

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CONGRATULATING THE CARROLL COLLEGE FIGHTING SAINTS

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to express a little hometown pride.

Last Saturday, I had the great opportunity to watch history in the making in Savannah, TN, as the Carroll College Fighting Saints from Helena, MT, marched to victory over the St. Francis Cougars from Fort Wayne, ID.

Carroll College is a private, Catholic college in my hometown of Helena, MT. Carroll is home to 1,500 students and enjoys a host of outstanding accomplishments in its nationally award-winning academic and pre-professional programs. Carroll is especially known for its flagship pre-medical, engineering and nursing programs.

The Carroll Talking Saints Forensics Team is ranked in the top five in the Nation and has reigned as Northwest Regional Champions for the past 15 years. It is a small school, with a huge record of accomplishment.

The Carroll College Fighting Saints are the only team on any level of college football in the modern era to win four national titles in a row.

They only gave up 9 points per game this season, adding to their outstanding national accomplishments.

Led by Tyler Emmer, who claimed the NAIA player of the year for the second time, the Saints offensive attack has piled up impressive numbers this season. The Saints can stretch the field with long passes or they can use their short passing game to keep the chains moving, as they did last Saturday.

It was wonderful to be there and watch, as the PA kept saying, "Move those chains, move those chains," as Carroll kept scoring on the first down.

Emmert has thrown for 3,039 yards and 33 touchdowns this season. He owns a career record of 50-to-3 wins as a starter for the Saints. Emmert and his teammate Jeff Shirley were named Frontier Conference Players of the Year. A class act, Tyler is the first to credit his teammates for his success.

To win Saturday, putting the Carroll College Fighting Saints in the record book, is more than just about football. It is about hard work, dedication, competitiveness, leadership, friendship, and family.

In his 7-year career at Carroll, head coach Mike Van Diest led his team to four national championships. Mike again was named Frontier Conference Coach of the Year. He is a class act.

Working tirelessly to inspire these young athletes, Mike has created more than a championship football team. He has taught them the value of a quality education, the strength of teamwork, and the importance of giving back to the community and those in need. Coach Van Diest defines what it is to be a true Montanan. I commend him for setting such high standards for all of us.

Also, congratulations go to Carroll College athletic director Bruce Parker and his staff.

I recognize Carroll College President Tom Trebon for his leadership and commitment to Carroll College.

Finally, I want to commend my good friend from Indiana, Senator EVAN BAYH. The Senator and I had a little wager on the game. We went double or nothing on a bet from last year—Montana-brewed beer against Indiana-grown popcorn. I look forward to the popcorn. We appreciate the Senator being such a good sport.

Carroll College is more than a 4-year experience; it is for life. As the 17 senior players complete their football careers, they begin life's journey more equipped to meet the challenges of their new lives. I am confident the Saints will continue to march on to many more victories. They are a wonderful bunch of guys and gals at Carroll College, a great team, a great coach. I was there Saturday to watch the game. I was so pleased to be part of the Carroll family, and I cannot commend all of them enough for what they do in the best sense of the term, all the values that mean so much to basic America. I thank Carroll College for what you do.

I yield the floor.

#### INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on the fiscal year 2006 Intelligence authorization bill.

As every American knows, we are a nation at war—at war in Iraq and at war against radical terrorists. These are wars Democrats and Republicans agree we cannot afford to lose. These wars have demanded a great deal from our troops and our taxpayers and will require much more sacrifice before they are over.

Given the stakes involved and the sacrifices required of so many, you would think that funding our troops and our intelligence community would be this Republican controlled Congress's top priority. You would think that our friends on the other side of the aisle would take up this must do legislation at the start of the Congress not at the end.

Unfortunately, while the Republican leadership is fond of stating the importance of prevailing in these wars and taking care of our troops, they have not matched those words with action. In fact, the hypocrisy demonstrated by the Republicans in this Congress on national security matters is astounding. How else to explain that with less than a week to go before Christmas, in the waning hours of this session of Congress, our Republican friends have yet to complete action on three major pieces of national security legislation—the fiscal year 2006 Defense authorization bill, the fiscal year 2006 Defense appropriations bill, and the fiscal year 2006 Intelligence authorization bill.

In recent times, Republicans have been extremely fond of painting themselves as patriots and extremely quick to brand those who challenge their policies as traitors. Given the callous way Republicans have treated our na-

tional security and our troops, I feel I must speak out on the Republicans' hypocrisy.

Although this point could be made with respect to each of the unfinished national security bills bottled up in this Congress, right now, I want to focus my remarks on the Intelligence authorization bill—a bill Republicans have not even seen fit to bring to the Senate floor despite the fact that the bill was reported out unanimously by the Senate Intelligence Committee.

This bill should have been taken up months ago. And Democrats would have been more than willing to quickly debate and pass this legislation once it reached the Senate floor so it could go to a conference with the House. Democrats know that it is essential that we permit the men and women of the intelligence agencies to continue their critical work on the front lines of the war in Iraq and the war on terror.

Unfortunately, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle apparently don't share that view. Republicans have taken months to move this bill through the legislative process. Once the committee acted and the bill was ready for the floor, an anonymous Republican placed a hold on the bill and prevented the Senate from working its will. As a result, the bill can't go forward. Vital intelligence operations are on hold while the bill languishes. And the men and women who selflessly serve are left wondering whether the Congress understands how vital their work is to this Nation's security.

I hope the Republican-led Congress will eventually get its act together and get this bill passed before we adjourn for the year.

In the meantime, to the men and women of the intelligence agencies, I say: Senate Democrats stand with you. We are proud of your bravery and your patriotism, and we thank you for your sacrifice working in silence and in the shadows against the threats America faces.

#### USA PATRIOT ACT

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I wanted to take this opportunity today to speak yet again on reauthorization of the PATRIOT Act.

I spoke earlier in the day on my dedication to fighting terrorism and in my support for giving law enforcement the tools to fight terrorism, the need and desire to reauthorize the PATRIOT Act, the political games surrounding extension of the PATRIOT Act, and the true patriotism of my colleagues in striving to uphold the Constitution and its liberties.

The President acts irresponsibly when he refuses—for purely political purposes—to allow the extension of the PATRIOT Act.

If the PATRIOT Act expires at the end of 2005, the responsibility lies with