

of Iowa. I have great respect for the Davis family, and I'm so glad that they have rebuilt the Drake program. Keno and his wife Krista became parents during the season, too. Assistant coaches Chris Davis, Rodell Davis and Justin Ohl have obviously spent hours fine-tuning their talented and intelligent team.

I also need to congratulate Drake's president Dr. David Maxwell and Athletic Director Sandy Hatfield Clubb for their support of the men's basketball program. They have helped rebuild Drake's basketball program while maintaining high academic standards. We all know how hard that is in college sports today. Drake is a shining example of how a team can win on the court and in the classroom.

Dolph Pulliam, a member of Drake's one and only Final Four team, has served as an inspiration to the current Bulldogs. Dolph and his team played Lew Alcindor, known as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar today, and UCLA back in 1969 and only lost by 3 points. Since his playing days, Dolph has remained in the Des Moines area, working for the university and broadcasting their games on the radio. And he is quite a presence with his huge smile and blue leather suit. I know he has influenced the current Drake players, thanks to encouragement from Dr. Tom Davis to help them all rekindle the fires of great basketball.

So I want to again extend my congratulations to the Drake University men's basketball program, and to their students and fans who've never lost faith in them. It has been a joy to watch their success, and I hope that they continue winning during March Madness. I also hope that these young men will serve as an example to the young people in Iowa, to show that it is entirely possible to maintain high academic standards and winning ways on the court.●

IN TRIBUTE TO BYRON JANIS

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the accomplishments and inspirational life of Byron Janis as he approaches his 80th birthday later this month.

I learned about Mr. Janis's upcoming milestone from his good friend Dick Thornburgh, the former Attorney General of the United States. Mr. Thornburgh was a key advocate during the administration of George Herbert Walker Bush for enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and I was proud to be the chief sponsor of the ADA in the Senate.

A Pennsylvania native, Mr. Janis is renowned as one of the world's most talented concert pianists. In addition, his perseverance is a source of inspiration to countless Americans. By the age of 20, his virtuosity at the piano was so extraordinary that he performed a sold out debut at New York's famed Carnegie Hall.

Later, Mr. Janis was chosen to be the first individual to represent the United

States in a cultural exchange with the Soviet Union. Remarking on this mission, The New York Times wrote that "if music could replace international politics, Byron Janis could consider himself an ambassador."

In the decades since, Byron Janis has dazzled audiences worldwide. He has performed for numerous U.S. Presidents, and has been honored with countless awards from around the globe.

However, perhaps Byron Janis's greatest contribution to America lies not in his musical talent but rather in the example he has set of an individual responding to adversity with grace and courage, and with a truly indomitable spirit.

In 1973, he was diagnosed with arthritis in his hands and wrists, which could have ended his career as a pianist. But Mr. Janis refused to be stymied or stopped. As he put it, "I have arthritis—it doesn't have me."

He continued to play for 12 years before disclosing his arthritis at a White House performance. That same day, Mr. Janis assumed the role of Ambassador for the Arts for the Arthritis Foundation.

Through his continued performances and other appearances, he has raised awareness as well as funds to support the foundation's noble cause. To this day, audiences continue to be captivated by Byron Janis's musical talents, even as they are impressed by his amazing persistence in the face of adversity.

March 24 will be Byron Janis's 80th birthday. And this year also marks the 60th anniversary of his debut at Carnegie Hall. Across all those years, his determination, courage, and selfless service have embodied the American spirit at its best. His lifetime of accomplishments as a performer, cultural ambassador, and role model are truly remarkable. I am pleased today to recognize and congratulate Byron Janis for his triumphs, for his accomplishments, and for inspiring millions of individuals around the world.●

RECOGNITION OF BUSINESS EXECUTIVES FOR NATIONAL SECURITY

● Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the contributions of Business Executives for National Security, BENS.

Since 1982, this national organization has been a primary channel through which American business leaders have contributed their special experience and talent to help build a more secure nation. Founded by business tycoon Stanley A. Weiss, BENS operates on the principle that America's national security is everybody's business. BENS is a highly respected nonpartisan organization of senior executives and entrepreneurs dedicated to enhancing our national security by implementing proven practices of the private sector.

Working with Congress and the Department of Defense, BENS helps pro-

tect the American homeland and build a more efficient and effective military. As the United States continues to confront domestic and international threats, BENS proves more important than ever before.

BENS has provided distinguished service to the Nation for over a quarter century. This service includes reforming the business of defense, protecting the homeland, tracking terrorist funding, and banning chemical weapons. BENS helps our Armed Forces by slashing bureaucracy, streamlining operations, and cutting waste, making more funds available for urgent priorities such as military readiness and modernization.

BENS is a pioneer in homeland security creating innovative partnerships around the country that civic-minded companies that provide assistance to local and State governments in times of emergency. BENS works with the Department of the Treasury to improve America's ability to locate and suspend suspicious financial activities that fund terrorism.

BENS is a strong advocate of the Chemical Weapons Convention to eliminate the chemical weapons stockpile by 2012, reducing the chances such weapons will be used against the United States through a terrorist attack.

Mr. President, I ask my distinguished colleagues in the Senate to join me in recognizing BENS and their commitment to national security interests.●

TRIBUTE TO PORTLAND STATE VIKINGS

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, today, as a proud Oregonian, I congratulate the Portland State University men's basketball team on a stellar performance last night. The PSU Vikings capped a five-game winning streak by soundly defeating the Northern Arizona University Lumberjacks 67 to 51 to win the Big Sky Conference Tournament and advance to the NCAA Tournament.

This achievement marks the Vikings' first trip to the "Big Dance," and an important moment to recognize their collective talents. I think I speak for all Oregonians when I say that we are greatly impressed by the hard work these young men and their coaches have put into achieve this victory.

I congratulate this team not only for their athletic achievement, but also for putting Oregon's largest university on the map of collegiate sports. I know the PSU Vikings, who have lost only twice in 2008, will be an excellent representative of our home State in the national tournament.

Certainly this victory is just the beginning for the members of this team. I look forward to hearing of their successes not only in athletics but in any endeavor they choose to take on in the future.

Mr. President, allow me to specifically mention the names of all the coaches and players who have made my