIA
UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, a collective groan could be heard across the state of West Virginia in the waning hours of Thursday, March 23, 2006, as a last-second shot by the Texas Longhorns closed the doors on West Virginia University's impressive NCAA tournament run.

But while our Mountaineers might have lost the game, it remains a "sweet ending" for our heroes of the hard-court who, for the second year in a row, have our state swelling with pride.

It is the first time West Virginia has won two games in consecutive NAAs since superstar Jerry West, whose silhouette graces the NBA's logo, led it to the title game in 1959 and a regional semifinal the next year.

Forward Mike Gansey, one of five seniors on the team, said about the distinction, "I just hope we end up being one of the great and most popular teams in West Virginia history like they were."

I think it's pretty safe to say Mr. Gansey and the rest of the team's departing stars will get their wish.

It will be a long time before any of us forget the hustle and heart of Gansey, the improbable three-point stroke of Martinsburg native Kevin Pittsnogle, the leadership and selfless play of J.D. Collins, the accomplishments on and off the court of Academic All-American Joe Herber, the sweet shot of Patrick Beilein.

And we will always remember how all of these young men came together to achieve more than anyone expected, and how through sheer determination, teamwork and a ton of heart they became role models not just for a state, but for an entire nation.

We will miss these five fine men on the basketball court, but will continue to follow the accomplishments of these unofficial West Virginia ambassadors as they are certain to go on to great things.

Behind them, they leave big shoes to fill, but they also leave their legacy, a legacy that will be carried on by their teammates and by many in the years to come.

HONORING EDWARD AND MERLE
FORD

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward and Merle Ford on their 50th wedding anniversary. Edward and Merle celebrated this wonderful milestone on February 28, 2006 after having spent half a century in

love and with the shared experiences of family life.

Edward Lee Ford was born on July 31, 1929 in Hemingway, South Carolina. He relocated to Pennsylvania to attend Pine Forge Academy. Prior to graduating from Pine Forge, Edward and his twin brother, Jesse, were drafted into the Army where they served as medics. During his time at Pine Forge and while in Germany, Edward diligently wrote to Merle Elizabeth Cheatham. Merle was born on January 1, 1934 in Baltimore, Maryland, and like Edward, attended Pine Forge Academy. During the early days of their romance, letter-writing kept their love alive.

On October 23, 1955, Merle Elizabeth Cheatham and Edward Lee Ford were wed at the chapel on the grounds of Pine Forge Academy. The Fords have four children; Rhonda, Terry, Dwayne, and Lisa; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Merle and Edward have likewise kept their connection to Pine Forge Academy strong. Merle worked as the Registrar, Secretary to the Principal, and Typing Teacher at the Academy, while Edward designed and built Kimbrough Hall, several of the log cabins, and renovated North Hall into the Music Conservatory. Edward even served as the first president of the Pine Forge National Alumni Association. In 1995, Edward, along with his brother Jesse, received the honor of being alumni of the year. In addition to their dedication to each other and the Academy, the Fords are pillars in their church where they serve as Head Deacon/Deaconess at the Walnut Street Community Seventh-day Adventist Church in Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Edward and Merle Ford on their fifty golden years of love and dedication to each other. I hope they will continue to live in the house Edward built for Merle and that they are blessed with continued joy, health, and love.

TEN CONSTITUENTS KILLED IN AN
ACCIDENT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness in my heart. On Wednesday, March 22, 2006, ten of my constituents were killed in an accident that has left a tight knit community in New Jersey full of grief, and reflecting on fond memories of those who have departed.

Today my prayers are with those our community has lost: Marvin Bier and Shirley Bier, Hans Wilhelm O. Eggers and Maria Eggers, Arthur Kovar and Frieda Kovar, Robert Rubin and Barbara Rubin, Marion Diamond, and Carole E. Ruchelman. Each of these people embraced life and we will miss them greatly.

In the wonderful years of retirement, these residents of the Ponds, in Monroe Township, New Jersey, sought out new parts of the world. Last week, they were on a cruise that took them to Chile, where they opted to take a bus to explore an enticing part of that country. In a horrible accident, the bus rolled off an embankment.

In addition to those killed, we must also pray for Bernard Diamond and Harold

Ruchelman, who survived the terrible crash that took the lives of their wives. These two men will need the support of our community. We must give them our love and help them deal with the seemingly insurmountable sorrow they must feel.

My prayers are also with the family members, relatives, and neighbors of those affected by this accident. This week has reminded us of the preciousness of each moment, and how many of the unexpected events that change our lives remain out of our control. It reinforces the need to remain humble in the eyes of God and to take each day and live it as if a gift from God. This was the spirit in which each of these ten New Jersey residents traveled with B'nai B'rith on their South American cruise. They left the safety and comfort of the Ponds to explore a new part of the world. They are now on their final journey and safe in God's hands.

Today is a day for reflection and for contemplation. While we have pain and grief today, tomorrow we must work to find internal peace with the events of last week. As Psalm 23 reminds us, "surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." It is not easy today, and it will not be easy tomorrow, but we need to embrace the grace that exists and make the most of our lives, building upon the memory of those we have lost. As Moses reminds us in Deuteronomy, "be strong and of good courage. Fear not, for God will go with you. He will not fail you. He will not forsake you."

ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEDICATION OF THE KAVLI INSTITUTE FOR PARTICLE ASTROPHYSICS AND COSMOLOGY AT THE STANFORD LINEAR ACCELERATOR CENTER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mrs. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Stanford University and Stanford Linear Accelerator on the dedication of the Kavli Institute for Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology on March 17, 2006. The institute is dedicated to advancing the understanding of the cosmos in its search for "dark matter" and "dark energy," which compose an estimated 96 percent of the universe.

This was all made possible by Fred Kavli, a world renowned physicist, through his extraordinary generosity and vision.

The following are his inspirational remarks at the dedication of the institute which bears his name.

It is a special pleasure to be here today for the dedication of this beautiful building in the service of science.

First I want to remember and pay tribute to Leland Stanford and his wife, Jane, who laid the physical and spiritual foundation for this great university, and who in their foresight provided the ample land on which this building stands today.

We owe our gratitude to the many people who have been instrumental in making the Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and Cosmology and the building come about, and give special recognition to President Hennessy, Provost Etchemendy, and the Department of Energy, represented by Robin