

running four miles in 17-minutes and 24-seconds—an average of four, four-minute 21-second miles in succession. The four minute mile record would not be broken until 30-years later.

Irons then won the All Southern S.I.A.A. Road Race in Birmingham—a grueling three mile event over solid pavement. In a hard, driving rain, he broke the record by more than 20 seconds. This record has never been equaled nor broken.

For his prowess on the track field, Irons ran himself into the Alabama record books, including his addition to the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in 1978 on the first ballot—the only track and distance runner ever inducted into the Hall of Fame.

While at the University of Alabama, Dr. Irons was a Phi Beta Kappa honors student, and the University's nominee for the Rhodes Scholarship in 1924. From there, he went on to Duke University where he earned his doctorate degree in history.

To his friends, Dr. Irons was the quintessential American. With large inviting hands, captivating smile and charming gentleman's demeanor, he radiated a generous spirit accessible to everyone. Witty and charming, he always made the other person "look good," even if to his own detriment. Eager to listen, never critical or negative, he could penetrate the soul of another and give an inspiring uplifting word of encouragement or silently go about doing good. A generous heart who cared deeply and passionately about the loves of his life and consecrated his energies to them. A braveheart of Scottish ancestry, he had the heart of a lion when his interests were challenged.

A consummate gentleman with the "can do" American spirit on any endeavor—interested in what you were doing and how he could help accomplish your objectives. With foresight he encouraged female colleagues to pursue their professional goals long before it was a popular undertaking.

He was a genteel man ever sensitive to another's hurt. He went about assisting without being asked. Dr. Irons had an unlimited capacity to give his endless energies to any task. His crisp walks across the Samford campus at near running gait were legendary among his students and the faculty. He had a great fighting heart for his beliefs and often referred to his middle initial "V" as "V for victory." Dr. Irons had an elegance rarely seen rivaling the beauty and grace of a swan, yet strong with the swift power of a lion if called upon.

Loyal and faithful, easy to greet, he was at ease before a large convocation audience or content to enjoy cherished time of solitude.

In addition to his other accomplishments, Dr. Irons, who was also Colonel Irons, proudly defended the United States in war and in peace for over one-third of the 20th Century. Dr. Irons, who achieved the rank of Lt. Col., served in the Anti-Aircraft Artillery branch of the U.S. Army and reserves.

Devoted to God, Dr. Irons gave selfless service to his Church as deacon, Sunday school teacher, and Chairman of the Board of Deacons. He was elected as lifetime Deacon, Southside Baptist Church. His life reflects his depth of devotion in word, deed and thought. Dr. Irons was an icon of virtue and a legendary role model for Samford students for almost a century.

Dr. Irons' life was one of sacrificial service. From his service to our nation, to his work on behalf of Samford University students and faculty, Dr. Irons was a figure of character, devotion to cause, and exemplary standards of honor, duty and integrity. His life is an inspiration to all.

Funeral services for Dr. Irons were conducted at Mountain Brook Baptist Church Chapel on July 27, 1998 by Dr. Irons' former

student, Dr. James D. Moebes, Senior Minister.●

#### RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF SAM HOWARD

●Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the achievement of Mr. Sam Howard, Chief Executive Officer of Phoenix Healthcare Corporation, who was recently selected to serve as Chairman of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce. Aside from the general prestige which accompanies attaining such an honor, Mr. Howard bears the distinction of being the first African American to hold this position. His talent and skills will certainly benefit the city of Nashville.

As the first African American to hold this position, Mr. Howard has a unique opportunity to encourage minority membership within the Chamber of Commerce and to promote minority entrepreneurs. The Urban Journal's July 1, 1998 edition highlighted Mr. Howard's top goals, including the development of a foreign trade mission, as well as focusing attention on public education and investments in the field of biomedicine and biotechnology.

Mr. Howard serves with me as a member of the National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare. The Commission has held a number of field hearings in Tennessee to gather the views and concerns of industry leaders and beneficiaries in the state. Mr. Howard's perspective as CEO of a health maintenance organization, which contracts with companies, Medicare and the TennCare program, is appropriate and useful for the Commission's goal of identifying challenges facing the Medicare program and for creating potential solutions.

Mr. President, I congratulate Mr. Howard on this worthy achievement and thank him for serving as a role model for the next generation. I am proud of his optimistic view toward life, and his perseverance and dedication toward overcoming obstacles. I wish him well throughout his tenure as Chairman of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce.●

#### NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1998

Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to consideration of calendar No. 549, S. 2317.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2317) to improve the National Wildlife Refuge System, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with amendments; as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in italic.)

S. 2317

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1998".

#### SEC. 2. UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE AND FISH REFUGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with section 4(a)(3) of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd(a)(3)), there are transferred to the Corps of Engineers, without reimbursement, approximately 37.36 acres of land of the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge in the State of Minnesota, as designated on the map entitled "Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge lands transferred to Corps of Engineers", dated January 1998, and available, with accompanying legal descriptions of the land, for inspection in appropriate offices of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The first section and section 2 of the Upper Mississippi River Wild Life and Fish Refuge Act (16 U.S.C. 721, 722) are amended by striking "Upper Mississippi River Wild Life and Fish Refuge" each place it appears and inserting "Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge".

#### SEC. 3. KILLCOHOOK COORDINATION AREA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with section 4(a)(3) of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd(a)(3)), the jurisdiction of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service over approximately 1,439.26 acres of land in the States of New Jersey and Delaware, known as the "Killcohook Coordination Area", as established by Executive Order No. 6582, issued February 3, 1934, and Executive Order No. 8648, issued January 23, 1941, is terminated.

(b) EXECUTIVE ORDERS.—Executive Order No. 6582, issued February 3, 1934, and Executive Order No. 8648, issued January 23, 1941, are revoked.

#### SEC. 4. LAKE ELSIE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with section 4(a)(3) of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd(a)(3)), the jurisdiction of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service over approximately 634.7 acres of land and water in Richland County, North Dakota, known as the "Lake Elsie National Wildlife Refuge", as established by Executive Order No. 8152, issued June 12, 1939, is terminated.

(b) EXECUTIVE ORDER.—Executive Order No. 8152, issued June 12, 1939, is revoked.

#### SEC. 5. KLAMATH FOREST NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

Section 28 of the Act of August 13, 1954 (25 U.S.C. 564w-1), is amended in subsections (f) and (g) by striking "Klamath Forest National Wildlife Refuge" each place it appears and inserting "Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge".

#### SEC. 6. VIOLATION OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION ACT.

Section 4 of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence of subsection (c), by striking "knowingly"; and

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking "(f) Any" and inserting the following: