

academic institutions, not sports franchises."

As NCAA president, Dr. Brand spearheaded the most comprehensive package of academic reforms governing college athletics in our lifetime. Under his leadership, the NCAA raised eligibility standards for freshmen and toughened requirements that its 400,000 scholarship athletes make annual progress toward a degree to maintain their eligibility. Dr. Brand's reforms subjected teams with poor overall academic performance to unprecedented penalties, including bans on bowl games and postseason play.

The result: Today, NCAA graduation rates exceed those of the general student population in every demographic category. Last year, the NCAA's overall graduation rate for its student athletes stood at 79 percent. The graduation rate of female student athletes outpaced nonathletes by 8 percent, while the graduation rate for African-American male student athletes was 10 percent higher than their nonathletic peers.

For redefining what is scholastically possible in such a short time span, Dr. Brand will forever be known as the NCAA's "Education President."

It should be noted that despite Dr. Brand's unrelenting focus on helping students make the grade, he has never lost sight of the joy of making the shot. "Anyone who thinks that college is only about the library, the lecture hall, and the laboratory really doesn't understand what happens in college," he once told a journalist.

I can personally attest that Myles Brand harbors an unsurpassed love for the game played on the field and a belief in the power of the NCAA to be a dreammaker for young people.

Yet he has remained true to his pledge that "academics must come first." In 2003, Dr. Brand became the first university president ever chosen to lead the NCAA. A philosopher by training and inclination, Dr. Brand has earned admiration as a level-headed leader interested in critical examination and reform. USA Today called him "the strongest, most vocal and influential leader college sports has had in . . . decades."

Prior to taking over the NCAA, the people of the great State of Indiana enjoyed a front-row seat to his many accomplishments in academia. From 1994 to 2002, he served as the 16th president of my alma mater, Indiana University. Dr. Brand led IU through a period of remarkable growth, attracting record enrollments, doubling research funding, and establishing the university as a national leader in the life sciences and information technology. He increased the school's endowment by a factor of four and tripled the number of endowed chairs. Under Dr. Brand's leadership, IU created a nationally renowned School of Informatics and developed the Central Indiana Life Sciences Initiatives. His trailblazing leadership was recognized in 2001 when Time Mag-

azine named Indiana University its "College of the Year."

When Dr. Brand left IU to assume the NCAA presidency, he did not have to go far—traveling 40 miles up State Road 37 from Bloomington to Indianapolis, where the NCAA is headquartered.

The NCAA has been a model corporate constituent under Dr. Brand's management, employing more than 410 Hoosiers with well-paying jobs while maintaining a strong community presence. It has helped hundreds of charities, schools and local organizations throughout Indiana, such as United Way and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. After Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast, the NCAA dispatched teams of student athletes and considerable financial resources to the region to rebuild family homes.

Dr. Myles David Brand is a loving and devoted husband to his wife, Peg; a wonderful father and grandfather; and a special leader who I am proud to recognize today for his contributions to college sports, the State of Indiana, and the country as a whole. ●

REMEMBERING PEGGY BURGIN

● Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the life of a very special resident of my home State of Alaska, Peggy Burgin.

Mrs. Burgin was the embodiment of a true Alaskan. While living in Alaska, she witnessed such historical events as the 1964 earthquake and the construction of the Trans-Alaska pipeline. Mrs. Burgin devoted much of her life to volunteering for many community groups. She leaves behind many friends who are grateful to have known this remarkable woman.

On behalf of her family and her many friends, I ask today we honor Peggy Burgin's memory. I ask that her obituary, published May 12, 2009, in the Anchorage Daily News, be printed in the RECORD.

The information follows:

[From the Anchorage Daily News, May 12, 2009]

Peggy Arlene Burgin, 89, died peacefully May 5, 2009, at Alaska Regional Hospital, where she received exceptional loving care from the entire staff. A celebration of life is being planned for June. Born Aug. 16, 1919, in Bellingham, Wash., to Michael and Minnie Burns, she worked from an early age to help her widowed mother and younger brother. She went to business college, was president of the Alpha Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi sorority and was a lifelong Democrat. She moved to Anchorage in July 1947 to marry Lee Morrow, a veteran Air Force pilot with postwar Alaska dreams. Ten months later the small plane he was co-piloting disappeared in the Susitna Valley and was never recovered. Shaken, she returned briefly to Washington, but her love for Alaska drew her right back. Working for an air cargo firm and later First National Bank of Anchorage, she made an impact as a single determined woman in a rough young town. She met and married another Alaska enthusiast, Fred Burgin, and together with their children, Salli, Jim and Judi, they experi-

enced many adventures including the 1964 earthquake, pipeline construction and homesteading in Point MacKenzie. There she homeschooled the kids, shot a bear that tried to join them in the cabin and ran the homestead while Fred was away at construction jobs.

As a Teamster, Peggy was hired to start the Teamster Credit Union (now Denali Alaskan Federal Credit Union), where she achieved her goal of helping members start businesses and buy homes. Politically involved, both Peggy and Fred received their territorial voter registrations from Senator E.L. "Bob" Bartlett and often canceled each other's vote. Peggy was one of the founding members of the Bartlett Democratic Club, rarely missing the weekly meetings. She chaired and worked on many campaigns and was a delegate for Alaska at Clinton's presidential caucus.

Although busy with career and family, she was the ultimate volunteer and contributor with this partial list of organizations that benefited from her enthusiasm: Inlet View PTA, Alaska Regional Hospital Auxilliary, Alaska Native Hospital gift shop, Anchorage Senior Activity Center, Anchorage Unitarian Fellowship, Teamster 959 Retirees, Alaskan Commission on Aging, Pioneers of Alaska, STAR, Victims for Justice, Blood Bank of Alaska, women's equality groups and several credit unions. Peggy was a devoted friend to people of all ages and walks of life, always willing to give kids a hand up or a haven. She valued education, writing and courtesy and was described by one friend as one of the last true pioneer ladies—elegant, gracious, generous and as tough as nails. She loved traveling to Hawaii, Washington and New York and even toured China. She enjoyed staying connected to her myriad friends, watching Alaska politics on cable and getting her hair "fluffed" (her word) at Trendsetters.

Peggy was predeceased by her daughter Judi, and her husbands, Lee and Fred. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Jim Burgin and Janice Ray, daughter, Salli Burgin; grandchildren, Erin Malone (Jason Dallman), Devin Malone, Dante Modaffari, and Bryant Burgin; great-granddaughters, Ava and Lena Malone-Dallman, all of Alaska and Washington; and by her brother, Robert Burns and family of Idaho. The family wishes to thank Peggy's doctors, Kathleen Case and Vernon Cates, for her many years of energetic health. ●

REMEMBERING NORVAL POHL

● Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Dr. Norval Pohl, former president of the University of North Texas, who passed away last week after a courageous battle against pancreatic cancer.

Dr. Pohl joined the UNT community in 1999 as the executive vice president and provost and became the university's 13th president in October 2000.

Under Dr. Pohl's leadership at UNT, enrollment grew from 27,000 to over 32,000 students. During the same period, the university's Latino enrollment increased by 48 percent and African-American enrollment increased by 43 percent. Financial aid awards increased from \$57.8 million to \$172.2 million, and annual giving to UNT increased from \$4.7 million to \$13.4 million. Dr. Pohl is also recognized for addressing title IX issues with the acquisition of the Liberty Christian School

property, which increased both academic and athletic space for the university.

Among his other accomplishments, he worked to advance UNT as a public research institution. He fulfilled a long held desire at UNT for an engineering school by establishing the College of Engineering and creating a permanent home for engineering at the UNT Research Park.

After leaving UNT, he joined the faculty at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Prescott campus and was named chief academic officer in January of this year.

Dr. Pohl spent the better part of his career in higher education serving as both an administrator and a professor at several universities across the southwest. Dr. Norval Pohl was a great asset to the academic communities he served and he will be missed at the universities he leaves behind. I would like to express my condolences to Dr. Pohl's family and friends and my admiration for his devotion to higher education.●

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL JOHN HENRY TOWERS

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to honor and commemorate in the RECORD of the Senate ADM John Henry Towers, pioneer naval aviator, on the 90th anniversary of the first crossing of the Atlantic Ocean in an airplane on May 8, 2009.

Admiral Towers was born and raised in Rome, GA, and graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy with the class of 1906. As one of the earliest of all naval aviators, he participated in the development of new aviation technology and the application of air power as a part of the surface fleet. By the time World War II was over, Admiral Towers was the senior surviving aviator of the Navy.

In every chapter of the early development of naval aviation, John Towers made his mark. He organized the Navy's entry into aviation in 1911. Admiral Towers worked very closely with Glenn Curtiss in designing the first naval aircraft and due to his efforts became known to his peers as the "Crown Prince of Aviation."

Towers held aviation records for endurance, altitude, and speed. He survived a fall out of an airplane in 1913 by hanging onto the aircraft strut as it crashed into the Severn River from 1,300 feet. Unfortunately, his pilot-in-training, ENS, William Billingsly, was killed and became the first naval aviation fatality. As a result, Towers mandated seat belts and harnesses in all naval aircraft after the crash. He also took the Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin Delano Roosevelt, future President of the United States, for his first airplane ride, which secured a special friendship that lasted their whole careers.

Admiral Towers was the first to use naval aircraft in combat in the Mexican War in 1914. Then, in 1919, he conceived, organized, and commanded the

first flight of three Navy NC-flying boats to fly across the Atlantic Ocean, fulfilling his early vision to be the first flight across the Atlantic Ocean. The flights began at Rockaway Beach, NY, on May 8, 1919, and one of the planes made it to Plymouth, England, on May 31, 1919. It was Towers' vision that inspired others and changed the world forever. The flight actually lasted 52 hours 31 minutes, for a distance of 3,936 nautical miles.

Towers and his group became international celebrities. During their Atlantic crossing, the Nation was on pins and needles reading about the happenings each day, particularly when they received the news that Towers' float boat NC-3 went down and was lost at sea for 5 days. After he sailed the seaplane 200 miles to the Azores, his became a household name around the world.

The significance of this epic flight affected the psyche of the American public because until that time, we were largely protected from invasion by having two oceans on either side of us. When the airplane made that first Atlantic crossing, Americans became aware that we were not immune from future wars on our soil. In addition, Britain, France, and Germany were more advanced in aviation than the United States. When the United States beat them across the Atlantic, we were immediately thrust into a "super power" status. The U.S. Navy beat the world in crossing the Atlantic.

Admiral Towers' career was a stubborn, determined battle to gain acceptance for aviation on a Navy that was dominated by battleship admirals. He was the first to integrate women into the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marines by creating the W.A.V.E.S. in 1942. The W.A.V.E.S. eventually grew to 12,000 women officers and 75,000 enlisted women. He was also the first to obtain four stars in any branch of service in the State of Georgia and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

Apollo 17 honored the admiral and his contribution to aviation by naming a crater on the Moon in his name. In addition, he was honored by Time magazine and placed on the front cover for his efforts during World War II. Towers began in naval aviation at its inception in 1911 and remained dedicated to the field through his retirement in 1947. He is a member of five Aviation Halls of Fame.

It is a privilege to pay tribute to the remarkable life of ADM John Henry Towers.●

REMEMBERING CECIL E. HARRIS

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I recognize and congratulate the outstanding career of Cecil Harris, decorated Navy pilot. For his heroic actions in World War II, Cecil received the Navy Cross, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Air Medal. His bravery is again being honored in with the dedication of the Cecil E. Harris Highway in northeast South Dakota.

This Cresbard native was enrolled in the Northern State Teachers College

when he enlisted in the Navy in March 1941 and was sent to northern Africa. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor nine months later, Cecil's remarkable flying abilities were noted and he was moved to the Pacific to combat the Kamikaze attacks. Cecil shot down 24 enemy warplanes in 81 days while never taking a single bullet on his own plane, making him the second-ranking World War II Naval Ace.

After the war, Cecil returned home to become a teacher and coach. In 1951, he was called to Tennessee to train pilots for the Korean war. He was then promoted to captain and sent to the Pentagon. He retired in June 1967 after serving 27 years in the Navy. He passed away in 1981 and is buried in Arlington Cemetery.

This stretch of Highway 20 will bear the name of a dedicated and decorated war hero. Cecil Harris exemplified South Dakota values in his unwavering commitment to his country, and I commend the South Dakota Department of Transportation for honoring this outstanding individual.●

RECOGNIZING ROSEPINE CONCERT BAND

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize 72 young musicians from Rosepine High School. On April 29, 2009, these students travelled from the heart of Vernon Parish in Louisiana to compete against 28 bands at the Music in the Parks Festival in Williamsburg, VA. Although Rosepine was the smallest school to compete in their class, hailing from a town of approximately 1,300 people, they received a superior rating and were ranked "Top of All Bands."

As a reward for this outstanding accomplishment, the entire band received an educational tour of both historic Williamsburg and Washington, DC. I trust that they were inspired and motivated by their trip to our Nation's Capital.

These bright young stars are proof that with hard work, determination, and the right amount of support and encouragement, anything is possible. I believe that constant support and supervision from families and instructors can guide students to a path of success and achievement. In addition, I would like to congratulate Rosepine's band director, Tra Lantham, and thank him for his dedication and commitment to the students as well as the school's music department.

I ask that these names be printed in the Record. I thank these young people and their parents for coming to our Nation's Capitol to learn about the workings of the U.S. Senate:

Mandi Alford, Samantha Allardyce, Jason Allardyce, Kelvin Ayala, Lindsey Aycock, Mark Bailes, Matt Blount, Brandon Boggs, Chloe Brausch, Haley Brown, Hannah Cardy, Zachary Cardy, Jeffery Cox, Ann Cox, Brittany Darrah, Jacob Dearmon, Taylor