

home state. What is unusual in this case is that a Drill Team, Color Guard, JROTC unit from such a remote community won the national championship.

You see, Bethel is a moderate-sized town by Alaska standards, but small by anyone else's definition. Located along the Kuskokwim River in Southwest Alaska—roughly 400 miles west of Alaska's largest town, Anchorage—the community has a current population of 5,471. The Bethel Regional High School contains 250 students, smaller than some classes in many high schools. The school draws mainly Yupik Eskimo students from dozens of smaller villages such as Akiachak, Akiak, Tuluksak, Napakiak, Kasigluk and Tantutuliak to name just a few. The majority of the team, 11 of 13 members, are Alaska Natives.

It is truly heart warming to see students from a small Alaska town do so well in the national competition. At Daytona, the Bethel team competed against more than 70 schools from across the nation, as well as against Department of Defense schools from Japan to Puerto Rico.

Practicing drill formations in Alaska's "Bush" is a bit more difficult than in Southern California or Florida. Teams need to practice indoors, a lot, since the average January temperature is 6 degrees Fahrenheit. It also is a tad dark in winter, Bethel getting only about five and one-half hours of daylight a day in winter.

But more challenging practice conditions didn't stop the students from Bethel Regional from competing and winning in the national competition. Let me mention the members of the Unarmed Regulation Inspection Drill Team that finished first in their competition: Curtis Neck, Michael Carroll, Wallen Orlun, James Miles, Christina Smith, Paul Anvil, Justin Lefner, Mark Charlie, Kimberly Cooper, Jocelyn Tikiun, Jason Noatak, Michael Glore and Lisa Typpo. The team was led by Commander Dexter Kairaiuak.

I'd like to also name the members of the Color Guard that finished in fourth place in its individual competition: Nation Colors, Commander Curtis Neck, State Colors Dexter Kairaiuak, Nation Guard Michael Carroll and State Guard Wallen Orlun.

The Unarmed Regulation Drill Team, containing the same members as the championship inspection team, also competed and took 12th place in its competition. The 10-member Unarmed Exhibition Drill Team took third place in the national competition. It included: Commander Curtis Neck, Michael Carroll, Wallen Orlun, Dexter Kairaiuak, Christina Smith, Lisa Typpo, Justin Lefner, Mark Charlies, Kimberly Cooper and Jocelyn Tikiun.

I also want to publicly thank Army Instructor MSG (Retired) Barbara W. Wright, who was the Army Instructor and Coach of the team this year. She did a wonderful job training her students and helping them to their cham-

pionship and deserves the thanks not just of the students and their parents, but of all Alaskans for her dedication and commitment. I also want to thank the chaperones who accompanied the students to the competition: Major (RET) Carl D. Bailey, assistance coach; Mr. Scott Hoffman and Mrs. Donna K. Dennis.

To be national champions at any endeavor requires long hours of practice and sacrifice. It requires dedication and true commitment. I know all members of the U.S. Senate will join me in honoring these students and their faculty advisors for a job very well done. All Alaskans—all Americans—honor you today for your hard work and your accomplishments.●

#### RETIREMENT OF DR. JAMES LARE, OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, On the occasion of his retirement, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the outstanding accomplishments of Dr. James Lare during his tenure as a professor at Occidental College.

Dr. Lare's commitment to Occidental College goes back more than 50 years, when he was an undergraduate student at the college. In 1962, he became a faculty member and has now served the college for 40 years. Many of Dr. Lare's colleagues can attest to his extraordinary years of service and contributions to the college and its students.

An expert in American government, European comparative politics, public administration, urban politics and public policy, Dr. Lare has served as a mentor and inspiration to his students, many of whom have flourished on Capitol Hill and in local government. His work on many different projects and on many different committees has strengthened the school and has touched the lives of his colleagues and students.

In addition to his professional career, Dr. Lare is a model community leader. He is a member of many diverse organizations, including CORO Associates, the Public Affairs Internship Support Group; the Sierra Club; the Los Angeles World Affairs Council and he serves as Treasurer of the California Center for Education in Public Affairs, Inc. Dr. Lare also served our Nation in the United States Army Reserve.

Mr. President, it is clear that Dr. Lare has been an outstanding teacher and is an exceptional citizen who has enhanced the lives of those privileged to cross his path. I extend my very best wishes to him as he begins his much deserved retirement.●

#### HONORING ANNA MICHELLE MILES

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a truly exceptional member of the Kentucky nursing community. Mrs. Anna Michelle Miles (Missy) of Covington, Kentucky was recently nominated for the Florence Nightingale Award by two of her supe-

riors for her selfless devotion to her co-workers, community, and patients.

The Florence Nightingale Award, presented by the University of Cincinnati Medical Center, honors excellence in the delivery of direct patient care. During her lifetime, Florence Nightingale reformed and basically created the modern profession of nursing, establishing an educational system where women could properly learn about medicine and patient care. During the Crimean War, she bravely and selflessly volunteered her services for the front line. Her request was granted and along with 38 nurses, she was able to greatly reduce the mortality rate among the sick and wounded. Her combination of medicinal knowledge and compassion is what this award is founded upon.

Nurse Miles and the seven other nominees for this year's award represent the best of what nursing has to offer. They place patient care as their top priority and always know how to cheer a patient up by making them smile or just simply listening to them. They may not always have a physical cure for a patient's particular condition, but they will continually work to ensure that each and every patient is cared for in a loving and compassionate manner.

In terms of what Nurse Miles has done for her patients and fellow co-workers, I do not believe any award or statement could properly honor her. While a nurse at St. Elizabeth Medical North in Covington, KY, Nurse Miles has been an invaluable and irreplaceable resource. She helped start the Sunshine Fund in the ER in an effort to bring about a positive and warm atmosphere for doctors, nurses, families, and patients. She regularly volunteers to cover other floors when they are low on staffing and picks up extra shifts whenever she has the opportunity. As a social worker once wrote about Nurse Miles, "My personal feeling is that Missy treats all her patients with dignity and respect. She is a true nurse in all the roles she fulfills." She has also been very active in aiding those less fortunate individuals residing in the Covington community; collecting food for the shelters and food kitchens as well buying hats and gloves with her own money to distribute to children for those long, cold nights. Her patients adore and co-workers cannot imagine life without her.

I kindly ask that my fellow colleagues join me in thanking Anna Michelle Miles for her endless love and enduring commitment to her patients. She is a tribute to the memory of Florence Nightingale.●

#### THE DIABETES EPIDEMIC

● Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I want to tell you about a remarkable young man I met two years ago. His name is Cullinan Williams, he is 10 years old and he lives in the beautiful little town of Cazenovia in upstate New York.