

Aerocobra and then, on transfer to 15th Air Force, strategic missions flying the P-47 Thunderbolt and P-51 Mustang. He returned to Tuskegee as a captain and served as a Twin-Engine Instructor until the close of the base.

Colonel McGee later served in the 67th Fighter-Bomber Squadron, flying the P-51 aircraft on 100 missions during the Korean War, earning him a promotion to Major. In 1953, Colonel McGee returned to the United States to attend the Air Force Command and Staff School at Maxwell Air Base, AL. Upon graduation, he was qualified to fly the F-89 Interceptor and promoted to Lt. Colonel.

In 1967, Colonel McGee received tactical Reconnaissance and RF-4C flight training and was assigned to command the 16th TAC Recon Squadron at Tan Son Nhut Air Base. From there, he flew 172 missions in Vietnam, earning the Legion of Merit.

After his tour in Vietnam, Col. McGee was stationed in Europe, where he served USEUR and the 7th Army in Air Liaison duty and was promoted to Colonel. He then served as Chief of Maintenance of the 50th Tactical Fighter Wing. He returned to the United States in 1971 to serve for two years at Richard Gebaur Air Force Base, MO. He served the Air Force Communications Service as Director of Maintenance Engineering and Commander of the base and the 1840th Air Base Wing before retiring in 1973. Over his career, he received many awards, including: the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Legion of Merit, Air Medal with 25 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, President Unit Citation, Korean President Unit Citation, and the Republic of Greece WWII Commendation Medal.

Colonel McGee's service to his fellow citizens did not end with his retirement from the military. In 1972, he assisted in the founding of Tuskegee Airman, Incorporated. This organization is dedicated to the preservation of the Tuskegee Airman legacy and the motivation of American youth, with a focus on minority youth, toward career interests in aerospace technology. To date the organization has raised over \$1.7 million and helped over 500 gifted American students of all races. Currently, Colonel McGee is serving his second term as the organization's Executive President.

Throughout his life, Colonel McGee has shown extraordinary commitment to both our nation and his fellow citizens. Early in life, he overcame a society adverse to the advancement of African Americans and served with distinction in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. Even in retirement, Colonel McGee remains dedicated to the advancement of American youth and our Nation. On behalf of the citizens of Missouri and our great nation, I thank Colonel McGee for a lifetime of outstanding service.●

THE SPEARFISH SPARTANS ARE THE 2002 SOUTH DAKOTA STATE MEN'S "A" BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Spearfish Spartans. The Spartans, under second-year coach Dan Martin, won the South Dakota State "AA" Basketball Tournament March 16 in Rapid City, SD.

Coach Martin's squad went through the 2001-2002 season with only one loss, a double-overtime setback to Gillette, WY, a squad that went on to win its own State title. The Spartans entered the State tournament with an impressive 20-1 mark and defeated Rapid City Central and Watertown before rallying in the final exciting minutes to overtake Sioux Falls Lincoln, 65-61, for the State title. It was the Spartans' first-ever State basketball championship and the first Class "AA" title for a team west of the Missouri River since 1989.

The team was guided this season by the senior leadership provided by Deming Haugland, Aaron Croff, Slade Larscheid and Timm Cooper. Haugland and Croff were joined by Spartan sophomore Matt Martin on the all-tournament team and Haugland received the coveted Spirit of Su Award, for his sportsmanship and actions both on and off the basketball court.

As Coach Martin told "The Black Hills Pioneer" after the title victory, "It was due to a lot of hard work. The boys put a lot of blood and sweat into it and they deserve it." I want to commend and applaud the community of Spearfish for their support of young people. This title reflects that community support. I want to acknowledge Superintendent David Peters, Principal Dr. Dan Leikvold, Athletic Director Karen Hahn, Head Coach Dan Martin, Assistant Coaches Les Schroeder, Dick Tschetter and Pete Wilson for their guidance and support to help make this year's team so successful. I also want to congratulate all of this year's team members: seniors Deming Haugland, Aaron Croff, Slade Larscheid and Timm Cooper; juniors Tanner Tetrault, Josh Delahoyde, Turner Johnson and Jared Noem; and sophomores Billy McDonald, Matt Martin, Josh Stadler, Derek Bertsch and Scott Betten, for their hard work, dedication and commitment this season. Finally, I want to acknowledge the great work of team managers Eric Skavang, Wally Byrne, Rachel Brady and Katie Goodnough, and the hard-working efforts of cheerleaders Terra Ketchum, Sarah Hanna, Amber Orce and Angie Koski.

Again, congratulations to the Spearfish Spartans on winning their first State basketball championship!● j

CONGRATULATIONS TO TARA LYNN POE

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and congratulate Tara

Lynn Poe of Paris, KY. Ms. Poe was recently crowned the 2002 Kentucky Cherry Blossom Princess and will serve as ambassador for Kentucky in the historic 90th Cherry Blossom Festival to be held here in our Nation's capital March 30 through April 6.

In 1912, a prominent group of citizens in Japan graciously donated about 3,000 cherry blossom trees, which are not native to North America, to Washington, DC as a symbol of friendship between the United States and Japan. First Lady Helen Herron Taft, who had briefly lived in Yokohama, Japan, decided to bring the beauty of Japan to the then swampy Tidal Basin. Mrs. Taft, along with Vicountess Chinda, wife of the Japanese Ambassador, planted the first two trees on March 27, 1912 in West Potomac Park. These 89 year old trees are still living on the Tidal Basin today. By 1939, State societies across the Nation were recruiting capable and accomplished female college students to be cherry blossom princesses to represent their respective States in the ceremonies and festival parade. The events were and still remain an attempt to educate young women about the history and political makeup of various cultures around the world. Although the festivities experienced a slight delay with the outbreak of WWII in 1941, they soon regained their grandeur in 1948 and were able to help foster the healing process between the United States and Japan. More than 2,500 students have participated in the cherry blossom princess program since 1948.

As a proud representative of the Commonwealth of Kentucky in this year's Cherry Blossom Festival, Tara Lynn Poe, a freshman at Centre College in Danville, KY, will have the unique opportunity to personally meet with President Bush and First Lady Laura Bush. She will be presenting them with a copy of a children's book by Lexington author Paul Brett Johnson for the library foundation. Furthermore, Tara will have the chance to learn from and with her fellow princesses and all involved in the festival about Japan and other countries, international relations, and American culture, politics, and history. On April 5th by a random spin of the wheel, Tara will be eligible to be crowned this year's Cherry Blossom Queen and if selected will be invited to visit Japan, where she will be hosted by local dignitaries, including the Japanese Prime Minister and the Speaker of the Japanese Diet.

Kentuckians should be proud to have Tara Lynn Poe representing the Commonwealth in the Cherry Blossom Festival and I wish her the best in all of her future pursuits.●

THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF E.I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, over the past few weeks, banners have started