

right thing to do and that the President was the victim of an intelligence mistake. This marks the third leader to support President Bush's decision to seek a regime change in Iraq. He added that Saddam accepted the U.N. resolutions following the first Gulf War but chose to ignore them.

Before the meeting ended I asked Peres if he was really smiling the in picture where he is shaking hands with Yasser Arafat. He recalled the moment and stated that without Arafat there would have been no agreement but with Arafat the agreement would never be fulfilled.

After an overnight rest stop in Frankfurt, Germany, we returned to the United States.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN BACHMAN

• Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate Newberry College and its founder, Dr. John Bachman, on the occasion of the school's 150th anniversary. Since its establishment in 1856, Newberry College has become one of South Carolina's leading institutes of higher education. I am proud to recognize Newberry and honor Dr. Bachman.

Dr. Bachman originally came to South Carolina from New York in 1815. Settling in Charleston, he became pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, where he served faithfully and honorably for 56 years. Dr. Bachman quickly became a pillar of the Charleston community. He baptized hundreds of locals into membership at St. John's during his tenure and is even known to have educated slaves as well as freemen of African descent. He helped found and served twice as president of the South Carolina Lutheran Synod from 1824 to 1833 and again from 1839 to 1840. As Synod president, Dr. Bachman took action that led to establishment in 1831 of a school to train Lutheran ministers, now known as the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Columbia, SC.

A seminal and active member of the "Circle of Naturalists," Dr. Bachman had a keen interest in the natural history of South Carolina's Lowcountry. He is known to have discovered or described many birds and mammals previously unknown to science and frequently published letters and short articles about his natural history observations in local and regional publications including the South Carolina Medical Journal.

In December 1856, Dr. Bachman helped found Newberry College as a Lutheran-based liberal arts institution north of Columbia at Newberry. Dr. Bachman served as first president of the Newberry College Board of Trustees beginning in January 1857. During his tenure, he took many actions to assure the high quality of secular and religious education that has existed for 150 years.

Dr. Bachman was a true academic, devoted to his church and to God, to science and natural history, to his community and country, and to secular and religious education. He died at the age of 84 in February 1874, but Dr. Bachman's legacy is alive and well at Newberry College. On April 20, 2006, the Newberry Alumni Association will begin the school's Sesquicentennial Celebration with a major 4-day symposium entitled "Nature, God, and Social Reform in the Old South: The Life and Work of the Rev. John Bachman."

It is with great respect that I commemorate the life's work of Dr. John Bachman and recognize the rich history he inaugurated at Newberry College.●

TRIBUTE TO ERIC NAMESNIK

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I, along with my colleague Senator STABENOW, would like to take this opportunity to bring our colleagues' attention to a tragic event that took place last month in Pittsfield Township, MI. On January 11, 2006, Eric Namesnik, a two-time Olympic silver medalist and University of Michigan swimming standout, died from injuries sustained during a traffic accident on January 7. Eric was best known in the swimming community for his discipline, toughness, tremendous dedication, and many accomplishments, most notably in the 1992 and 1996 Olympic Games. During his career, Eric broke the American 400-meter Individual medley, IM, record four times. Eric, affectionately known by many as "Snik," was remembered by his family, friends and the community in a celebration of his life at Canham Natatorium at the University of Michigan on January 17.

Eric was born in Butler, PA, on August 7, 1970, and enrolled at the University of Michigan in 1988. As a Wolverine, Snik helped lead the men's swim team to four straight Big Ten Championships and enjoyed the distinction of finishing in the top six nationally during all 4 of his years at Michigan. In 1991 and 1993, Eric earned the No. 1 world ranking in the 400-meter IM. Eric won silver in the 400-meter IM in the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona and in the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. Eric also won two silver medals at the 1991 world championships and a bronze medal at the 1994 world championships.

To give you a sense of Eric as a person, Chuck Wielgus, executive director of USA Swimming, offered these words. "The loss of Eric Namesnik is shocking for the entire swimming community. Snik represented everything great about the Olympic movement. His work ethic, toughness and dedication were the embodiment of an Olympian, and they made him one of the most admired competitors the sport of swimming has seen." His long-time coach at Michigan, Jon Urbanchek, said of Eric, "What he did for Michigan is immeasurable. It's not just how fast he swam,

but the good person he was, the character. He had his life in perspective and knew that his family was at the center of his life. Eric was an unbelievable human being."

After Eric's competitive swimming career ended, he accepted a position as an assistant swim coach at the University of Michigan. From 1997 to 2004, he helped coach 11 Olympians, and the Wolverines won three Big Ten titles. After coaching at Michigan for 7 years, Eric became the head coach of the Wolverine Aquatics Swim Club in Ann Arbor and an assistant men's swimming coach at Eastern Michigan University.

Eric's love for swimming was evidenced not only by his many accomplishments throughout his long and distinguished career in the pool, but also by his efforts to help shape the lives of many young people learning the sport. At Wolverine Aquatics, Eric served as an inspirational role model for hundreds of up-and-coming swimmers. Today, his swimmers are wearing blue wristbands inscribed "Swim 4 Snik" in his honor and swim caps with the words "Snik" and one of Eric's mantras: "D3," which stands for desire, determination and dedication.

In keeping with the kind of person Eric was, his last act was to give life to others through the gift of organ donation. He is survived by his wife Kirsten, their two young children, Austin and Madison, his mother and father, Kay and John, and his sister Leesa. Mr. President, Eric Namesnik's medals may have been silver but his heart was pure gold. He will be deeply missed.●

HONORING THE MEMORY OF CURT GOWDY

• Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and memory of Curtis Edward Gowdy. Sadly, Curt passed away on February 20, at the age of 86.

Curt was born on July 31, 1919, in Green River, WY. Curt's passion for sports began early in life. He grew up in Laramie, WY, hunting and fishing in some of America's most beautiful country. When Curt began playing basketball in high school, he became Wyoming's leading high school scorer, standing only 5 feet 9 inches tall. After high school graduation, Curt enrolled at the University of Wyoming, where he played as a forward on the Cowboy basketball team, earning three varsity letters. He also lettered three times in tennis before graduating from the University in 1942 with a degree in business statistics.

With college behind him, Curt joined the Army Air Forces to serve his country as a fighter pilot in World War II. However, a ruptured disk from an earlier sports injury disqualified him from service, and he was medically discharged. While recuperating from a spinal operation in Cheyenne, a radio station asked him to announce for the eastern Wyoming high school football