

School's auditorium. There were only 28 students. When the Nevada Board of Regents founded the Southern Nevada Division of the University of Nevada, students led the charge to become their own independent institution. They adopted the Rebel as their mascot to signify their desire to break free of the Reno campus. With pressure from students and the Las Vegas community, an 80-acre parcel along a two-lane dirt road was selected as the location for the campus. On September 10, 1957, the first classes were held on the new campus. And in 1968, UNLV began its journey as an independent institution.

Over the past 50 years, Las Vegas has grown and become the entertainment capital of the world, and just like the city that it calls home, UNLV, too, has had its fair share of celebrity. In 1964 Elvis Presley and Ann-Margret danced in the gym in the famous scene from the film "Viva Las Vegas". Frank Sinatra and Wayne Newton served on the UNLV Foundation's board in the 1980s and Anthony Zuiker, the creator and producer of the hit show "CSI", is an alumni.

Today, UNLV is a thriving urban research institution with more than 28,000 students and more than 220 undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degree programs. The campus—now 350 acres—boasts over 100 buildings with state-of-the-art technology and research facilities. Two of the most recent additions have been a new student union and a student recreation and wellness facility all paid for by the students. In 1998, UNLV opened the Boyd School of Law, which quickly gained accreditation from the American Bar Association and is now nationally ranked for its quality legal education. This year, UNLV also welcomed its eighth president, David Ashley.

Many outside of Nevada know of UNLV for its athletic teams. The Rebels participate in 17 intercollegiate sports. In 1990, the Runnin' Rebels won the NCAA Men's Division I tournament, beating Duke 103 to 73, the largest margin of victory ever in the championship game. While the Runnin' Rebels have continued to be a perennial player in the NCAA tournament, in recent years, UNLV athletics have also achieved success in golf, swimming and diving, boxing, track and field, and soccer.

In its first 50 years, UNLV has grown from a satellite outpost of higher learning to a major player in the fields of gaming and hotel management, environmental and experimental science, engineering, English, and law. UNLV has blossomed with the city around it, and as UNLV enters its next 50 years, I am confident that it will continue to prosper and strengthen the city it calls home.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD M. SMITH

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor my good friend Edward M. Smith, a man for whom I have great respect and admiration.

Ed has been involved in the labor movement in Illinois for more than 40 years. He is deeply committed to the working families of America.

As a leader in the Laborers' International Union, Ed has worked to ensure workers earn a living wage, good benefits and the opportunity to advance and better their lives.

He is stepping down as Midwest Regional Manager of the Laborers' International Union of North America, Vice President of Laborers' International and Assistant to the General President, to become President of the Union Labor Life Insurance Company, labor's own insurance and financial services company.

For those who may not be familiar with the Laborers, they are the men and women who do the hard, dangerous work of building our country.

Ed literally grew up in the labor movement. He was only 13 when he joined Laborers' Local 773 in Cairo, IL. He worked his way through school as a construction craft laborer.

He was elected business manager of his local union in 1976 at the young age of 21. A decade later, he was elected president of the Southern Illinois Laborers' District Council.

In 1994, Ed was elected Midwest Regional Manager of the Laborers' International, leading more than 50,000 union members. Two years later, he was elected Vice President of the Laborers' International Union and became Assistant to the General President of the Union.

Laborers' International Union is one of the fastest-growing unions of construction workers and Ed oversaw over 30 successful organizing campaigns, mainly in the public sector.

Ed was the first member of the Laborers' International Union to graduate from the National Labor College with a bachelors degree. Ed also graduated from the Harvard University Trade program and from Shawnee College. In 1992, he received Shawnee College's first outstanding alumni award.

As Ed fought for Illinois' working families, he raised his own family with his wife Betty. He has two children, daughter Jordan and son Matt.

Ed also devotes a great deal of his life to charitable organizations. He has been a major benefactor to the Therapy Center in Carterville, IL, an organization that assists physically disabled children. He also serves as a board member of the I Can Read Program, for children with reading and learning disabilities.

In addition to his many union roles, Ed is well respected for his leadership with the Illinois State Board of Investment, the Illinois Department of Labor Advisory Board, and the National Alliance for Fair Contracting.

Ed Smith is a big man with a big heart. It says something about him that he has risen to such prominence in the American labor movement without ever leaving his hometown of Cairo, IL and without ever losing touch with his

Midwestern roots and values. While he has remained in southern Illinois, the effects of his work can be seen and felt throughout our Nation.

As my friend Ed Smith begins the next chapter in his life, I want to congratulate him on his retirement from Laborers' International Union and thank him for over 40 years of dedication to working men and women. I wish him the best in his new role as president of Union Labor Life Insurance Company as he continues to protect the working families of America.

REMARKS OF RUPERT MURDOCK

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, last Monday evening I had the honor of attending a dinner of the Atlantic Council. At that dinner several distinguished individuals were honored: former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, News Corporation chairman and CEO Rupert Murdoch, and Admiral Michael Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for Distinguished International, Business and Military Leadership respectively.

During the evening, there was much discussion about the health of the transatlantic relationship. I was impressed with Rupert Murdoch's comments as to how the alliance must change to meet future threats. He went on to say "We must face up to a painful truth: Europe no longer has either the political will or social culture to support military engagements in defense of itself and its allies. However strong NATO may be on paper, this fact makes NATO weak in practice. And it means that reform will not come from within."

Those who want a reformed NATO must look to the outside. In other words, we need to transform this Alliance from a community formed around a map to a community based on common values and a willingness to take joint action in defense of these values.

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I ask unanimous consent to have Mr. Murdoch's entire remarks printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

MR. RUPERT MURDOCK'S PREPARED REMARKS FOR THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL'S 2008 ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Good evening. Thank you, Henry, for that kind introduction. Your words remind me of the definition of a diplomat: A man who always remembers his wife's birthday—but never remembers her age.

I also want to thank the Atlantic Council for this fine award. By honoring me, you honor the work that News Corporation's 61,000 employees are doing to connect people across oceans, borders, and cultures. And you underscore the importance of a strong private sector for a free society.

Few organizations have done more for the preservation of our freedom than this Council. Tonight I want to commend Fred Kempe