

U.S. Marine Corps. Our Marine Corps is composed of men and women of great character. They are smart, tough, dedicated, and faithful, truly the best America has to offer. For 226 years, they have stood for all that is great about this Nation: honor, courage, and commitment. Their values, sense of courage, and quiet, steadfast character remain timeless and valuable commodities for a time in which our Nation faces the greatest challenge of a generation. I have seen our Marines in action, and I am confident that no obstacle can block their determined path to victory.

Through their great history, Marines have protected America's interests, struggled against our country's foes, and remained at the forefront of our nation's efforts to maintain global peace and stability. In hundreds of distant lands, from Nicaragua to Lebanon, from Saudi Arabia to Somalia, and from Afghanistan to Cuba, Marines restored and maintained order, aided people in distress, provided protection for the weak, and upheld the values that have come to define our country on the world stage. Many made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country, and we honor their memory.

I am proud to represent the State of Louisiana, a land which is steeped in Corps history. When the British attacked American forces on the fields of Chalmette outside of New Orleans, a contingent of Marines contributed to an ultimate American victory. This engagement came to be known as the Battle of New Orleans, and served as a powerful statement of American boldness on the battlefield.

It gives me great pride to have the city of New Orleans host the headquarters of the Fourth Marine Division which commands more than 104,000 Reserve Marines nationwide. I am truly grateful for the services that our reserves perform every month. A Marine Corps reservist serves his country an average of 36 days a year. These men and women are of a truly superior caliber, as they dedicate over a month of the year to national service while working hard in the private sector, getting an education, and raising their families.

I would like to extend my personal commendation to the Marines of Bravo Company, First Battalion, Twenty-third Marines as they conclude their deployment to Guantanamo Bay. I want to assure you that the members of the U.S. Senate and the Senate Committee on Armed Services are personally grateful for your service. Our Nation's freedom was won through the toil and sweat of thousands of volunteers who dropped their plows and left their families during the revolution. After they had proved themselves in the realm of battle, they went back to their fields and their families and created our civic institutions. You Marines are the rightful heirs to their tradition, and I trust that our Nation can rely on you to defend our freedom.

As we set out in this new century, the importance of our Marine Corps has never been more clear. Tomorrow, as today and for generations past, the razor sharp readiness of the United States Marine Corps serves as a beacon to America's friends and a warning to our enemies, promising swift action, great victories and richer traditions yet to come.

On this day, I offer my warmest gratitude to Bravo Company, First Battalion, Twenty-third Marines and all who wear the eagle, globe and anchor, and to the families who also serve by supporting them.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. LEE TODD

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today with great pride to ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to one of Kentucky's finest citizens, Dr. Lee Todd. On Friday, February 15, Dr. Lee Todd was officially inaugurated as the University of Kentucky's 11th President.

In 1968, Lee Todd completed the first stage of his relationship with the University of Kentucky when he received his Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering. After completing his undergraduate studies at UK, Dr. Todd earned his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. During his time as a graduate student, he amazingly received six U.S. patents for his innovative work in the area of high-resolution display technology.

Dr. Todd's professional career officially began in 1974 when he embarked on the second stage of his UK relationship by becoming a professor of electrical engineering. During his nine-year tenure as a professor, Dr. Todd published various research articles spanning numerous topics, gave multiple conference presentations, and won several teaching accolades including the prestigious UK Alumni Association Great Teacher Award. He also served on the University Senate for seven years; served on the President's Advisory Committee that established the first Selective Admissions policy; and chaired the College of Engineering Dean Search Committee. In 1981, he temporarily left UK and founded Projectron, Inc., a manufacturing company specializing in the production of cathode ray tubes for the flight simulation industry. The Projectron picture they developed was successfully used in nearly 90 percent of commercial flight simulators as well as numerous military simulators.

Besides his work with Projectron, Inc., Dr. Todd has been significantly involved with various programs attempting to educate the Kentucky citizenry on the areas of economic development and technological advancement. He cofounded a not-for-profit organization called the Kentucky

Science and Technology Corporation, which aims to increase university research capacity and develop science and technology education programs encouraging an entrepreneurial economy in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He has been appointed to statewide committees related to education and economic development by various Governors, even serving as the chair for Governor Collins' Governor's Council on Science and Technology. He also is a proud member of UK's Engineering Hall of Distinction. Dr. Todd recognizes the rapid pace at which the country and the rest of the world is progressing and understands that Kentucky cannot afford to be left behind clinging to the ways of the past.

Throughout his entire life, Dr. Lee Todd has tirelessly and selflessly worked toward the betterment of Kentucky. He possesses the desired knowledge, vision, and strength to help further advance the University of Kentucky's standing in the academic as well as the athletic community. He has experienced what the University has to offer from the standpoint of a student, teacher, and now president. He is more than prepared to meet head on the various challenges involved in successfully managing UK.

I applaud Dr. Todd's lifelong commitment to the education of Kentucky's future political, economic, and social leaders. Finally, I thank him for accepting the challenge of leading the University of Kentucky into the 21st century.●

IN RECOGNITION OF OSCAR MICHEAUX

• Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Oscar Micheaux, one of the pioneers of American film. Though Mr. Micheaux passed away over fifty years ago, the Fort Lee Film Commission has chosen to honor his historic contributions to the American film industry as part of its Black History Month celebrations.

In every age, in every walk of life, there is an individual who possesses the vision to move their craft forward in previously unimaginable ways. Oscar Micheaux opened a door for many visionary film makers who were too follow him. With the production of "The Homesteader," Mr. Micheaux became the first African-American to produce a silent film. In 1931, his production, "The Exile," became the first African-American "talkie" to be produced. He also holds the distinction of being the first African-American to have one of his films open in a white owned theater.

As a credit to his work, Oscar Micheaux has been honored for his work with a star on Hollywood's "Walk of Fame". As the Fort Lee Film Commission honors this groundbreaking individual, I wish to express my gratitude at being able to honor such an influential film producer. The film industry has truly been enriched for his contributions.●