

be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD, without further intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 94) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 94

Whereas, in September 2008, consumer bankruptcy filings in the United States increased more than 30 percent from the same period in 2006, according to the Administrative Office of the United States Courts;

Whereas there were more than 1,000,000 personal bankruptcy filings in the United States in 2008, the most since bankruptcy laws were amended in 2005, according to the Administrative Office of the United States Courts;

Whereas, according to a 2008 "Flow of Funds" report by the Federal Reserve, the net worth of households in the United States fell for the 4th consecutive quarter, dropping \$2,800,000,000,000, the largest decline in the 57-year history of the report;

Whereas, according to a 2008 "Flow of Funds" report by the Federal Reserve, household debt in the United States reached \$14,000,000,000;

Whereas the 2008 Retirement Confidence Survey conducted by the Employee Benefit Research Institute found that the percentage of workers who were "very confident" about having enough money for a comfortable retirement decreased sharply, from 27 percent in 2007 to 18 percent in 2008, the biggest 1-year decline in the 18-year history of the survey;

Whereas the Department of the Treasury sponsored the 2008 National Financial Literacy Challenge, an examination testing knowledge of high school students of important personal finance concepts;

Whereas the average score on the examination was an "F", only 56 percent;

Whereas the 2007 "Survey of the States" compiled by the Council for Economic Education found that only 22 States require an economics test as a high school graduation requirement, 3 fewer than in 2004;

Whereas many students who graduate from high school lack basic skills in the management of personal financial affairs and are unable to balance a checkbook, according to the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy;

Whereas, according to the National Foundation for Credit Counseling, fewer than half the people in the United States accessed their credit report in 2008, despite the fact that such report can be obtained for free and contains critically important information for consumers;

Whereas approximately 76,000,000 adults say they do not have any non-retirement savings, according to the National Foundation for Credit Counseling;

Whereas expanding access to the mainstream financial system will provide individuals with less expensive and more secure options for managing finances and building wealth;

Whereas quality personal financial education is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared to manage money, credit, and debt, and to become responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens;

Whereas increased financial literacy empowers individuals to make wise financial

decisions and reduces the confusion caused by an increasingly complex economy;

Whereas a greater understanding of, and familiarity with, financial markets and institutions will lead to increased economic activity and growth;

Whereas, in 2003, Congress found it important to coordinate Federal financial literacy efforts and formulate a national strategy; and

Whereas, in light of that finding, Congress passed the Financial Literacy and Education Improvement Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-159; 117 Stat. 2003) establishing the Financial Literacy and Education Commission and designating the Office of Financial Education of the Department of the Treasury to provide support for the Commission: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2009 as "Financial Literacy Month" to raise public awareness about—

(A) the importance of personal financial education in the United States; and

(B) the serious consequences that may result from a lack of understanding about personal finances; and

(2) calls on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA MEN'S WRESTLING TEAM

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 95, submitted earlier today.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 95) congratulating the University of Iowa men's wrestling team for winning the 2009 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Wrestling Championship.

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the University of Iowa wrestling team for their national championship victory two weekends ago.

On March 21, 2009 wrestling fans all across the country were treated to an exceptional match in St. Louis, MO, while watching the University of Iowa clinch the NCAA Division I Wrestling Championship. Throughout the year, the Hawkeyes maintained an overall No. 1 ranking in the Nation.

This year's wrestling team finished the season with a perfect record for the 12th time in the school's history. The outstanding grapplers and coaches produced a great season, winning numerous awards and praise throughout the country. I also want to take a special moment and congratulate the University of Iowa wrestling head coach Tom Brands, who has led the team to two straight national championships in only 3 years at the helm of the Hawkeye wrestling team.

The University of Iowa students, alumni, faculty and fans are com-

mitted to keeping alive the tradition of wrestling in Iowa and bringing pride to the state, as well as the University of Iowa. I want to congratulate the University of Iowa Hawkeyes for winning the 2009 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championship and recognize the achievements and efforts of the wrestlers, coaches, fans and staff who helped the team achieve this significant victory.

I also want to speak to congratulate the Morningside College women's basketball team for winning the 2009 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics—NAIA—Division II national championship.

On March 27, 2009, the Morningside College Mustangs won the national title game over the Hastings College Broncos in Sioux City. Just a day before, the Mustangs captured the Great Plains Athletic Conference—GPAC—championship title and finished with a perfect 18-0 record.

A couple of individual congratulations are in order here today also. Head Coach Jamie Sale was named NAIA Division II National Coach of the Year, senior Autumn Bartel was named Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the NAIA Division II national championship, and senior Dani Gass was also named NAIA Division II Player of the Year.

Of special recognition are the seven members of the Mustangs team who were named 2009 Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athletes for maintaining a minimum grade point average of 3.5. These members included Cara Anderson, Autumn Bartel, Emily Christen, Sarah Culp, Mackenzi Mendlik, Roni Miller, and Brittany Williamson.

The Morningside College Mustangs received a unanimous number one ranking in the final NAIA Division II Women's Basketball Coaches Top 25 Poll while finishing the season with a perfect 38-0 record, only the second team in NAIA Division II women's basketball history to do so.

I want to congratulate these athletes on demonstrating exceptional accomplishments both in the classroom and on the court.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 95) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 95

Whereas on March 21, 2009, in St. Louis, Missouri, the University of Iowa Hawkeyes won the 2009 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Wrestling Championship with a total of 96.5 team points;

Whereas the University of Iowa is one of the premier academic institutions in the State of Iowa;

Whereas the University of Iowa men's wrestling team was ranked number 1 in the Nation upon entering the tournament;

Whereas the Hawkeyes are back-to-back champions and have won 22 national wrestling titles in the program's history;

Whereas on March 9, 2009, the Hawkeyes won their second straight Big Ten Championship;

Whereas University of Iowa wrestling head coach Tom Brands has led the team to 2 straight victories in only 3 years as head coach;

Whereas the Hawkeyes finished the regular season undefeated for the 12th time in as many years; and

Whereas University of Iowa students, alumni, faculty, and fans are committed to keeping alive the tradition of wrestling in Iowa and bringing pride to the State of Iowa as well as the University of Iowa: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Iowa Hawkeyes for winning the 2009 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championship; and

(2) recognizes the achievements and efforts of the wrestlers, coaches, fans, and staff that helped the team to achieve this significant victory.

CONGRATULATING MORNINGSIDE COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 96, submitted earlier today.

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

The bill clerk read the resolution as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 96) congratulating the Morningside College women's basketball team for winning the 2009 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Division II championship.

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

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 96) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 96

Whereas on March 17, 2009, at the Tyson Event Center in Sioux City, Iowa, the Morningside College Mustangs won the national title game for the NAIA Division II women's basketball with a 68-63 win over the Hastings College Broncos;

Whereas Morningside College Mustangs captured the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) championship title with an 18-0 record;

Whereas Morningside College women's basketball Head Coach Jamie Sale was named NAIA Division II Coach of the Year;

Whereas 7 members of the Morningside College women's basketball team were

named 2009 Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athletes for maintaining a minimum GPA of 3.50 and having at least a junior academic status: Cara Anderson, Autumn Bartel, Emily Christen, Sarah Culp, Mackenzie Mendlik, Roni Miller, and Brittany Williamson;

Whereas Autumn Bartel, a senior guard for Morningside College, was named Most Valuable Player of the NAIA Division II tournament;

Whereas Dani Gass, a senior guard for Morningside College, was named NAIA Division II Player of the Year;

Whereas the Morningside College women's basketball team was the unanimous number 1 vote in the final NAIA Division II Women's Basketball Coaches' Top 25 Poll, receiving 312 points and all 12 first place votes; and

Whereas the Mustangs finished the 2009 season with an undefeated record of 38-0, and was only the second team in NAIA Division II history to do so: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Morningside College Mustangs for winning the NAIA Division II national championship; and

(2) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, and staff whose hard work and dedication helped the Morningside College Mustangs win the championship.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2009

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, April 1; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 13, the concurrent resolution on the budget.

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

PROGRAM

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, under an agreement reached earlier today, when the Senate resumes consideration of the budget resolution tomorrow, 20 hours of the statutory time remains, with each side controlling 10 hours.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent it adjourn under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator CARPER.

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

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

THE BUDGET

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise this evening to address, as others have today, the fiscal year 2010 budget resolution that is currently being considered by this body. We take up this budget under the specter of—some would say gloomy, some would say perilous—economic conditions amidst a credit crisis that threatens long-term damage to our economy—not just to the economy in our country but to economies all over the world. As a result, this budget is very likely probably not the most important vote we cast in the time we serve here but certainly one of the most important we will vote on this year, and maybe in this Congress.

I wish to begin this evening by reminding my colleagues—I know we have been reminded already today and we will be reminded tomorrow—that our friend, former colleague, Barack Obama, took office just 70 days or so ago. Not since the inauguration of Franklin Delano Roosevelt has an American President inherited such far-reaching economic turmoil and been asked to do so much in such a short period of time.

Over these last 10 weeks, President Obama has become very well acquainted with the economic mess he inherited from the previous administration. On the day his predecessor took office—this was about 8 years ago—our Federal Government enjoyed multibillion-dollar surpluses as far as the eye could see. We were on track, believe it or not, if you recall, on track to actually pay down our national debt, which at the time was a little under \$6 trillion. Since then, sadly, we have seen those surpluses disappear, and they have been replaced instead by the largest budget deficits I think we have witnessed in our country's history. In fact, we ran up as much new debt in the last 28 years as I think we did in the first 220 years of our Nation's history.

When President Bush left office earlier this year, our Nation and the new President were left—and us, here in the Senate and the House—to bear the cost of two wars, tax cuts that tend to favor the wealthiest among us, an increase of more than 50 percent in Government spending, and \$10.6 trillion in debt. Again, that is roughly twice what former President Bush inherited on his first day on the job.

The fact is that our badly damaged credit system, our banking system, along with rising unemployment numbers and a contracting economy, have threatened to reduce future revenues to the point where the burgeoning budget deficits of the last 8 years could become a permanent fixture if we are not careful.

The damage of these potential deficits cannot be overlooked. I believe the deficits matter. I think our Presiding Officer knows the deficit matters—it matters for all of us.

Last year, American taxpayers paid some quarter of a trillion dollars, \$250