

career was far from over and would soon flourish. He followed Bryant to the University of Alabama in 1958 and served as an assistant coach for the 1961 and 1964 National Championship teams. After helping restore the winning Tradition of the Crimson Tide, Coach Stallings returned to his alma mater, where he would lead the Aggies to another Southwestern Conference Championship in 1967.

Stallings left College Station for the Dallas Cowboys in 1972. After 18 years in the NFL, he returned to the Capstone to lead the Crimson Tide back atop the elite of college football yet again.

In 1992, Coach Stallings' Crimson Tide, led by a stifling defense and a workhorse offense, won the inaugural Southeastern Conference Championship game and the National Championship in classic wins over the University of Florida Gators and the University of Miami Hurricanes. Scenes from these great moments in Crimson Tide history are to this day replayed before each and every game at Bryant-Denny Stadium.

In November of 1996, and after coaching the Crimson Tide to seventy victories in 7 years, Stallings announced that he would retire from football for the one thing that he loved more: his son John Mark Stallings. John Mark was born with Down syndrome and was not expected to live past the age of four. He lived 46 years, proving that uncommon strength is a common trait in the Stallings household.

Though he was greatly missed at the Capstone, it was not hard to understand why Coach Stallings left for his son. John Mark, himself, was much beloved by the Crimson Tide family. The equipment room at the football complex is even named in his honor. John Mark was known for his ability to positively impact the people around him with his kind nature and genuine interest in their lives. After his passing, athletics director Mal Moore stated that "For someone who never played or coached a game, I think John Mark may have touched more Alabama fans than any other person ever did."

By anyone else's standards, Coach Stallings' time in Tuscaloosa was his most successful, but Stallings doesn't measure success in wins, trophies, and championships. He measures his success by the lives that he has positively affected. As a football coach, he did so by instilling the values of character, discipline, and integrity in young men. He did just that at every stop on his coaching path, and, even after football, he continues to succeed in affecting his community and our Nation.

John Mark inspired his father to advocate on behalf of persons with disabilities. Coach Stallings worked to start a golf tournament to benefit the Arc of Tuscaloosa County, a local non-profit organization devoted to helping the intellectually and developmentally disabled. This tournament raised more than \$1 million for the program by the time he left Tuscaloosa in 1996.

Stallings has also been a prolific fundraiser for the RISE School at the University of Alabama, which provides family-oriented services to children with developmental disabilities. When he returned to the Capstone, the RISE School had devoted educators and a special cause, but the underfunded program languished in subpar facilities. RISE's staff worried that each year would be their last.

The value of RISE was not truly known nor its potential realized until Coach Stallings came on the scene. Following a 2-year capital campaign, the RISE School moved to a state-of-the-art building with six classrooms that serve more than 80 students. This beautiful building on the Alabama campus is named the Stallings Center in honor of Coach Stallings' tireless efforts on RISE's behalf, and John Mark is remembered at the school's playground, which is named for him.

With John Mark's inspiration and Coach Stallings' signature work ethic, the RISE program spread from Tuscaloosa to Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Houston, Denver, and Stillwater. Today, families across the country can receive early intervention services for their young children with disabilities. The dedicated teachers and administrators of the RISE program teach these children what they can do, rather than what they cannot.

For enduring the trials of Junction, for passing on these lessons of character, and for helping to grow a culture that embraces and encourages persons with disabilities, Eugene Clifton Stallings has certainly proven himself worthy of being immortalized in the College Football Hall of Fame.

On behalf of the University of Alabama, the Crimson Tide faithful, and the whole of the great State of Alabama, I thank Coach Stallings for his contributions to my alma mater and our community. We are truly fortunate for the examples he has set as a player, coach and philanthropist.●

#### RECOGNIZING OXFORD NETWORKS

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I recognize a small telecommunications company from my home State of Maine that has proved itself to be a dedicated leader throughout northern New England. Oxford Networks, based in Lewiston with offices in Bangor and Norway, has been serving customers across Maine for over a century, and it has shown no signs of letting up.

Alva Andrews, Oxford's founder, laid the foundation for the company in 1893 by setting up phone service between his family-owned business, located in South Woodstock, and the nearby railroad station in West Paris. Seven years later, in 1900, Mr. Andrews incorporated his firm as Oxford Telephone and Telegraph, a provider of telephone services to the local community in western Maine.

The company has expanded and grown significantly over the last 110

years. In 1981, the company acquired Bryant Pond Telephone Company, and two decades later, purchased Revolution Networks to continue growing its reach. By 2004, Oxford was able to provide cable television, Internet, phone, and long distance service, one of Maine's only facility-based competitive providers to do so. Additionally, the company's fiber optic backbone network presently spreads north as far as Bangor and south down to Boston.

A member of 12 different Chambers of Commerce throughout the State, Oxford Networks, which now employs 125, has been named a Best Place to Work Company for each of the last four years, indicative of the environment the company fosters for its employees. But beyond this remarkable feat, Oxford has demonstrated its commitment to others by becoming an active partner in the community, supporting a host of local charities and initiatives, from the United Way to the Maine Discovery Museum. Company employees raise money for Big Brothers/Big Sisters each spring during the Bowl for Kids Sake fundraiser, and also participate in walking teams for the American Heart Association's Heart Walk. The company has also been the Presenting Underwriter for the Maine Cancer Foundation's Pink Tulip Project since 2007. The project raises money for the Maine Cancer Foundation's Women's Cancer Fund while paying tribute to those who have courageously fought the disease.

From its start in the 1890s with a simple telephone connection, Oxford Networks has transformed the way Maine connects with the world. Because of its forward-thinking and innovative efforts, Oxford is now able to offer a wide range of cutting-edge telecommunications options to its varied client base of small and large businesses, as well as individual residences. Indeed, no problem is too large or too small for this incredible company, which continues to impress its customers with its rapid responsiveness and quality service. I thank everyone at Oxford Networks for the great work they do in the community, and wish them continued success in the future.●

#### TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN "JEANNE" LAURENCE

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Jeanne Laurence, who will celebrate her retirement from Rapid City Area Schools this June after 23 years of service. In reaching her retirement milestone, Jeanne Laurence is finishing a career that pioneered computer usage within area schools in Rapid City, SD. Jeanne began her career in the real estate field in Wyoming, but after eight years moved to Rapid City and joined Stevens High School as a secretary. At Stevens she tracked student attendance, grades, and discipline issues. In 1985, the school district was not equipped with computers, so Jeanne performed all tracking and management functions by