

a number of different charities and causes, ranging from providing loans for college students to assisting the sick and the elderly in getting to Sunday Mass.

Other examples of service activities in Minnesota include: a fund drive in support of the construction of Catholic schools conducted by Council 7604 in Eagan, Minnesota; the bowling team from Council 961 in St. Cloud, Minnesota, which raised over \$6,000 for Big Brothers-Big Sisters; and the sponsoring of youth hockey by Council 3166 in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Mr. President, I am pleased to report that the "World's Largest Catholic Family Fraternal Organization" has a commanding presence in Minnesota and will continue to provide communities with an excellent example of how to live a fulfilling life of maximum service to God and country. I am honored to have this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the Knights of Columbus for all their work, and offer my sincerest congratulations on the 116th anniversary of their founding. •

TRIBUTE TO THE KENTUCKY WILDCATS: 1998 NCAA NATIONAL BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

• Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, 50 years ago this month, the University of Kentucky accomplished a feat still unmatched in college basketball history. As every backyard all-star in the Commonwealth can tell you, that was the year of the original Fabulous Five.

You see in Kentucky, we have a habit of naming our most special Wildcat teams, and 1948 may have been the most special of the bunch. That group, led by Alex Groza, Ralph Beard and Wah Wah Jones not only earned Kentucky's first NCAA men's college basketball championship trophy but went on to bring home a gold medal from the 1948 Olympics.

Flash forward Fifty years into the future, to see another edition of the Wildcats, and equally high expectations. Led by seniors Jeff Sheppard, Allen Edwards, and Cameron Mills, the 1998 Cats came into the season facing an uncertain future. While expectations are always high at Kentucky, this year's squad exceeded even the most optimistic fan's hopes.

Under the expert leadership of first-year head coach, Tubby Smith, these Wildcats will be raising the school's 7th NCAA championship banner to the rafters of Rupp Arena. But Mr. President, there is so much more to this story than wins and losses.

While the '48 team was appropriately known as the Fab Five, this year's national champions will go down in Wildcat history as maybe the most perfect embodiment of the word "team" in Kentucky's legacy of excellence. Time after time when the odds seemed insurmountable this team willed itself to victory.

A quick review of the final three games of this year's tournament re-

veals the heart of a lion. Down 17 points with less than 10 minutes to play against a Duke squad that had been ranked #1 for most of the year, the Comeback Cats put together a frenzied charge, outscoring the Blue Devils 17 - 1 during a crucial stretch. What made the feat all the more impressive was that every player contributed.

In the Final Four, the Cats squared off against the Stanford Cardinal, the West Coast power that spent the majority of the season undefeated. Down by 5 at half, the Cats did what was natural for them, they put together a rally, eventually winning the contest in overtime. This victory was fueled by one of the most gritty performances in Final Four history, as senior Jeff Sheppard poured in 27 of the Cats 74 points.

What could top this effort in the finals? How about the greatest come-from-behind victory in the history of the NCAA championship. Down 10 at the half, and 12 early in the second half, this selfless group of young men redoubled their efforts and chipped away at the Utah lead. Steadily the tide began to shift behind three point baskets from Heshimu Evans, and Kentucky natives Cameron Mills and Scott Padgett. Refusing to wilt under the pressure of facing the hottest team in the nation, Kentucky hammered away defensively and converted on the offensive end. In the end, Utah's game effort was not enough and the Cats posted a 78 - 69 victory in seizing their second national title in three years.

In what has become habit for the Comeback Cats, the team drew on its strengths and refused to panic. Under the masterful eye of Coach Smith and the intelligent play of a host of stars, the team accomplished its dream of bringing home the title.

So, Mr. President, while we look back fondly on the Fabulous Five of 1948, I am content to take senior Jeff Sheppard's advice to "appreciate the precious present," and embrace these Comeback Cats as the greatest "team" to ever put on the Kentucky uniform. It is impossible to appreciate the intensity and effort these young men put forth as they met and exceeded every challenge in their path during the 1997-98 season.

Mr. President, I ask each of my colleagues to join me in honoring the University of Kentucky, history-making coach Tubby Smith, athletic director C. M. Newton, and most importantly each and every talented player on the 1998 Championship Wildcat team. •

HONORING MORTANA MCCORMICK

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to speak to you on behalf of the citizens of West Virginia. The West Virginia Department of Culture and History has named 1998 "The Year of the Quilt." In the Appalachian Mountain region, and particularly in the great state of West Virginia, the tradition of native crafting, including quilt-

ing, has thrived uninterrupted for over two hundred years.

In 1968, my wife, Sharon, along with a group of community-minded West Virginians assisted a talented group of quilters to form *Mountain Artisans*, a nonprofit group comprised of gifted quilt makers, to help in the preservation and exposure of this artful tradition of design and talent. Many West Virginians considered quilting a part of the mountain state's heritage. My wife and I are particularly fond of the *Mountain Artisans*. When we were expecting our first child, in the late 1960's, the group graciously decided to create a quilt for our first-born. With the assistance of the Sod Sewing Group from Sod, West Virginia, the quilt was completed in mid-September of 1970. The beautiful quilt, which is known as "*The Rockefeller Quilt*" was displayed at the Rockefeller home and today, adorns the wall just outside my office in the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

One master quilter I especially admire is Mortana McCormick of Sod, West Virginia, who contributed to the creation of *The Rockefeller Quilt*. Ms. McCormick, a distinguished quilter, has represented the State well and helped put our state on the "interior design and fashion" map. She has contributed to fashion patchwork designs for Barbra Streisand and museum collections displayed in West Virginia and internationally. Mortana McCormick is just one of the talented artisan-quilters that call West Virginia home. I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing this long standing tradition and art, and its many talented artists, including Ms. Mortana McCormick. •

TRIBUTE TO LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I stand before you today to pay tribute to a truly outstanding University in my home State of Missouri, Lincoln University. Lincoln has played a large role in African American education in my home State of Missouri, as well as across the nation.

Lincoln was founded in 1866 by the Caucasian officers and the African American enlisted men of the 62nd and 65th United States Colored Infantries who fought for the Union during the Civil War. These men wanted to establish a school that would devote itself to educating freed African Americans. By soliciting funds and donating their own salaries, they raised \$6,000 within a few days. With these funds, the soldiers were able to open the doors of Lincoln Institute on September 17, 1866. In 1869, Lincoln began to receive \$5,000 in aid from the State of Missouri for teacher training. By 1940, Lincoln Institute had become Lincoln University and had evolved from a teacher training school to a full University offering Graduate instruction. In each of the decades Lincoln has continually added programs, expanded its facilities and opened its