

outstanding contributions to the United States, to citizens described in paragraph (1).

(B) MAXIMUM NUMBER OF AWARDS.—Not more than 10 citizens may receive a medal under this subsection in any calendar year.

(3) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall strike a medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the President.

(4) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursuant to this subsection are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(j) NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the National Park Service, the Archivist of the United States, and other appropriate Federal officials, shall develop and implement a strategy to enhance the public awareness of naturalization ceremonies.

(2) VENUES.—In developing the strategy under this subsection, the Secretary shall consider the use of outstanding and historic locations as venues for select naturalization ceremonies.

(3) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall submit an annual report to Congress that includes—

(A) the content of the strategy developed under this subsection; and

(B) the progress made towards the implementation of such strategy.

SA 3425. Mr. FRIST proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3424 proposed by Mr. FRIST to the bill S. 2454, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for comprehensive reform and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of the instructions, add the following amendment:

This section shall become effective one (1) day after the date of enactment.

SA 3426. Mr. FRIST proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3425 proposed by Mr. FRIST to the amendment SA 3424, proposed by Mr. FRIST to the bill S. 2454, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for comprehensive reform and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike “one (1) day” and insert “two days”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to hold a hearing on Wednesday, April 5, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. to consider the following nominations pending before the Committee: Richard Capka to be Administrator, Federal Highway Administration; James Gulliford to be an Assistant Administrator, EPA; and William Wehrum to be an Assistant Administrator, EPA.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session on Wednesday, April 5, 2006, at 10 a.m., in 215 Dirksen

Senate Office Building, to consider the nomination of Mr. W. Ralph Basham, of Virginia, to be Commissioner of Customs, Department of Homeland Security.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 5, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. to hold a hearing on U.S.-India Atomic Energy Cooperation.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Wednesday, April 5, 2006, at 10 a.m. for a hearing titled, “The Future of Port Security: The GreenLane Maritime Cargo Security Act.”

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet on Wednesday, April 5, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct an oversight hearing on The Problem of Methamphetamine in Indian Country.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 5, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed business meeting.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON BIOTERRORISM AND PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Bioterrorism and Public Health Preparedness, be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 5, 2006 at 10 a.m. in SD-430.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 5, 2006, at 9:30 a.m., to receive testimony on the Department of Defense’s role in combating terrorism, in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the Future Years Defense Program.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sub-

committee on European Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 5, 2006, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a hearing on Islamist Extremism in Europe.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION, AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security be authorized to meet on Wednesday, April 5, 2006, at 2:30 p.m. for a hearing regarding “Federal Funding of Museums.”

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE AND IMPACTS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Global Climate Change and Impacts be authorized to meet on Wednesday, April 5, 2006, at 2:30 p.m., on The Current and Future Role of Science in the Asia Pacific Partnership.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND FORESTS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 5 at 2:30 p.m. The purpose of the hearings is to review the 2005 Wildfire Season and the Federal Management Agencies’ preparations for the 2006 Wildfire Season.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 5, 2006 at 3 p.m., in open session to receive testimony on improving contractor incentives in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2007.

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

COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator SARBAKES and myself, I call up a resolution which is at the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 425) to commend the University of Maryland women’s basketball

team for winning the 2006 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I National Basketball Championship.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I offer this resolution on behalf of Senator SARBANES and myself.

Yes, the women's basketball team of the University of Maryland did win the women's basketball championship. I am here today to offer this resolution and to state I am so proud of the young women of this championship basketball team.

Led by Coach B, Brenda Frese, the Terps finished the season with a record of 34 wins and 4 losses, a fine record for any basketball team. It was especially sweet because those Terps defied all expert predictions.

Last night was a game for the history books. It went into overtime and, at the same time, was in overdrive.

I have to say a word about our worthy opponent, the Blue Devils. They were champions, too. What we saw on the court was fierce play, brilliant strategy, and the American value of sportsmanship.

But there is only one winner of each game, and although Duke played very well, our Maryland Lady Terps were, indeed, a story champion. The University of Maryland has a fine basketball tradition. The national championship team exemplifies all that is good about it. They are student athletes. They study 2 hours a day to make sure they are going to graduate and have fulfilled the American dream while they are out there playing the hoop dream.

Last night proved to the country their maturity, their grace under pressure, their skill, and their indomitable spirit.

The most outstanding player of the tournament, Laura Harper, held the Terps together, scoring in that first half when Duke was playing great defense. But in the second half, after Coach B's terrific motivational speech, they were out there and the colors shone through. Behind by 13 points with only 15 minutes left, they would not give up to pressure. Coach B called her team to the bench for a breather, and they returned to the court as if there were no deficit to overcome. The energy and the poise of the tri-captains—Shay Doron, scooting down that court, dashing through the defense of the Blue Devils, zinging in for her points and, at the same time, making most of her free throws; Crystal Langhorne, though boxed in, did a dramatic steal and surged ahead; and there was Charmaine Carr, backing up the team.

This pushed the team over the hump. As the clock wound down, the Terps had closed the gap and finally we were into overtime. Then a freshman guard, Kristi Toliver, came down the floor. They had her boxed in, yet from a dramatic distance she made a magical three-pointer with only 6 seconds left. And as the Terps fans know, it was fear

the turtle. It showed that overtime is our time.

Freshman Marissa Coleman played superb basketball. We all know the outcome.

When the final buzzer sounded, the University of Maryland Terrapins were crowned the national champion.

I congratulate the players and the coach for the excitement of such a wonderful game and a wonderful season, and I congratulate them on their sportsmanship.

ELIZABETH DOLE and I had a bet on the outcome. By the way, you should know that in order to be in the final four you have to have a woman Senator here. There was LSU, Senator LANDRIEU; Senator DOLE had to have two teams, and there she was; and, of course, Senator BARB MIKULSKI with her Terrapins. Senator DOLE and I had a friendly bet, my crab cakes against her barbecue. We shared some barbecue together and some of their sweet tea, which is as nice as our friendship.

That is what sportsmanship is. Hats off to the Terps, and hats off to title IX that made it all possible.

I will not yield that championship next year.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, it is with a profound sense of Maryland pride and pleasure that I rise in joining my Maryland colleague, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, in introducing a resolution congratulating the University of Maryland Terrapins for winning the 2006 NCAA Women's National Basketball Championship. Joining us in this effort is the Maryland House delegation, spearheaded by University of Maryland alum, Congressman STENY HOYER.

As our resolution highlights, this has been a terrific run for the women's basketball team. The team notched 33 wins, the most for any Division I men's or women's basketball team this season. Maryland was also the only team in the Nation to score more than 3,000 points. With this championship, the team became only the fourth school to secure championships in both men's and women's basketball, joining Stanford University, the University of Connecticut and the University of North Carolina.

Maryland, after its stellar regular season, was surprisingly selected as a No. 2 seed. The young team, which started two freshmen, two sophomores and one junior, seemed to thrive on the NCAA selection committee's underestimation. They played in, and won, six overtime games this season, including the positively thrilling come-from-behind-victory in the championship game. Down by thirteen points with fifteen minutes left in regulation, the Terps kept chipping away at the lead, capping it off with a terrific three point shot by freshman guard, Kristi Toliver, to tie the game at 70 with 6.1 seconds left in regulation.

In overtime the Lady Terps showed why they consider the extra period to be "their time." Smothering defense

and poise in shooting free throws secured the brilliant win down the final stretch.

The championship team consisted of senior guard/forward Charmaine Carr, freshman guard/forward Marissa Coleman, junior guard Shay Doron, junior guard Kalika France, sophomore forward/center Laura Harper, sophomore center/forward Crystal Langhorne, sophomore guard Christie Marrone, sophomore guard Ashleigh Newman, junior center Aurelie Noirez, sophomore forward/center Jade Perry, senior forward/center Angel Ross, freshman guard Kristi Toliver, and sophomore guard Sa'de Wiley-Gatewood. Their victory could not have been secured without the talented coaches and staff led by head coach Brenda Frese, assisted by coaches Jeff Walz, Erica Floyd, and Joanna Bernabei. Finally, I'd like to acknowledge the director of basketball operations, Mark Pearson and athletic director Debbie Yow.

On behalf of the State of Maryland, the Maryland congressional delegation and the University of Maryland, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the outstanding efforts of this amazing group of basketball players, coaches and staff.

Cheer the turtle!

Ms. MIKULSKI. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 425) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 425

Whereas the University of Maryland women's basketball team has worked vigorously, dynamically, and very enthusiastically to reach a championship level of play;

Whereas the students, alumni, faculty, and fans of the Terrapins should be congratulated for their commitment to the University of Maryland Terrapins national championship women's basketball team;

Whereas the student athletes, led by Crystal Langhorne and her teammates, Kristi Toliver, Freshman of the Year Marissa Coleman, Shay Doron, Laura Harper, Kalika France, Christie Marrone, Ashleigh Newman, Aurelie Noirez, Jade Perry, Angel Ross, Charmaine Carr, and Sa'de Wiley-Gatewood participated in this national championship season;

Whereas Head Coach Brenda Frese has recruited and taught the top talent in the United States to be student athletes at the University of Maryland and has been assisted by coaches Jeff Walz, Erica Floyd, Joanna Bernabei, and Director of Basketball Operations Mark Pearson, to imbue in these young women the values of teamwork, perseverance, and competitiveness;

Whereas the University of Maryland women's basketball team, also known as the "Terps", was able to defeat their 2 greatest foes en route to a first national championship in women's basketball;

Whereas the championship game was won in overtime after overcoming a deficit of 13 points with only 15 minutes remaining in regulation play; and

Whereas the grit, heart, and maturity of the 2006 University of Maryland Terrapins

women's basketball team will be the standard-bearer for years to come in the game of Women's College Basketball: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Maryland Terrapins women's college basketball team for winning the 2006 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I National Championship;

(2) recognizes the breathtaking achievements of Head Coach Brenda Frese, her assistant coaches, and all of the outstanding players; and

(3) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to Brenda Frese, Head Coach of the national champions University of Maryland Terrapins and to the University of Maryland College Park President, Dr. Dan Mote for appropriate display.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. RES. 427 THRU S. RES. 433

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed en bloc to the consideration of S. Res. 427 through 433, which were submitted earlier today.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc.

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

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERSTATE SYSTEM

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, as Chairman and on behalf of my colleagues on the Environment and Public Works Committee, I urge support of this resolution to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Interstate System. The Committee as a whole would like to mark the momentous achievements made over the last 50 years that have provided for revolutionary advances in our nation's vital infrastructure. It is essential that Congress, just as it did in 1956, recognize the importance of continued investment in our nation's highways and the undeniable link between a robust economy and a vibrant national infrastructure.

Because of my work on SAFETEA-LU (Public Law 109-59) I have a better appreciation of just how visionary the authors of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 were when they laid out a network of interstate highways and devised a stable and reliable funding stream to pay for it. I am certain that at the time there were those who felt the plan was too ambitious, too expensive and consequently not a good use of scarce Federal dollars. I am sure all would agree that not only was it a good use of scarce Federal dollars, but that the nation has enjoyed a many-fold return on the expenditure.

Laying out the full interstate system—rather than a piecemeal of road segments—along with providing a dedicated funding source expedited construction and provided certainty. This certainty maximized the economic and mobility benefits of the system. Businesses and individuals knew that they could locate somewhere on the future interstate system and be connected to rest of the country.

The second essential element of the success of the highway program over the last 50 years has been the dependable funding stream for the interstate. In the absence of this dedicated funding source, it is my firm belief that investment in our nation's highways and bridges would be far less than has been the case. Without the relative certainty of funding and knowledge of the interstate's general location, the impacts on productivity and economic growth would have been dramatically less than we experienced.

The connectivity and mobility provided for both freight and people by our interstate system is unrivaled; and I believe was more than just a small part of the economic success enjoyed by the U.S. over the past 50 years. It is essential that we continue to make the necessary investment to fight congestion and maintain the mobility necessary to keep the economy growing.

I have always said that the federal government has two main functions: national defense and to provide infrastructure. Since one of the earliest justifications for the interstate system was to provide for national defense, the highway program is actually a perfect merger of the 2 most important functions of government.

For the last 50 years the gas tax has been deposited into the trust fund and used to construct and maintain our roads. In the past, the gas tax has been a reasonably good proxy for road use; and the trust fund has in recent history had sufficient receipts to fund the highway program. This is changing with the increase in fuel efficiency, highlighted by fuel-cell vehicles coming just over the horizon, and improved technology allows for improvements in how to collect the user fee. It is important to look forward to how we fund the highway program in the future because when the next highway bill is drafted, there will be no cushion of a cash balance left in the trust fund.

The current challenges facing the highway trust fund—and hence the highway program—will be very difficult to resolve and not unlike the challenges faced by the authors of the 1956 act. It will be up to policymakers to be as visionary as they were 50 years ago. A new vision is needed in what the highway program will stand for in the next 50 years and how to pay for it.

The resolution (S. Res. 427) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 427

Whereas, on June 29, 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed into law—

(1) the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 (Public Law 84-627; 70 Stat. 374) to establish

the 41,000-mile National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, later designated as the "Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways"; and

(2) the Highway Revenue Act of 1956 (Public Law 84-627; 70 Stat. 387) to create the Highway Trust Fund;

Whereas, in 1990, the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways was renamed the Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways to recognize the role of President Eisenhower in the creation of the Interstate Highway System;

Whereas that web of superhighways, now spanning a total of 46,876 miles throughout the United States, has had a powerful and positive impact on the lives of United States citizens;

Whereas the Interstate System has proven to be a vital tool for transporting people and goods from 1 region to another speedily and safely;

Whereas the use of the Interstate System has helped the Nation facilitate domestic and global trade, and has allowed the Nation to create unprecedented economic expansion and opportunities for millions of United States citizens;

Whereas the Interstate System has enabled diverse communities throughout the United States to come closer together, and has allowed United States citizens to remain connected to each other as well as to the larger world;

Whereas the Interstate System has made it easier and more enjoyable for United States citizens to travel to long-distance destinations and spend time with family members and friends who live far away;

Whereas the Interstate System is a pivotal link in the national chain of defense and emergency preparedness efforts;

Whereas the Interstate System remains 1 of the paramount assets of the United States, as well as a symbol of human ingenuity and freedom;

Whereas the anniversary of the Interstate System provides United States citizens with an occasion to honor 1 of the largest public works achievements of all time, and reflect on how the Nation can maintain the effectiveness of the System in the years ahead: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Senate

(1) proclaims 2006 as the Golden Anniversary Year of the Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways;

(2) recognizes and celebrates the achievements of the Federal Highway Administration, State departments of transportation, and the highway construction industry of the United States, including contractors, designers, engineers, labor, materials producers, and equipment companies, for their contributions to the quality of life of the citizens of the United States; and

(3) encourages citizens, communities, governmental agencies, and other organizations to promote and participate in celebratory and educational activities that mark this uniquely important and historic milestone.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

The resolution (S. Res. 428) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 428

Whereas, on November 21, 2005, after finishing second for 3 consecutive years, the University of Wisconsin men's cross country