

their part to support our veterans and their families.

#### TRIBUTE TO COACH FITZGERALD

Mr. DURBIN. I rise today to recognize Northwestern University head football coach Patrick Fitzgerald for his leadership and service to the community. Patrick "Coach Fitz" Fitzgerald, a lifelong Illinoisan, has enjoyed a long and distinguished relationship with Northwestern University.

He completed his undergraduate studies and played football at Northwestern, where he racked up several worthy achievements. A two-time first-team All-American, he won the Nagurski and Bednarik Awards twice, was named Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year and Linebacker of the Year, and received the George Ballentine, Jr., Memorial Leadership Award.

As Northwestern University's head football coach, Pat Fitzgerald has amassed an impressive record, leading the Wildcats to four consecutive postseason games and 5 consecutive years of eligibility for postseason games. And his leadership isn't confined to the football field. His commitment to academic achievement among Northwestern's football scholar-athletes has led to many being named Academic All-Big Ten students and the school's ranking among the Nation's leaders in annual graduation rates.

Coach Fitzgerald has been recognized for his work ethic, integrity, and positive attitude. He was designated one of college football's top recruiters and serves on the Ethics Committee of the American Football Coaches Association and USA Football's Tackle Advisory Committee.

Pat and his wife Stacy are active at Northwestern University and in the Chicago community, participating in many charitable activities, toy collection drives, and school health and wellness programs.

I congratulate Coach Pat Fitzgerald on the many successes of the Wildcats' football program and thank him for his service to one of our finest schools and the broader Chicago community.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE WHITAKER FAMILY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a family who has chosen to live and work in the small town of Cromona, KY, which they have come to love over the years. The Whitaker family has successfully owned and operated Superior Printing and Publishing Company, Inc. since 1958. Three generations of Whitakers have been involved in the proceedings of the company, with a fourth learning the family trade as they grow.

Superior Printing was started as a local printing operation by Charles and Bobbie Whitaker. They began the business in a remote part of Letcher County, KY, in a town called Cromona. The small town now has a population of 665

people, but the success of Superior Printing has far surpassed the boundaries of little Cromona. The company has become one of the most popular printing firms in the tristate area, offering business in Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia.

You may be asking yourself, how does a company in such a small town become so successful? Charles's son, Mike Whitaker, president of Superior Printing, thinks it is due to their customer service. He has said that the only difference between Superior and the larger firms in metropolitan areas is the family atmosphere that Superior provides. Superior employees have love and pride for their hometown and home State, and they don't try to hide it.

Superior provides services that promote the local economy and the entities within the local economy alike. They offer professional color printing that has been known to help all of the local schools in the area with various things like sports programs and bulletins. They also are a big distributor of print for local fundraisers and fundraising groups. The Whitakers have also recently just began printing hardback books—something that isn't common in most local printing firms. Mike believes that the new hardback binding will help local authors be able to easily print and publish their books. With some of the amazing artistic talent I have seen come out of the Bluegrass State, I am anxious to see some of the works by Kentucky's own authors that will come from this new way to print and publish.

Not only does the Whitaker family run a successful printing and publishing business, but they keep busy with providing Letcher County with the news in their own paper, the News-Press. The Whitaker family is devoted to keeping the locals of Letcher County informed about what is going on in the county, State, and country, further proving that the Whitakers are truly focused on bettering themselves and those around them.

Charles and his wife Bobbie are the proud parents of Mike, who has two sons, Paul and Nick. Paul is a U.S. Army veteran who has completed two tours of Active Duty in Iraq, while Nick has just recently graduated from Eastern Kentucky University. Both Paul and Nick are planning on staying in Letcher County so that they can be close to their family and local community.

Whether it be creating a business that provides a convenient and professional service to the local community, making a conscience effort to support the local economy with their services, informing the citizens of Letcher County on the news, or helping many undiscovered Kentucky authors and artists get the exposure they deserve, the Whitaker family of Cromona, KY, have made a contribution to their State that will not go unnoticed. I am inspired to see an entire family give in so many ways to their local community.

Mr. President, I would like to ask at this time for my colleagues in the Senate to join me in recognizing the Whitaker family of Cromona, KY. There was recently an article published in Eastern Kentucky's local periodical magazine, the Sentinel-Echo: Silver Edition, highlighting the hard work of the Whitaker family. I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Sentinel-Echo: Silver Edition,  
Nov. 2011]

#### SUPERIOR PRINTING: FAMILY PRIDE IN EACH AND EVERY JOB

As you wind along State Route 805 in northern Letcher County, you may not think there's much going on. But Cromona, Kentucky (population 665), is home to one of the finest print shops in the tri-state. Established in 1958 by Charles and Bobbie Whitaker, Superior Printing and Publishing Company, Inc. is a thriving, family-owned business with three generations of Whitakers working and a fourth generation expected to "watch and learn."

Charles and Bobbie Whitaker's older son, Mike, is the president of the company and currently sees to its day-to-day operations. The company offers all the expected print shop products and services like business forms, letterheads and envelopes, but what is surprising is that it also houses the region's only four-color, sheet-fed press capable of printing up to a 19-by-26 sheet.

"The installation of the press in 2008 has increased our production capabilities as well as the quality of products that we can offer," said Mike Whitaker. "Local firms no longer have to rely upon faraway print houses for their color-printing needs. We're very competitive with the big, out-of-town firms so we can save our customers time and money. Most of our customers really appreciate the convenience of having us close by, and they understand how important it is to keep business here at home when they can."

Mike explained how their press and booklet maker, which automatically collates, folds, staples, and trims books and magazines, has boosted the company's production of programs local schools use as fundraisers. "Last fall we produced football programs for 16 different schools in Kentucky and Virginia. Our jobs range from full-color brochures and rack cards for the tourism industry to flyers, multi-page newsletters, magazines and books. In fact, more than 500 businesses throughout the region have turned to us for their printing needs."

Since the press purchase, the Whitakers have added hardback book-binding capabilities to the business. "This is new to us, and we are just getting started producing hardback books in small and large quantities," Mike said. He is especially proud of a leather-bound project utilizing the new hardback book-binding equipment. "With the growing number of local authors, we are excited to offer both soft- and hardback book bindings to our customers."

In addition to commercial printing, the Whitakers own and operate the News-Press, a newspaper based in Letcher County. The conservative-based newspaper has promoted the coal industry, faith and family for over 50 years.

Offering quality products at competitive prices is the mark of any successful business, and Superior Printing is no exception. "Perhaps the only difference between our firm and one from a metropolitan area is the