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Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the St. Elizabeth High School Softball & Baseball Programs on being inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.

St. Elizabeth High School fielded its first softball and baseball programs in 1951. Since 1991, they have combined to reach 15 Final Fours, including winning seven state championships, and each has had 38 All-State selections. St. Elizabeth's softball program has won four state titles (1992, 1994, 2002, 2011), finished as a runner-up in 1993 and 1997, and was fourth in 1991. St. Elizabeth's baseball program has captured three state championships (1995, 1997, 2019) and was runner-up in 2018. The Hornets also placed third in 1996 while their 1984, 2010 and 2011 teams each placed fourth in the state.

As a native of St. Elizabeth this honor is especially personal for me. I graduated from St. Elizabeth but more importantly, my wife Jackie and I have watched generations of kids grow into young adults and go on to become exceptional members of our community and communities around Missouri. Both of our daughters played on the softball team and our son played on the baseball team where they and their teammates learned invaluable life lessons about hard work, commitment, and teamwork.

Thanks to the coaches, teachers, and administrators we have been lucky enough to have over the years, our little town has experienced success well beyond the ball field. This honor is certainly a testament to all of the kids who worked so hard to achieve athletic success but also to the parents and a community that supports one another and always prioritized our future generations.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the St. Elizabeth High School Softball & Baseball Programs on multiple extraordinary seasons and their much-deserved Hall of Fame induction.

Blaine Luetkemeyer

Member of Congress