

draft several bills and amendments, including the omnibus rewrite of the Magnuson bill as well as innumerable floor statements, memos and letters.

Another key aspect for any staff in my office is to provide courteous and helpful constituent service. Steve demonstrates an amazing ability to be sensitive yet fair to all parties involved in an issue. I believe that most of my constituents—fishermen, coastal residents, environmental activists and others—who he has served would agree that he is always extremely helpful and treats everyone equally and with respect.

As he leaves to continue his duty with the Coast Guard, I join the members of my staff and everyone who has had the pleasure to work with Steve Metruck during his time in the United States Senate in wishing him well in his service. I know Steve will continue to honor his uniform, his country, and his family with the decency, intelligence, and integrity he brought to his service on my staff. He is to be commended for his deep and abiding belief that we must do everything we can to responsibly protect and preserve the environment. Good luck, Lieutenant Commander Stephen P. Metruck, and thank you for a job well done.●

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA FLYING TEAM

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to the men and women of the University of North Dakota Flying Team, who recently captured their third consecutive national championship at the National Intercollegiate Flying Association's 48th annual Safety and Flight Evaluation Conference in Daytona Beach, FL.

The championship places an emphasis on safety, and is comprised of nine different events that test a variety of aviation skills, both on the ground and in the air. In addition to scoring an overall win, UND was first in combined scoring for the five ground events, and second in the Judges Trophy, which is awarded on the basis of a team's overall depth.

A national championship is clearly a tremendous accomplishment, and I commend each and every member of the team. Although a significant achievement, I want my colleagues to know that this is only the most recent triumph for what has been without question the most successful NIFA team in the country. This year's national championship is the UND Flying Team's tenth in the last twelve years, and the fifth for retiring team coach John Bridewell.

This victory was a team effort from start to finish, but several individuals deserve special recognition. Mike Smieja placed first in Aircraft Recognition, the fourth time he has won that event at the national tournament. Larry Freer was another repeat winner, taking first place in Simulated

Comprehensive Aircraft Navigation (SCAN) for the second consecutive year. Freer also placed seventh in Simulator Flying. Robert Shaw captured second place in Computer Accuracy, and Susan Bailey took home second place in the message drop, in her very first competition.

This victory and the women and men who made it possible are a credit to the university and UND's Center for Aerospace Sciences, an internationally recognized center for aerospace learning. I am proud of every member of the team, and offer special congratulations to coach Bridewell, who is ending his distinguished tenure with yet another championship. Every member of the team and coaching staff deserve recognition, and I am pleased to submit a complete list for the RECORD.

The list follows:

1996 UND FLYING TEAM

Team Members: Bill Bailey (senior, Rogers, MN), Susan Bailey (sophomore, Sutton, ND), Shannon Bengeyfield (sophomore, Dillon, MT), Chris Farmer (co-captain, senior, Bluefield, WV), Larry Freer (junior, West Palm Beach, FL), Mike Galante (co-captain, senior, Champlin, MN), Brian Jackson (junior, Sioux Falls, SD), Joshua Kendrick (senior, Lino Lakes, MN), Aleah Longshore (sophomore, Settler, Alberta, Canada), Robert Shaw (senior, Naperville, IL), Mike Smieja (senior, Wells, MN), Juliana Stops (sophomore, Buffalo Grove, IL), and Chris VanGinkel (senior, Maurice, IA).

Coach: John Bridewell.

Assistant Coaches: Drew Avery, Spencer Henderson, Jim Higgins, Mark Johnson, and Al Skramstad.

Mr. BOND addressed the Chair.

The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

(The remarks of Mr. BOND pertaining to the introduction of S. 1816 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. MURKOWSKI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska is recognized.

ARTS, LETTERS, AND POLITICS

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I thank the Chair. An interesting fund-raising letter came to my attention. It was written by actress Priscilla Presley, Elvis Presley's former wife.

Accompanying the letter was another from actor, Robert Redford.

These letters are promoting a special evening of "Arts, Letters and Politics" in Beverly Hills benefiting a group called "Americans for a Safe Future."

During this special star-studded evening, there will be a lavish reception, followed by a "program of celebrity prose and poetry readings" by movie stars Ed Harris and Amy Madigan. The Master of Ceremonies will be Ed Begley, Jr.

Other names on the letterhead include such Hollywood luminaries as rock star Don Henley and TV producers Gayle Hurd and Gary Goldberg.

For as little as \$250 or as much as \$5000, one can attend this glittering

fund raising event at the beautiful Chateau Marmont in Beverly Hills.

The letter goes on to note that proceeds from this fund raising event will benefit Americans for a Safe Future and "its continuing efforts to protect our environment, our children, and our future from radioactive contamination."

Well, Mr. President, I want to protect our environment, our children, and our future from radioactive contamination.

We all do.

But I will not be making a contribution to this group.

I will not be sending a check.

I will not be going to Beverly Hills to listen as movie stars read poetry.

Because this group is on the wrong side of the environment, Mr. President.

They are actually opposing what they claim to uphold.

While these movie stars claim to be protecting our children from radioactive contamination, their efforts are inadvertently exposing our children to radioactive contamination.

I am not suggesting that these movie stars want to do this because of a lack of intention.

I am sure they are well meaning. I am certain they think they are doing the right thing.

But they are misinformed, and they are harming those they really want to protect.

"Americans for a Safe Future" claim they are protecting the Colorado River from the low-level radioactive waste facility planned for Ward Valley in the Mojave Desert.

If the Ward Valley site is built, they say radioactivity from Ward Valley will leak into the Colorado River.

Robert Redford says so.

Ed Begley, Jr. says so.

Priscilla Presley says so.

Don Henley says so.

That is all some people need to hear to reach for their checkbooks and take up the cause.

Sadly, some are content to get information about radioactive waste and desert hydrology from rock singers and movie stars, even if prominent and distinguished scientists say otherwise.

I want to refer to this chart, because it speaks for itself. There are the Hollywood movie stars, and here are the scientists who risk their reputation in saying that Ward Valley is unlikely to leak radioactivity into the Colorado River. Where are you going to put this waste? Nobody wants it. California has met the Federal laws that we set up to allow them to do it. This is the site the National Academy of Sciences has recommended, and here we are listening to movie stars raising money that it will not be there, but they do not propose to put it anywhere.

Mr. President, I believe we ought to listen to geologists and hydrologists when the subject is radioactive waste and desert hydrology, and we ought to listen to movie stars when the subject is, well, movies.

Sadly, the activism of movie stars has temporarily eclipsed the findings of scientists.