

CONGRATULATING DAVENPORT
UNIVERSITY

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I congratulate Davenport on the recent successes of their Athletic Department and student athletes. The men's hockey team won their first American Collegiate Hockey Association, ACHA, Division II National Championship with a 5-2 victory over Indiana University. The women's basketball team won the Wolverine Hoosier Athletic Conference Championship, WHAC, and made it to the Sweet 16 of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, NAIA, Division II National Tournament. These are both extraordinary feats considering the Athletic Department at Davenport University was formed only 6 years ago. Both programs were honored in a celebration at Davenport University on March 26, 2008. These accomplishments bring great joy and satisfaction to all those associated with Davenport University and across the State of Michigan.

The hockey team's National Championship came after a third consecutive appearance in the ACHA Division II Final Four. The championship game ended an exciting week in Fort Myers, FL. Outscoring their five opponents by a combined total of 40-7, the Panthers dominated with their strong offensive attack. Under the leadership of head coach Paul Lowden, the team finished the season with a 35-11-4 record and won their third straight Great Midwest Hockey League, GMHL, regular season and tournament titles.

Each player of the Davenport University team made significant contributions to the winning season, including Alex Mikla, Wes Baughman, Pat Collar, Justin Poorman, Bill McSween, Jon Stolarz, Jeremy Bultema, Justin Welker, Eric Troup, Will Collar, Rick Gadwa, Dayne Gluting, Chad Anguilm, Bobby Collar, Jeff Kraemer, Adam Tomacari, Kevin Doyle, Adam Thomas, Kevin Moodie, Chris Joswiak, Scott Knight, Chad Rutzel, Eddie Wheeler, Jared Mailloux, Chris Green, Brit Ouelette, Brett Hagen, Luke Bonnewell, Kenny Jacobs, Jason Kraemer, Jonah Rogowski, Ben Duthler, head coach Paul Lowden, and assistant coaches Phil Sweeney, Jamie Bradford, and Joe Messina.

After only six seasons at Davenport University, head coach Paul Lowden was named the 2008 ACHA Men's Division II Coach-of-the-Year. He was honored with this award at the American Hockey Coaches Association Coach-of-the-Year Celebration this past weekend. Coach Lowden was also selected by the ACHA as the inaugural head coach for the Men's Division II Select Team. The select team traveled to Europe this winter and finished with a perfect 5-0-0 record.

The Lady Panthers basketball team, under the leadership of head coach Mark Youngs, earned their second consecutive Wolverine Hoosier Athletic Conference title. Senior Jeanette Woodberry, who was named both the

WHAC Player of the Year and a First Team All-American, led the team to victory. Sara Haverdink and Kristin Bergsma were both named to the NAIA Academic All-American team. The basketball team finished this outstanding season with a record of 28-6 overall and 13-1 in their conference.

Teamwork, determination and a commitment to excellence by each member of this basketball team led to their success. The members include Lyndsey Shepherd, Megan Peters, Sara Haverdink, Andrea Kimm, Brittany Lyman, Kristin Bergsma, Kristi Boehm, Lynne Blomberg, Kayla Chapman, Jeanette Woodberry, Emily Rosenzweig, Kallie Benike, Sylvia Welch, Shannon Slattery, Stephani Roles, along with head coach Mark Youngs, and assistant coaches Kelly Wandel, Shannon Callaghan, and Alicia Barczak.

I am proud to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Davenport University Athletic Department. Their student athletes compete admirably in athletics and in the classroom, and maintain an average GPA of 3.22. I extend my best wishes to the players, coaches, families, and the University community that supported them throughout this triumphant season.

I know my colleagues in the Senate join me in congratulating Coach Lowden, Coach Youngs, and the Davenport University Panthers.●

HONORING LEIGH ANNE GILBERT

• Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the efforts of a Floridian who has worked to make a difference in an underserved part of our world. Leigh Anne Gilbert, who recently returned to her hometown of Orlando, has spent the past 3 years establishing the Rainbow Primary Neighborhood School in Masthan Nagar, Hyderabad, India.

After her husband's job relocated the couple to an undeveloped part of India, Leigh Anne recognized the need to serve her new community and began work on a school to serve the area's children. Through the support of charitable organizations, Leigh Anne raised the funds necessary to charter and construct the Rainbow Primary Neighborhood School, which now serves more than 300 impoverished children living in the small Indian village.

Leigh Anne was responsible for bringing together all those involved in building and operating the school—the designers, construction workers, local government, teachers, and staff. She even recruited the services of the Naandi Foundation—a worldwide charitable organization fighting poverty and malnourishment—which delivers meals to the school and provides the students health care. Work on the school began in early 2007 and it was completed in March of this year.

The effort tested Leigh Anne's physical and mental fortitude as she

worked tirelessly for the past 3 years to bring all the partners to the table. The project required patience, persistence, and cooperation from government officials, community leaders, and charity organizations. On Web posts, Leigh Anne reflected on the project and offered words of advice to those pursuing similar ventures: "The number one lesson learned: Get partners—rugged, go-to, and knowledgeable partners—then leverage the partnerships to meet needs. None of us can go it alone."

On behalf of Florida and the people of the United States, I would like to honor Leigh Anne Gilbert for the tremendous example she has set and the good work she has accomplished.●

SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO
WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

• Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District.

In the post-World War II era, communities large and small in the United States envisioned a period of growth and prosperity. Enthusiasm in the Arkansas Valley of Colorado was also high, but one limitation loomed large: the water needed to build and sustain that growth was simply not available.

The regional water users' group decided to pursue a bold vision: the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project, a complex diversion, storage, and delivery system, would move water from the western slope of the Rockies to the growing population on the eastern slope. The project itself is as complex as the politics of water in the West. It features both western slope and eastern slope facilities, some of them at elevations above 14,000 feet, and multiple dams, reservoirs, tunnels, and conduits.

Fifty years ago today, on April 29, 1958, a Pueblo, CO, district court established under the provisions of Colorado law the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District. This administrative organization embodied the goals of the regional water users' group, which had proven adept at promoting the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project through the memorable and highly visible sale of small golden frying pans.

The original supporters of the Fryingpan-Arkansas, many of whom eventually served as board members of the district, were committed to seeing its promise made true. Their stalwart efforts led to the authorization of the Fryingpan-Arkansas in 1962, and the Southeastern District has been managing the project continuously since that time. They fought year after year to see this multipurpose project appropriated and constructed. Their success brought the additional water that the valley and its people had hoped for, and many of them lived to see it provide benefits to the Arkansas Valley. President John F. Kennedy's visit to Pueblo in 1962 to commemorate the start of

construction of Pueblo Dam, the largest component of the Fry-Ark Project, remains one of the most memorable events in the history of southern Colorado.

Those of us in the West know that the development and responsible management of water is critical to people, to agriculture, to business and to the future. The Southeastern District has worked day in and day out for over five decades to ensure that the project's purpose is fulfilled. They work tirelessly in partnership with the people of the Arkansas Valley, with their Federal partner, the Bureau of Reclamation, and adroitly navigate the rules and regulations of Colorado water law to serve the people who depend on this water.

I commend the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District for its diligence, and I commend the many distinguished people of the Arkansas Valley who have guided the district during its first 50 years as members of its board of directors. They established a tradition of vision, leadership, and distinction that will serve the people of southeastern Colorado well into their next 50 years.●

RECOGNIZING MIKE GEISEN

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Mike Geisen for winning the National Teacher of the Year Award. The National Teacher of the Year Program was founded in 1952 by the Council of Chief State School Officers. By rewarding teachers who have affected their students and communities positively, the program focuses public attention on some of the philosophies, methods, and wisdom behind successful teaching. It has been delightful to learn of Mike's contributions, and I am thrilled that he will be traveling around the world to share his insights as Teacher of the Year.

Mike Geisen teaches seventh grade science at Crook County Middle School in Prineville, OR, but his colleagues and students would call that an understatement. Crook County Middle School principal Rocky Miner observed that before Mike assumed chairmanship of the school's science department, students' science test scores had stagnated, with about 55 percent of students meeting or exceeding State standards. Less than 2 years after Mike took the job, 72 percent of Crook County students were meeting or exceeding State standards.

It is clear that other educators have noticed Mike's successes and are starting to seek his advice. In October of last year, Oregon State superintendent Susan Castillo presented him with the Oregon Teacher of the Year Award. A month later, Mike spoke at the Oregon School Boards Association Conference in Portland about the need for schools to shift their attention to skills—such as collaboration, innovation, and adaptability that are more relevant in a globalized economy.

There is no question that Mike can teach and that he can raise test scores, but his focus is not directed at the statistical indications of success as a teacher. In his application for the National Teacher award, Mike wrote the following about America's youth: "These young people are our equals. They are not simply numbers, conglomerations of hormones, or future products. All the latest programs, fads, and statistics are meaningless to a child who isn't cared for on a deeper level. Whether you are a teacher or parent, businessperson or retired, young or old: reach deep down into each child with humor, love, and compassion and they will learn from you. They will learn much more than just how to read and write; they will learn they are wonderfully human."

Mike Geisen, or Mr. G, I thank you for your unique contributions. You are truly an inspiration to us all. As Henry Brooks Adams once remarked, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops." Mr. G, your influence will no doubt continue for generations.●

HONORING LOUISIANA HONORAIR

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, today I acknowledge and honor a very special group, the Louisiana HonorAir. Louisiana HonorAir is a not-for-profit group that flies as many as 200 World War II veterans a year up to Washington, DC, free of charge. On May 3, 2008, a group of 95 veterans will reach Washington as part of this very special program.

I want to take a moment to thank all the brave veterans visiting our Capital City this trip:

Eldon L. Adams; Pat W. Aertker; Kent L. Babb; Luca Barbato; Brant Barnett; Lennie J. Benoit; Nesby J. Bergeron; Warren J. Bourgeois; Edward Breaux; Norman A. Briggs; Lloyd O. Bruchhaus; Edward G. Burleigh; Ralph D. Caillier; Norman W. Cameron; Robert T. Casanova; Viel P. Caswell; Reece J. Chenevert; Albert L. Clifton; William L. Clifton; Vincent C. Cuccio.

Thomas C. Darbonne; Charles W. Derbes, Sr.; Charles R. Doucet; Lloyd J. Doucet; Walter H. Duhon; Andrew V. Fontenot; Joseph F. Fontenot; James R. Gibson; Ernest J. Glavaz; Raphael I. Guidry; Clyde L. Hahn, Sr.; Marion T. Harmon; Didier J. Hebert, Jr.; Osburn Hebert; Herbert J. Hernandez; Richard M. Hollier; Hubert J. Hulins; Isaac Huval, Sr.; Edward B. Jennings; Norvell C. Johniken.

Raymond Kidder, Jr.; Ruth M. Kilgore; Percy J. Lalonde; John G. Lambousy; Isaac W. Lantz; Antoine C. LeBlance; Emile J. LeBlanc; Viealy J. Leger; Joseph H. LeGrand; Daniel J. Lejeune; Lionel Lejeune; James R. LeMaire; Bernard Libersat, Jr.; James C. Martien, Jr.; Robert McDaniel; Humer L. Miller; Eugene O. Munson; Francis Myers; James R. Odum.

Theodore R. Poynter; Joseph R. Prejean; Jack M. Proffitt; David R. Pulver; Johnny M. Rabalais; Aldon J. Richard; Erman L. Richard; Winslow Richard; Roy J. Roberie; Arthur L. Rozas; Eddie E. Salassi; Joseph San Filippo; LeeRoy J. Savoie; Lawrence Schambaugh; Clanice J. Schexnyder; Gordon L. Sibille; Ellis Soileau; Louis Soileau; Wallace R. Stelly; Nolan J. Stephens.

Harold L. Stevens; Joe P. Stevens; George Stout; Clarence Tauzin, Sr.; George J. Tellifero; Edward A. Thistewaite; Dallas E. Thomason; Michelle Trahan; Idolphus C. Turnley, Jr.; Harris J. Veillon; Charles C. Verzwylt; Dudley Vice; Stanley R. Wall; Edward R. Williams; Charles C. Willoughby; Richard G. Wilson.

While visiting Washington, DC, these veterans will tour Arlington National Cemetery, the Iwo Jima Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial, the Korean Memorial, and the World War II Memorial. This program provides many veterans with their only opportunity to see the great memorials dedicated to their service.

Thus, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these great Americans and thanking them for their devotion and service to our Nation. ●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 3196. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 Sussex Street in Port Jervis, New York, as the "E. Arthur Gray Post Office Building".

H.R. 3468. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1704 Weeksville Road in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, as the "Dr. Clifford Bell Jones, Sr. Post Office".

H.R. 3532. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5815 McLeod Street in Lula, Georgia, as the "Private Johnathan Millican Lula Post Office".

H.R. 3720. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 424 Clay Avenue in Waco, Texas, as the "Army PFC Juan Alonso Covarrubias Post Office Building".

H.R. 3803. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3100 Cashwell Drive in Goldsboro, North Carolina, as the "John Henry Wooten, Sr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 3936. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 116 Helen Highway in Cleveland, Georgia, as the "Sgt. Jason Harkins Post Office Building".