

times in the last six years, with appearances in 1986, 1984, and 1982 as well as they continue a long, proud tradition.

Both Iowa State teams finished as regular season champions of the Big XII conference, then followed up that feat with convincing wins at the conference championship tournament, entitling each team to an automatic bid in the 2000 NCAA basketball tournaments. The men's championship was the university's first since 1945, when the conference was still the Big 6, while it was the first women's conference title since varsity women's basketball started at Iowa State in 1973. So these are great accomplishments.

Their achievements are exemplified by the selections of Marcus Fizer as a first-team All-American from the men's program and Stacy Frese as a second-team All-American from the women's program, but each team is much more than just its stars. Both All-Americans are complemented by strong position players throughout their respective teams, and neither team would have reached this pinnacle without the enthusiastic support of Iowa State's fans. On the weekend of the Big XII championships, held in Kansas City, a substantial portion of the city of Ames migrated south for that event, filling the arenas with loyal wearers of cardinal and gold, the team colors.

As an Iowa State graduate myself, I want to salute their accomplishments, including their fine performances in the NCAA tournaments. Both teams were active in the tournament through last weekend, the men losing in the regional finals and the women in the regional semifinals. We have a long, proud tradition of excellent basketball teams in the state of Iowa at the high school and college level, and Iowa State's 1999-2000 men's and women's basketball teams and the Drake women's team have shown themselves worthy of joining that pantheon. They're both great teams, and they did Iowa proud.●

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CELEBRATING GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the annual March 25th celebration of Greek Independence Day commemorates the independence of Greece from 400 years of oppression under the Ottoman Empire. Greeks have made great contributions to the world in literature, philosophy, mathematics and government. The names of Homer, Socrates, Euclid and Alexander echo through the pages of world history. It was the Greek people who started the Olympic Games saying there was more honor in peaceful competition than in wars of conquest. The greatest gift Greek people have given the world, though, is a simple yet powerful idea that was born over 2,000 years ago. It is the idea that a nation's power lies in the hands of its people. The Athenian republic was the

world's first democracy, a fact that all free nations must respect.

The bonds that join the United States and Greece are deep and long lasting. Our fore-fathers recognized the spirit and idealism of ancient Greece when drafting our Constitution. Forty-five years after our own revolution for independence, Greece freed itself with its own revolutionary struggle.

In every major international conflict of this century, Greece has been a proud ally of the United States. Honoring this day will pay special tribute to those Greek men and women who gave their lives for the common cause of freedom. Greek-Americans can especially take pride in their ancestors' sacrifice. The many Greek sons and daughters who have come to the United States have worked honorably in all areas of American life, including public service. Greek culture flourishes in American cities, adding to our country's rich diversity.

I hope Greece will resolve its differences with its Turkish neighbors over Cyprus. I hope all people in the region share in America's belief that this can be achieved through diplomacy instead of violence. Let us be mindful of the olive tree and the Olympic flame, the great symbols of Greece, and remember, too, that they are also symbols of peace.●

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THE PEACE CORPS' 40TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, at a recent event at the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston, the Chairman of the Library Foundation, Paul G. Kirk, Jr., and the new Director of the Peace Corps, Mark Schneider, spoke of the importance of the Peace Corps as it launched its year-long, 40th anniversary celebration. Mr. Schneider announced a new initiative to expand the role of Peace Corps volunteers in bringing information technology to the task of reducing poverty in developing countries. He also outlined a plan to expand the Peace Corps' efforts to raise global awareness about HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

It is fitting that this occasion was held at President Kennedy's library. In March 1961, President Kennedy launched the Peace Corps as a new idea to demonstrate that a new generation of Americans was moving into positions of leadership in the United States, and they intended to serve the cause of peace around the world.

The Peace Corps today continues its vital and thriving mission, with 7,400 volunteers serving in 77 countries, including recent missions in South Africa, Jordan, Mozambique and Bangladesh. In the past four decades, more than 150,000 Americans have served as Peace Corps volunteers in 134 countries, promoting peace, education, economic development and international cooperation.

Mr. President, I commend the significant current role of the Peace Corps in

involving U.S. citizens in world affairs, and making the world a better place by their efforts. I ask consent that the addresses by Mark Schneider and Paul Kirk be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

REMARKS OF PAUL G. KIRK, JR.

Thank you, Jim. Good evening. I know this is a special occasion for all of you, but I want you to know that it is an equally special evening for those of us associated with the Kennedy Library. Like each of you, I am also a volunteer in an important cause. And in my responsibilities as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, few privileges are as significant as having the honor to welcome home so many Peace Corps Volunteers to the nation's memorial to President Kennedy.

Senator Kennedy and Mark Schneider agreed that this Library, whose mission it is to honor John Kennedy's public life and career and to perpetuate his passion for service, is the most appropriate site at which to begin the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Peace Corps. And I congratulate you and I am delighted to welcome you all on behalf of the Kennedy Family, our Board of Directors and our dedicated staff.

Here in New England, as you know, we enjoy many seasons. At this time of year, we look forward to the springtime—a season when nature's energy bursts forth, when promise and hope are renewed—when opportunities seem limitless—and when a spirit of confidence and optimism make all of us, regardless of our age, feel younger than our years.

If it could be said that politics also has seasons, 40 years ago there began a season in our history that proved to be—and remains today—the height of America's political springtime—as the nation, renewed in energy, hope and idealism, responded to the patriotic call to service of the newly elected, youthful 35th President of the United States.

If, as I believe, his 1000 days were "the height of America's political springtime", then it must be said that the planting and the subsequent flowering of the Peace Corps epitomizes all that is the very best in the lasting legacy of that season of service.

On March 1, 1961, 6 weeks after his inauguration, upon signing the Executive Order establishing the Peace Corps, President Kennedy said he was convinced that "We have in this country, an immense reservoir of men and women—eager to sacrifice their energies and time and toil to the cause of world peace and human progress."

He acknowledged that "life in the Peace Corps will not be easy," but he also promised it would be "rich and satisfying."

"... (E)very young American who participates in the Peace Corps—who works in a foreign land"—he said, "will know that he or she is sharing in the great common task of bringing to man that decent way of life which is the foundation of freedom and a condition of peace."

40 years later, thanks to your service and what you continue to do, his words have a timeless quality.

Tonight, you begin your 40th Anniversary celebration at a Library and Museum that celebrates scholarship and service in John Kennedy's memory each day it opens its doors. His history and yours are preserved here for scholastic research.

We seek to perpetuate his inspiration and yours by the various activities and programs which take place here: the Profile in Courage Award, the Distinguished Foreign Visitors Programs, the forums and symposia promoting public discourse on the issues of our time, the 1st Pres. Debate of general election