

gathered up and thrown away. So there's little left of Mr. Carter's work except a few calendars and a few copies of his book, "Black History Makers."

But, during Black History Month, we recognize such little-known figures as Mr. Carter, as well as the celebrated.

Mr. Carter would have liked that.●

HONORING HOBBS, N.M., HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL COACH RALPH TASKER

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a man who has accumulated a remarkable record as the head basketball coach at Hobbs High School in New Mexico. This year he ends more than a half century of teaching and coaching. During these decades of service, he has endeared himself to a community and earned acclaim as one of the most winning high school coaches in the United States.

To understand the significance of Ralph Tasker's impact, it is useful to know more about Hobbs, the community to which he had dedicated his life.

Hobbs is a city born of the hard-scrabble oil and gas industry. Situated on the dusty mesquite-laden plains of southeast New Mexico, it is primarily dependent on farming, ranching, and the petroleum industry. It is a proud community that has touted itself as "Hobbs, America."

I believe I can safely say that a lot of the pride in this community has been fostered by its school system and, more specifically, the renowned success of its high school basketball team.

Mr. President, on February 20, Ralph Tasker will coach his last high school basketball game in Hobbs.

On that Friday evening in the Ralph Tasker Arena, the people of Hobbs—a town accustomed to the booms and busts of the oil and gas industry—will honor the man who since 1949 has led the Hobbs Eagles to consistent basketball glory. Under Ralph Tasker's steady tutelage, it can be said a most constant sound in Hobbs, beyond the hum of oilfield pumps, has been the swish of basketballs ripping through the hoops, the squeak of rubber on hardwood, and decades of cheering fans. It has been through the efforts of Ralph Tasker, the hard knuckled basketball coach, that Hobbs has become known to America.

Understandably, Hobbs honors the end of Coach Tasker's remarkable career with a measure of trepidation.

Mr. President, I believe Ralph Tasker's career as a high school coach has been so outstanding that he deserves the recognition of the Senate.

Born, raised and educated in West Virginia, Ralph Tasker's life has virtually always involved basketball. His teaching and coaching career began in Ohio. During World War II, he served with the U.S. Army Air Corps stationed at what is now Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque. Tasker played basketball with the Flying Kellys during his service days.

Following the war, he earned a masters degree and returned to New Mex-

ico, this time to Lovington where he taught and coached starting in 1946. It was in 1949 that Ralph Tasker began his illustrious tenure as the head basketball coach at Hobbs High School.

Over the decades, Coach Tasker has compiled the third most winning record of active high school coaches in the United States, with a record of at least 1,116 wins and only 289 losses.

Tasker's Hobbs Eagles have won a dozen state championships—one in Lovington in 1949 and 11 in Hobbs in 1956, 1957, 1958, 1966, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1980, 1981, 1987, and 1988. He is believed to have set a record of sorts by coaching state championship basketball teams in five different decades, from the 1940s to the 1980s. The varsity team has qualified for the state basketball tournaments 36 times, including 24 consecutive tourney appearances between 1961 and 1985.

In 52 seasons as head basketball coach, Ralph Tasker's teams have suffered only two losing seasons. In comparison, he has coached 36 teams to seasons with 20 or more victories. He led two teams through perfect seasons, 1966 (28-0) and 1981 (26-0). His 1970 squad averaged 114.6 points per game during a 27-game season, which is still a national record.

All this success has been rewarded with a trophy case of personal honors. Ralph Tasker has been named National High School Coach by the National High School Coaches Association and by the National Sports News Service. In 1991, he was named the National Athletic Coach of the Year by the prestigious Walt Disney National Teacher Awards Program.

He was a 1988 inductee into the National High School Sports Hall of Fame in Kansas City, Missouri. He has also been inducted into the New Mexico High School Coaches Association Hall of Honor, the Alderson-Broaddus College's Battler Hall of Fame, and the New Mexico State University Aggie Hall of Fame.

Recognition of Coach Tasker's abilities is underscored by the fact that more than 100 Eagle basketball players have gone to college on basketball scholarships, with 50 named to All-State squads, nine selected to prep All-American teams, and 13 drafted by professional basketball leagues.

But I know that the citizens of Hobbs are most proud and appreciative of Ralph Tasker for the hundreds of lives he has helped shape as a coach and mentor. Hundreds upon hundreds of youth people have benefited from the hard work, discipline, and sense of comradery they gained under Coach Tasker's direction. For more than 50 years he has given impressionable young men a sense of direction, a sense of being part of something bigger and greater than they could be by themselves. In teaching such lessons through sweat and toil on the varnished boards of a gymnasium floor, he has made Hobbs a better place to live.

For all his accomplishments, I salute Ralph Tasker, and join those who bring

deserved attention to his lifetime of commitment to an honored sport and the youth who play the game.●

RETIREMENT OF RALPH TASKER

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise to give praise to a great man. Ralph Tasker has announced that after 52 seasons of coaching, he will retire as the head basketball coach at Hobbs High School in New Mexico. In his 52 seasons, Coach Tasker has amassed over 1,103 wins en route to 12 State championships, 4 State runner-up titles, and 1 National Coach of the Year title. Indeed, Coach Tasker's legacy is that of a man who not only won many basketball games, but also brought his positive influence into the lives of hundreds of high school students.

From 1965 to 1967, Coach Tasker's team won 53 consecutive games. In the 1969-70 season, his team averaged 114.6 points per game, earning him the prestigious National Coach of the Year title. In the 1980's, Coach Tasker continued his winning ways as he led his team to consecutive undefeated seasons from 1980-82, and he was elected to the National High School Sports Hall of Fame.

Mr. President, on the eve of the third-winningest active high school coach's retirement, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ralph Tasker for his years of dedication to the youth of New Mexico. Certainly, we all have a lot to learn from this man, and his example stands as a marker that we should all strive to attain. Thank you, Coach Tasker, for teaching us the true meaning of winning gracefully.●

NOMINATION OF DR. DAVID SATCHER

● Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, over the course of the debate on Dr. Satcher's nomination for Assistant Secretary of Health and Surgeon General, Senator ASHCROFT and others have expressed some issues of concern. First, Dr. Satcher's comments regarding abortion. Second, an AZT study in Africa to research alternative treatments for developing nations to the costly and inaccessible AZT regimen.

While I initially had concerns about Dr. Satcher's comments on abortion, I wanted to listen to the debate, examine additional written responses Dr. Satcher provided to the committee on this issue, and make my decision.

During the committee's consideration of Dr. Satcher, he stated that he supports President Clinton in his veto of the ban on partial-birth-abortions. After the hearings, he tried to back-track.

In his October 28, 1997 written comments to Senator FRIST, Dr. Satcher further explained his position on abortion and I'd like to quote those remarks.

Let me state unequivocally that I have no intention of using the positions of Assistant

Secretary for Health and Surgeon General to promote issues related to abortion. I share no one's political agenda and I want to use the power of these positions to focus on issues that unite Americans—not divide them.

I am not comforted by this clarification of his position.

Mr. President, I believe we as a nation require a Surgeon General who's position on this issue is one of furthering policies which, at a minimum, do not give tacit approval of a procedure that 75 to 80 percent of Americans agree is barbaric and unneeded.

With regard to the AZT trials to prevent the maternal-to-infant transfer of HIV in Africa, I also share some concerns about the protocol set up in this study. Specifically, the use of a placebo control group.

Mr. President, I have always been a strong supporter of medical research. I cannot, however, endorse or condone research done in developing countries in a manner which we would not conduct it here in our own Nation—with our own constituents as the subjects of that research.

Mr. President, I listened to both sides of the arguments and came to a conclusion. I have no reason to believe Dr. David Satcher is not qualified to serve as Assistant Secretary of Health and Surgeon General of the United States. However, I, for the reasons cited earlier, could not in good conscience support his nomination.●

MAKING CRS REPORTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, last week Senator MCCAIN, the Chairman of the Commerce Committee, introduced legislation to make Congressional Research Service Reports, Issue Briefs and Authorization and Appropriations products available over the Internet to the public. I rise today to express my support for this timely legislation.

The Congressional Research Service has a well-deserved reputation for producing objective, high-quality reports and issue briefs. I have relied on these reports in the past and have only the highest regard for the material produced by CRS. This information is not readily available to the general public, however. Congressional offices must officially request information on a constituent's behalf.

Senator MCCAIN's legislation, S. 1578, directs the Director of CRS to make reports, issue briefs and the more comprehensive CRS reports on federal authorizations and appropriations available on the Internet. Most of this information is already available on the CRS website but can only be accessed by Members of Congress and their staff. Obviously, since we use the Internet to make this information more accessible to Congress, we have the ability to make this information available to the general public. It is time we do so.

Increasingly, the public is demonstrating that it is not satisfied with

the way Congress does business. Amid the furor over campaign finance reform, accusations abound of Members "selling" their votes to private interest groups. I believe that greater access to the documents used by Members of Congress when making decisions will increase public understanding of this institution. Since constituents will be able to see the materials which influence the way a Member votes, a more accurate view of the Congressional decision-making process should emerge.

Passage of this legislation will also permit the Congressional Research Service to serve an important role in informing the public. This nation's citizens will be able to read CRS products and receive a concise, accurate summary of the issues that concern them. The American taxpayer is paying for this information, almost \$65 million for this year alone, and has a right to see it.

The technological advances of the last decade are truly astonishing. Every effort should be made to apply this new technology as widely as possible. The advent of the Internet provides an important avenue for the exploration of new applications. This new medium has made possible the low-cost, rapid dissemination of information to an growing audience, and, whereas legislation to make CRS information available to the public was not plausible ten years ago, today we can do it at a very low cost.

Mr. President, removing the barriers to public view of CRS documents is a great idea who's time has come. It will help Congress to better fulfill its duty to inform the public and allow constituents to see first hand the information that serves as the basis for many of the decisions made by its federally elected representatives.●

AN IDAHOAN MINES OLYMPIC GOLD

● Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate an American athlete who has shown us all that adversity can be turned into inspiration and success.

Picabo Street, a young woman from the tiny mining town of Triumph in my home state of Idaho, has thrilled us all with her gold medal-winning performance in the women's super giant slalom at the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan.

Four years ago I stood in this chamber to offer my congratulations to Picabo, who won a silver medal in the Lillehammer Olympics in the downhill. While a lot has happened in this country and the world over those four years, one thing has remained the same: Picabo Street's desire to win an Olympic gold medal.

That dream looked like it might not be fulfilled after a horrible accident 14 months ago during a training run. Picabo blew out her knee, and missed almost the entire 1997 season. But thanks to her determination and tire-

less rehabilitation, the knee was strong enough to return to action late last year. And then, another setback marred her prospects for Nagano. Just 12 days ago, she was knocked unconscious in a spill during a race in Sweden.

But this remarkable third-generation Idahoan, who learned to ski on the slopes of Sun Valley, was determined not to let this latest setback keep her from fulfilling the promise she made to her parents when she was a little girl—the promise of Olympic gold.

Picabo says the long and difficult months of rehabilitation from her injury were the toughest times of her life. Yet her hard work and dedication pulled her through. Even while she could only sit and watch her teammates get ready for these games, she never lost hope.

Picabo's mother, Dee, taught her the words to the Star Spangled Banner. Four years ago, Picabo stood on the silver medal platform, listening to another country's anthem being played. She vowed the next time she'd hear her anthem. Those singing lessons came in handy today. With the gold medal around her neck, Picabo sang the words to our national anthem. I'm sure every American sang with her.

Idaho can be truly proud of a hometown hero, who overcame seemingly insurmountable odds to regain the form that made her a world champion. I ask every Idahoan and every American to join me in offering congratulations to this amazing athlete.

The little girl from the gold mining town of Triumph, Idaho has triumphed and won the gold medal.●

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. ROBERTS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar:

No. 371, Sally Thompson, to be CFO of the Department of Agriculture.

No. 490, Robert Warshaw, to be Associate Director for National Drug Control Policy.

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

Mr. ROBERTS. I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations were considered and confirmed, as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Sally Thompson, of Kansas, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Agriculture.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Robert S. Warshaw, of New York, to be Associate Director for National Drug Control Policy.