

OH. Their head coach is Mark Ehlen. Their assistant coach came out of one of the great women's basketball programs in Ohio, Stephanie Stevens, a 2010 graduate of the University of Cincinnati. She went to Pickerington High School, which has been in the state finals and final four many times.

As we prepare our Nation to "win the future" and outcompete and outeducate the rest of the world, we must ensure that mission includes all Americans. The creation of Gallaudet, 140-plus years ago, helped establish a nationwide community for generations of deaf children.

Ohio's first school for the deaf was established in 1829 in a small house right near where the State House now is on Broad and Highway in Columbus. That school, the Columbus School for the Deaf for Ohio, will soon have a new campus on 200 acres on Morse Road in Columbus with convenient student housing and modern education technology and space for future expansion. Such progress demonstrates how far education for deaf and hard-of-hearing students has come, and how much farther it can go.

Last year I gave a speech on this floor honoring Gallaudet as the Senate passed a resolution commemorating the 145th anniversary of Gallaudet's charter that was authored by President Lincoln. And 141 years ago, the three members of Gallaudet's first graduating class received degrees signed by President Lincoln.

Last year, during Gallaudet's 140th commencement, 10 Ohio students graduated from Gallaudet with a degree signed by President Obama. I am concerned, though, that funding for Gallaudet may be compromised in the budget that is working its way through the House of Representatives. Gallaudet's budget has been frozen at \$118 million for, I believe, 3 straight years. They have gotten no increase in Federal funding. They raise private money. They obviously charge tuition, although a huge percentage of their students, as I said, are on scholarship. The Federal money they have has not increased over the last, I believe, 3 years.

My concern is as the budget makes its way through here, we do not just help those students who are going to Gallaudet but we do understand that Gallaudet is one of our Nation's gems, a national university unlike any other, not just in the United States of America but any other university anywhere in the world. The proud alumni of Gallaudet have enriched our communities and have taught all of us the meaning of the values President Lincoln laid before us, that we educate ourselves as part of a community, full of opportunity, free of, as Lincoln said, artificial weight that works toward the good of our society.

Gallaudet is a jewel for our country. It is an honor to be on their board. It is an honor, frankly, to me, as a mission for the United States of America, that we continue to assist this great

national university that is a credit to all of us.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume consideration of S. 223 on Tuesday, February 15, at 11 a.m.; further that at 11:40 a.m., the Senate proceed to the consideration of the Nelson of Nebraska amendment No. 58; that a Nelson second-degree amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to, there be up to 20 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to a vote in relation to the amendment, as amended; that no further amendments be in order to the Nelson of Nebraska amendment prior to the vote; and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table and there be no intervening action or debate.

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

Mr. REID. I further ask unanimous consent that at 2:15 p.m. there be 10 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled in the usual form prior to a vote on or in relation to Wicker amendment No. 14, as modified; that all amendments covered in this agreement be subject to a 60-vote threshold; that if an amendment does not achieve 60 affirmative votes, the amendment be withdrawn; that there be no second-degree amendments in order prior to the votes; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO ELLEN MALDONADO

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, it is a somewhat poorly kept secret that many of the successes of government are attributable to those who work outside of the limelight. While Senators, Cabinet Secretaries, and even the generals in our military are the public face of the policies of the United States, behind every leader is a cadre of dedicated and knowledgeable civil servants.

Today I wish to call out one name in particular. Ellen Maldonado, a professional staff member on the Senate Ap-

propriations Committee, will soon be retiring after 30 years of government service. Ellen joined the Defense Subcommittee in 2006, brought onboard by my friend and former colleague, Senator Ted Stevens. The subcommittee, and in fact the Senate as a whole, was fortunate to find someone with such a wealth of talent and experience in the complex field of budgeting for our Armed Forces.

Ellen has worked at every level of the budgeting workforce for our military establishment. She began her career as a program analyst at the Naval Ship Research and Development Center in Carderock, MD, and rapidly progressed through the ranks in critical budgeting positions both inside and outside the beltway. Some of her most rewarding positions outside of Washington have included service at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA, Air Force Special Operations Command at Hurlburt Field, and even the U.S. Embassy in Lima, Peru.

Inside the Pentagon, Ellen worked on an impressive array of budgeting issues. From revising the Army's reprogramming process to programming for military health care, from reviewing defense research and development programs to developing emergency spending requests for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, she has earned the respect of all of those around her. She has won a reputation of being an expert on the most arcane points of the Financial Management Regulations, as well as understanding the details of highly complex weapons systems. Ellen has been recognized for her outstanding achievements by being awarded both the Secretary of Defense Medal for Meritorious Service and the Exceptional Civilian Service Award.

Ellen's career at the Pentagon culminated in her 2005 appointment as the Director for Investment for the Comptroller of the Department of Defense. In this position, she was responsible for overseeing the budget for every stage of developing, testing, and procuring equipment for all of the military services. This position brought her into regular contact with the highest levels of the Department of Defense, as well as Congress and the Office of Management and Budget.

It is extremely fortunate for the Committee on Appropriations that we managed to lure her away from this important position in 2006. While serving on the Defense Subcommittee, Ellen has excelled in reviewing the budget proposals on critical Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and intelligence programs. She has tackled some of the greatest national security challenges facing our country today, including an in-depth investigation into our government's cyber security efforts and exhaustive reviews of the Nation's most expensive military program in history, the Joint Strike Fighter. Her impressive track record made her a natural pick to join President Obama's transition team at the Department of Defense in 2008 and 2009.