

RECOGNITION OF THE MORMON  
TABERNACLE CHOIR

• Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and pay tribute to the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in recognition of their 4,000th broadcast of "Music and the Spoken Word." This is the longest continuous broadcast on network radio and television in the history of our country.

"Music and the Spoken Word" first aired on July 15, 1929, using a single microphone for the organ, choir, and announcer. The first signal was given to the announcer and he began: "From the crossroads of the West, we welcome you to a program of inspirational music and spoken word." Now more than 75 years and 4,000 broadcasts later, those same words are spoken each week to start the broadcast on more than 2,000 radio and television stations and cable systems.

"Music and the Spoken Word" is the hallmark program of a choir that had very humble beginnings. The choir first began practicing and performing in an adobe building. It was accompanied by an organ that was shipped from Australia to California and then pulled by 12 mules across rugged terrain to Salt Lake City. This choir has definitely come a long way.

The list of accomplishments and honors the choir has accumulated is legendary and well deserving including Grammy and Emmy Awards, five gold records and two platinum records, induction into the National Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame, two Freedom Foundation Awards, and the National Medal of Arts. In addition, the choir has performed in 28 countries and 71 foreign cities for millions of people.

The choir is truly "America's choir" as so aptly described by President Ronald Reagan. Members have sung for every President of the United States beginning with President William Howard Taft. The choir has also performed at several Presidential inaugurations, including that of our current President George W. Bush, and in arenas and concert halls throughout America. The choir first made history when it participated in an experiment with Dr. Harvey Fletcher of Bell Telephone Laboratories in the first recording of his newly developed stereophonic, or multiple-track process. This was later demonstrated in 1940 at Carnegie Hall.

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir is comprised of 360 singers who are accompanied by an orchestra of 110 musicians—all volunteers. Choir members come from all walks of life and range in age from 25 to 60. They practice and perform weekly, and all share a love for music, faith, and service. The perfect blending of magical voices with the accompaniment of supremely talented musicians has provided inspiration and solace to millions and left a lasting imprint on souls throughout the globe. Choir members willingly give of their time and talents each week to brighten the lives of others.

Perhaps the most popular and requested song of the choir is its rendition of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." The choir first recorded this in 1959 with the Philadelphia Orchestra and received a Grammy Award for its performance. You cannot listen to the choir sing this powerful song without feeling to the depth of your soul its majesty and power. It has stirred feelings of patriotism and love for America among audience members in every corner of our nation.

As you can see, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir is an extraordinary organization. Its members are wonderful Americans who voluntarily share their talents for the betterment of our society. Sir Thomas Beecham once said, "Great music is that which penetrates the ear with facility and leaves the memory with difficulty. Magical music never leaves the memory." I truly believe this choir has been creating magical music that will leave a lasting imprint on the fabric of America forever. I congratulate all of the staff, directors, and members of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir once again on their 4,000th broadcast and wish them continued success and majesty for many more years. May God bless the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. •

ON THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE FOUNDING OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
STATE UNIVERSITY

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the founding of South Dakota State University. In a society where education is an essential asset, SDSU has been providing students with a high-quality, affordable education for generations. Graduates have gone on to be extraordinary community and professional leaders.

Founded in 1881 in Brookings, SDSU is South Dakota's only land grant university, and enrollment has now grown to more than 11,000 students. Charged with advancing agricultural and biological sciences, SDSU has constructed six biodiverse experiment stations, 14 interactive technology centers throughout the State, and extension specialists and educators in all 66 counties. SDSU is on the cutting edge of research in such important fields as agriculture, children's health, ethanol, and other renewable fuel sources.

SDSU is driven by a core of dedicated professionals. More than 70 percent of the instructors have doctorate or terminal degrees, and nine out of ten classes are taught by full-time professors. There are nearly 200 student clubs and organizations active on campus. In the sporting arena, SDSU recently made the jump to Division I athletics, competing with nationally recognized sports programs. Additionally, SDSU was the first university in the region to offer \$4,000 over 4 years to any first-time student who scored 24 or higher on the ACT; this scholarship was termed the "Jackrabbit Guarantee."

In the arts, agriculture, sciences, and a score of other areas, SDSU is at the forefront of academic and cultural achievement. For 125 years, the university has helped students realize their potential through quality education and a positive social environment. SDSU students are equipped to succeed in a competitive world, delivering countless benefits to organizations and communities close to home and around the globe. With alumni as accomplished and varied as former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle to New England Patriots field goal kicker Adam Vinatieri, SDSU continues to live up to its motto: "You can go anywhere from here!" •

CONGRATULATIONS TO MICHIGAN  
OLYMPIANS

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to congratulate all of the athletes who competed in the 2006 Winter Olympic games in Torino, Italy. The Olympics provides an opportunity for athletes from many different disciplines and from around the world to display their skill and determination on a world stage. It was truly gratifying to see so many athletes from across the globe come together in peaceful competition.

Throughout the Olympics and in the many years leading up to the games, athletes must make many personal sacrifices and embody the attributes of perseverance, hard work, and determination in pursuit of personal goals and Olympic medals. Michigan was represented by a strong group of athletes competing in seven different sports, winning five medals for the United States, including one Gold, two Silvers and two Bronze Medals. The accomplishments of these men and women are impressive and an inspiration for all of us. I am extremely proud of the men and women with ties to Michigan who competed in the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino.

Michigan continued its long tradition of sending world-class athletes to the Winter Olympic games by sending more than three dozen athletes with ties to Michigan, many of whom benefited from spending time at the Olympic Education Center, OEC, at Northern Michigan University, NMU, in Marquette. The OEC, which currently trains athletes in boxing, short track speed skating, greco-roman wrestling, and weightlifting, has been an integral part of the success of many athletes since its inception in 1985. This year, 28 athletes who utilized these facilities represented the United States in these games.

One of the games' most memorable and historic moments was provided by Northern Michigan University speed skater Shani Davis, who earned the distinction of being the first African American to medal in an individual Winter Olympic event when he secured Gold in the 1,000 meter and Silver in the 1,500 meter. Continuing our strong