



Congressional Record

Proceedings and Debates of the 112th Congress, First Session

WASHINGTON, D.C.

U.S. House of Representatives

Statement by Representative Gerald E. Connolly
To Congratulate the West Springfield High School Dance Team

The Hon. Gerald E. Connolly

MR. CONNOLLY: Mister Speaker, I rise today to recognize the West Springfield Dance Team for their incredible run on the nationally televised show, *"America's Got Talent"*. The West Springfield Dance Team progressed to the semi-finals with their professional grade choreography, distinct style, and superb dancing talents.

Under the tutelage of their coaches, renowned choreographers Tara Perez and Jason King, and with the full support of West Springfield High School community, including principal Mark Greenfelder and Director of Student Activities Andy Muir, the West Springfield Dance Team has received numerous awards and recognitions including back-to-back Championship titles from the National Dance Alliance, including the "Innovative Choreography" and "Best in Category" awards. West Springfield Dance Team has distinguished itself as the dominant team in local and national competitive dance, and it is now a national celebrity for its run on *"America's Got Talent"* and a recent appearance on *"The View"* Halloween episode.

Their eye-popping performances were a delight to watch, and these young people served as tremendous ambassadors not only on behalf of their dance team, but also their school, their families and our community. They and their families should be proud of these accomplishments. I know we are, and I want to congratulate the following members of the West Springfield Dance Team for their many successes in the area of competitive dance, their achievements on

"America's Got Talent" and recent appearance on *"The View"*:

WS Dance Team 2010 – 2011 (performed on *"America's Got Talent"*): Chelsea Kopf and Julian Asuncion

WS Dance Team 2010 – 2011 and 2011-2012 (performed on *"America's Got Talent"*, and *"The View"*): Emily Barnes, Dori Shapiro, Katie Lee, Riley O'Rourke, Nicole Mobley, Breezy Thompson, Sarah Thompson, Kristen Toler, Natalie Wawrzeniak, Jordan Penrod, Hannah Ernst, Jordan Dey, Nicky Ditnoy, and May Ditnoy

WS Dance Team 2011-2012 (performed on *"The View"*): Ellen Abood, Madeline Diez, Victoria Diez, Brianna Burns, Lauren Rader, Danny Lora, and Collin Hensley

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the West Springfield Dance Team on their many accomplishments and awards and for making it into the semi-finals of *"America's Got Talent."* I thank coaches Tara Perez and Jason King, Principal Mark Greenfelder, Director of Student Activities Andy Muir, and the entire West Springfield High School community for their robust support of these exceptional students.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Gerald E. Connolly".