

Sally Ride's historic space flight riveted the Nation and made her a household name—a symbol of women's ability to break barriers and achieve any goal, no matter how lofty. She immediately understood and appreciated her place in history, crediting the women's movement of the 1970s with paving her way into the space program.

Dr. Ride made another space flight in 1984 and was preparing for a third when the *Challenger* exploded shortly after takeoff on January 28, 1986. She served on the Presidential commission investigating the *Challenger* tragedy and worked at NASA headquarters as special assistant to the administrator before retiring from NASA in 1987.

After serving as a science fellow at Stanford's Center for International Security and Arms Control, Dr. Ride joined the faculty at the University of California, San Diego as a physics professor and director of the California Space Institute.

In 2001 she founded Sally Ride Science to create educational programs that entertain, engage, and inspire young people. She served on the President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology, the National Research Council's Space Studies Board, and the boards of the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, the Carnegie Institution of Washington, and the NCAA Foundation.

Sally Ride pushed the limits of knowledge, courage, and accomplishment for all Americans, especially for girls and young women. As a pioneer in the final frontier of space, she showed millions of American girls that there was truly no limit on what they can do or where they can go.

On behalf of the people of California, who have been so moved and inspired by Sally Ride's life and legacy, I send my deepest appreciation and condolences to her partner of 27 years, Tam O'Shaughnessy; her mother, Joyce; her sister, Bear; her niece, Caitlin; and her nephew, Whitney.

CHRISTENING OF THE USS SOMERSET

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, this Saturday, July 28, 2012, the U.S. Navy will perform a christening ceremony in New Orleans for the future USS *Somerset*. The USS *Somerset* is a special ship, bearing the name of the Southwest Pennsylvania county where United Airlines Flight 93 crashed on September 11, 2001.

On that infamous day, a group of defiant and determined Americans challenged a group of al-Qaida hijackers hell bent on crashing the plane into the U.S. Capitol, the White House, or another sensitive DC-area target. The terrorists' goal was not achieved, thanks to the bravery of the Americans onboard. We will never forget their actions in the face of horror.

The USS *Somerset* will serve as an ongoing emblem of their heroism as it

racers to the aid of our friends and defends American liberty against our foes. This ship also embodies the American spirit local Pennsylvanians demonstrated shortly after the crash, when they raised the Stars and Stripes atop a dragline near the crash site as an unforgettable symbol of our country's resolve during a time of national sorrow.

Wherever the USS *Somerset* goes, so will a piece of southwest Pennsylvania. The bow of the ship includes steel from the dragline adjacent to the crash site in Stonycreek Township, where it was a silent witness to an indelible act of American courage and strength in defiance of those who would do us harm.

I wish the U.S. Navy and the future crew of the USS *Somerset* safe travels and successful missions defending America and freedom worldwide.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. NEOSHA A. MACKEY

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Neosha A. Mackey, who retired earlier this summer as dean of university libraries at Missouri State University after 27 years of service. During her years of dedicated service, Mackey oversaw the expansion of the Meyer Library to meet the needs of the academic community with improved access to local archives, manuscripts and photographs. The MSU library system also improved its access to other research materials with a Special Collections and Archives section available to internet users that was previously only accessible to view at the MSU Library.

Mackey started at Missouri State as the head of reference in 1985. Later she served as associate dean of library services, 1987–2009; acting dean, 1993–1995, and was appointed dean of library services in 2009.

During her tenure, the library enhanced services with a \$28 million addition and renovation project. Mackey has also been a presence in the classroom teaching both undergraduate and graduate level courses while monitoring budgets and coordinating personnel matters. As Missouri State reached out to establish programs and classes for students in China, Mackey and her husband John took a leadership role in the development of those programs.

Mackey also directed an expansion of the Meyer Library's local archives and collections with a loan agreement to house, preserve, and provide access to manuscripts and photographs owned by The History Museum for Springfield-Greene County. The History Museum holds a comprehensive collection of photographs and personal documents capturing decades of history and changing cultures in Springfield and Greene Counties. The new campus location promises improved access for researchers and the general public as

well as a safer climate- and temperature-controlled location for these priceless archives.

Before arriving at Missouri State, Mackey was at the Ohio State University from 1978–1985 as personnel librarian and head of the home economics library. She served as assistant to the dean, 1975–1977, and as head of the Parish Business Library, 1970–1975, at the University of New Mexico. Mackey has a bachelor of arts in economics and a master's in library science from the University of Oklahoma and an MBA from the University of New Mexico.

Mackey's achievements and her personal commitment to excellence have guided the Missouri State Library program to a place of national prominence. I thank her for her efforts and wish her well in her well-deserved retirement.●

2012 OLYMPIC GAMES

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I rise today to commend three Vermonters who will be representing the United States in the Olympic Games in London. One hundred years ago Albert Gutterson of Springfield, VT, won Olympic Gold in the broad jump. This year, Lea Davison, Trevor Moore and Andrew Wheating are the latest in a long line of Vermonters to compete in the world's most prestigious athletic competition.

Lea Davison won the first mountain bike race she ever entered when she was 17 years old. A native of Jericho, VT, Lea competed in cross country and was a Division I alpine ski racer at Middlebury College before becoming the youngest woman to join the professional mountain biking tour. Lea has become one of the dominant forces in professional women's mountain biking but still takes time to give back to the community, running a summer camp for girls from Vermont who are interested in cycling.

Trevor Moore began sailing with his father and brother at a very young age. When he moved to North Pomfret, VT, as a teenager his passion for competition led him to play for Woodstock Union High's tennis and soccer teams. At Hobart College, Trevor was an accomplished sailor and a three-time All American, in addition to being named the 2007 College Sailor of the Year. He will be competing with Erik Storck in the 49er category in London.

London will mark Andrew Wheating's second Olympic Games. He competed for the track team in the 800 meter race at the Beijing Olympics in 2008. Andrew is originally from Norwich, VT. Recruited by the University of Oregon, he was the NCAA champion in the 800 meters in 2009 and 2010 and in the 1600 meters in 2010. Andrew is renowned for his ability to come from behind in races and will be competing in the 1600 meters in London.

Vermont is proud of Lea, Trevor, and Andrew, and I and the citizens of my State wish them the best of luck at the 2012 Olympic Games.●