

that began on a local farm into a premier equestrian facility.

Mr. Williams's passion and dedication for Keeneland and horse racing began when he was just a boy, when he moved to Lexington and attended his first race at Keeneland. Since that first race, Mr. Williams has been in attendance at a majority of Keeneland's races.

Mr. Williams has had the opportunity to serve under three Keeneland presidents: Mr. Ted Bassett, Mr. Bill Greely and the current CEO, Mr. Nick Nicholson. Mr. Nicholson spoke dearly of Jim when asked to reflect on his service. In a recent article in the Lexington Herald-Leader, he said:

To put Jim's tenure in perspective, when he joined Keeneland in 1971, Richard Nixon was president, "All in the Family" premiered on television, and gas was 30 cents a gallon. Since that time, Jim has been the public face of Keeneland, and he has conducted himself in a manner that has enhanced Keeneland's stature in the eyes of everyone who has had the pleasure of meeting him. Jim is a man of character, integrity and humility. We at Keeneland thank him for his many years of service and wish him the best in his retirement.

Jim Williams is a legend in Kentucky horse racing and his contributions to the Commonwealth's most hallowed sport are immeasurable. His retirement is going to leave a large hole that will be very hard to fill. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jim Williams for his 38 years of service to Keeneland and to Kentucky horse racing.

BOWLING GREEN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I read an article of great interest in the Bowling Green Daily News involving the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce. The article commended the chamber on being recognized by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives as the number-one chamber in the nation. Bowling Green and the surrounding community has experienced significant growth in the areas of business and industry, due to the chamber's efforts to keep Bowling Green a flourishing and vibrant city. I know my colleagues join me in commanding the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce for all it has done to better their community and State. I am pleased to see their hard work being recognized.

I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Bowling Green Daily News, Aug. 4, 2009]

"WE'RE NO. 1" CHANTS A THRILL FOR BG AREA CHAMBER LOCAL GROUP NAMED BEST IN THE NATION IN ITS CATEGORY

(By Jenna Mink)

"About 100 state and local officials, business leaders and community members gathered at the Bowling Green Area Chamber of

Commerce today, many of them chanting, "We're No. 1." The Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce recently was named the best chamber of its size in the nation, chamber officials announced today.

"I can't tell you what a great feeling it is to say we're the No. 1 chamber in the nation," said Jim Hizer, president and CEO of the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce.

Each year, the American Chamber of Commerce Executives, a national group of chamber leaders, chooses the top chambers in the nation. Chambers are separated into three categories based on their revenue; the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce won in the mid-size category, beating about 45 chambers that were invited to apply for the award.

When choosing the top chamber of commerce, ACCE officials look at "the entire scope of the chamber, from its financial practices all the way to programs and special events," said Tonya Matthews, vice president of chamber operations. "They really don't miss a beat in digging into the chamber."

This is the second year the local chamber has been a finalist—last year, it was one of the top three chambers, but did not pick up the top award.

"All I was thinking about was to be a finalist two years in a row and not come home with an award would be an empty feeling," Hizer said. "But we don't have to worry about that." The chamber of commerce works to boost the business community by attracting new companies to the area and helping existing businesses expand.

"Our principle responsibility is to bring wealth and prosperity to our community for the benefit of our business members, partners and for all citizens," Hizer said.

About 7,000 chambers exist in the United States and 1,400 of those are members of the ACCE. This year, two other cities that sit along Interstate 65 won ACCE awards—Nashville's chamber won the large division and Columbus, Ind., won the small division, according to the chamber.

In 2008, about 26 businesses either located or expanded operations in the Barren River area with a total investment of about \$105 million and 2,092 additional jobs, according to the chamber.

And because of its new businesses and expansion efforts, southcentral Kentucky received several national recognitions last year—the area was named by Forbes Magazine the 12th best small place in the area for businesses and careers. It was also ranked 33rd of 363 metropolitan areas in job growth and employment.

"The fact that the Bowling Green metropolitan area, by virtually every measure, has been . . . the fastest growing metropolitan area in the state of Kentucky, is evidence that we are achieving our objective in spite of a challenging economic environment," Hizer said.

As for future economic development, the ACCE award will help attract new businesses and convince existing businesses to consolidate here or expand, Hizer said.

"This sent a message to the rest of the world that there are some special things happening here in southcentral Kentucky," Hizer said. "And that in and of itself will draw additional interest to our community."

Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce for receiving the 2009 Chamber of the Year award.

The Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce is truly an outstanding organization. It provides an invaluable serv-

ice to South Central Kentucky by working with its more than 1,300 partners to stimulate economic development and create a better business environment in the region. Its hard work and advocacy has also enabled Bowling Green to compete nationally and to earn Site Selection Magazine's ranking of ninth for its number of 2008 industry and expansion projects.

The greater Bowling Green region is home to a resilient economy where small and large businesses are forced to contend with a number of economic challenges. Recognizing these challenges, the Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce has remained committed to aiding businesses as they work their way through today's economic landscape.

Strong leadership and solid organization have contributed to the chamber's record of success. Under the guidance of current chamber president, Jim Hizer, the chamber's membership and activities have continued to increase, providing local businesses more opportunities for growth and employment.

I would like to congratulate the Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce for receiving the 2009 Chamber of the Year award. Over the years, it has become a strong organization committed to serving the interests of its members and community. I wish it all the best in its future endeavors within Kentucky and around our Nation.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, last Friday was the eighth anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks, and we solemnly remembered the thousands of innocent lives, of many nationalities and religions, that were so cruelly and indiscriminately destroyed on that infamous day. It was a defining moment for our country, and since then we have sought to address the shocking intelligence and security failures that enabled the perpetrators to so brazenly enter this country and carry out those attacks, as well as to track down the masterminds of that atrocity and to destroy al-Qaida and other terrorist networks that have become a global menace.

We all recognize the threat that violent extremists pose to Americans, as well as to citizens of other countries, and the imperative of countering it. This should not be a matter of partisan politics, but of working together in a common purpose for the sake of law abiding people everywhere. I supported many of the initiatives of the Bush administration, as I have the Obama administration, to make our borders more secure, to improve our intelligence gathering, to track down terrorists and bring them to justice.

But there have been strong differences over what tactics to use, and the effectiveness of military force to combat violent extremism in countries where we are widely seen as invaders or occupiers. No issue has generated more