

Dr. King to the esteemed place he occupies today.

Perhaps Dr. King's most enduring virtue was his hope. It surely was on display when he delivered his most famous oration. In 1963, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, gazing out at the Washington Monument and beyond to the Capitol, he delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech, which is familiar to all Americans.

As Dr. King looked upon these impressive symbols of America, he reflected upon the glaring shortcoming of our democracy. For all its successes, America had failed to realize the truth put forth in our Declaration of Independence: "that all men are created equal." Amid these monuments to the promise of America, he told hundreds of thousands of the Nation's greatest injustice: racial inequality. Yet he still maintained hope, speaking in terms of dreams and freedom.

In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act, and the Voting Rights Act became law the following year. Despite these legislative gains, Dr. King realized that achieving equality of opportunity required something much greater, and far more difficult, than mere legislation. It required a change in the hearts and minds of citizens.

Despite this challenge, his optimism did not waver. In 1967, he appeared on "Meet the Press" where he was asked if he believed "the American racial problem can be solved."

"Yes, I do," he replied. "I refuse to give up. I refuse to despair it in this moment. I refuse to allow myself to fall into the dark chambers of pessimism, because I think in any social revolution, the one thing that keeps it going is hope."

King's hope survived him, and today we are closer to the world that he envisioned.

We honor historical figures not merely because they achieved or said great things. We honor them because their lives continue to offer insight that we might use to improve our world.

"[T]he goal of America is freedom," he wrote as he sat in a Birmingham, AL, jail cell. Only a man with great hope and faith in the triumph of good could write those words in those circumstances. It is with similar hope that we as Americans should proceed today, whatever the challenges that confront us.

NATIVE HAWAIIAN REORGANIZATION ACT

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, today the Senator from Hawaii, Mr. AKAKA, reintroduced the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act, a bill that would create a new, race-based government within the borders of the United States. I strongly oppose this bill. This legislation was considered and rejected by the Senate last year; we ought not waste one moment of the Senate's time on it this year. Instead, we should con-

sider legislation that unites us all as Americans. Our Nation must remain "one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all"—"not many Nations, divided by race, with special privileges for some." Here are four reasons this bill should be stopped in its tracks: 1. It would create a new, sovereign government within our borders. 2. As noted by the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, the bill "would discriminate on the basis of race or national origin." 3. The bill is really about transferring control over "land" and "other assets" to this new, race-based government. 4. Native Hawaiians are not just "another Indian tribe" since they do not meet the requirements under current law of being sovereign for the last 100 years, living as a separate and distinct community, and having a preexisting political organization.

I hope my colleagues will join me in opposing this dangerous piece of legislation.

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY LAKERS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate the Grand Valley State Lakers on winning the 2006 Division II National Championship. Grand Valley completed a highly entertaining and rewarding season on December 16, 2006, when they defeated Northwest Missouri State 17-14 in the championship game. This victory is a great source of pride for all those affiliated with Grand Valley State University and for the State of Michigan.

It was a record breaking year on many fronts for the Grand Valley State Football team. This victory was the culmination of a perfect 15-0 season for the Lakers. Under the guidance of Coach Chuck Martin, Grand Valley State won their fourth Division II Championship in the last 5 years. During this time, the Lakers have become a powerhouse in Division II football and have a .709 winning percentage. Since 1999, they have an extraordinary 86-9 record, which is the second highest in all of college football. Moreover, quarterback Cullen Finnerty became the most prolific offensive player in college football history this year. In his 4-year career, Finnerty amassed a 51-4 record and led the Lakers to three national championships. As quarterback of the Lakers, Finnerty finished his career with over 10,000 total yards, including over 2,000 yards rushing.

The championship game provided its share of excitement. The thousands of GVSU fans and supporters who made the trip from the campus in Allendale to the stadium in Florence, AL, were not disappointed with the result. It proved to be a hard fought contest between two great teams. Grand Valley State eventually forced three crucial turnovers in the game, which included a NW Missouri St. fumble in the Grand Valley end zone late in the fourth quarter. Junior cornerback Bill Brenchin

made significant contributions on all three plays. Brenchin ended the game with two interceptions and recovered the fumble in the end zone as NW Missouri St. attempted to tie or win the game. Overall, the Grand Valley defense was too much for NW Missouri St. to overcome, and, the Laker offense, under Finnerty's direction had more than enough weapons to stifle the opposing defense.

I am proud to recognize the Grand Valley State football team for their remarkable achievements on the field this year. They have proven that hard work, dedication and commitment can produce great results. The members of the team should be proud of their efforts and should savor their recent success. They have been a tremendous source of inspiration for both the Grand Valley State community and the entire State of Michigan.

Each member of the Grand Valley State team, including Anthony Adams, Sam Allen, Matt Bakker, Lyle Banks, Brandon Barnes, Ryan Bass, Matt Beaty, Nate Beebe, P.J. Beuke, Chad Biggar, Scott Blasko, Cameron Bradfield, Bill Brechin, Drew Burton, Tory Buter, Samad Cain, Robert Carlisle, Brandon Carr, Tony Carr, Tony Carreri, Kirk Carruth, Todd Carter, Mark Catlin, Carlos Clark, Aaron Conti, Greg Copeland, Mendalson Covington, Anthony Crump, Joe Davis, Corey Edwards, Jeremy Ehinger, Billy Eisenhardt, Ian Evans, Eric Ewing, Gary Fant, Chris Favors, Cullen Finnerty, Matt Flutur, Dan Foster, Eric Fowler, Preston Garris, Ryan Gaydosh, Alex Gilde, Brennen Blass, John Godush, Maurice Gore, Mike Graham, D.D. Hardy, James Hardy, Brett Harris, Jacob Henige, Brett Hines, Drew Hinkle, Tyler Holtz, Nick Hopkins, Brad Hull, Brad Iciek, Jay Jandasek, Nate John, Blake Johncock, Derrick Jones, Sam Jones, Zach Jones, Lamar Keith, Mike Koster, Buster Larkins, Mike Leiffers, Astin Martin, John Matthews, Nick McDonald, Mike McFadden, Jacob McGuckin, Byron Miles, David Misiewicz, Terry Mitchell, Jaquon Morrison, Mike Mukuna, Frank Mulder, Jordan Munson, Doug Neumeyer, Courtney Partee, Denny Pittman, Justin Pollock, Danny Richard, Chad Richardson, Sean Roland, Matt Russell, Brandon Ryan, Mike Scherpenberg, Felix Sharpe, Dan Skuta, Blake Smolen, Chad Somerville, Derek Stansbery, Bretty Stengele, Sean Stevens, Alex Szarenski, Joey Teague, Bryan Thomas, Tony Thompson, Jacob Topp, Lance Travis, Antoine Trent, Justin Trumble, Justin Ulberg, Justin Victor, Matt Wade, John Wasmund, Collin Williams, Justin Winsor, Joe Wohlscheid, and James Wojciechowski, made meaningful contributions to the success of the football team and proved once again the strength of teamwork and commitment.

I know my colleagues in the Senate join me in congratulating Coach Martin and the 2006 Grand Valley State