

moment to congratulate another historic college hoops team.

The NCAA recently announced that the 1963 NCAA Men's Basketball Champions, the Loyola University Chicago Ramblers, would become the first team ever enshrined into the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame.

In an era when racism gripped the game, Loyola Coach George Ireland assembled the first predominately black team to win an NCAA Championship. Loyola's starting lineup featured four African Americans. This was unheard of in those days.

Despite hateful comments from the public and threatening letters from the Ku Klux Klan, Loyola lost only two games all season and marched through the Final Four. In the championship game they faced Cincinnati, a team which had been ranked No. 1 all season and had won the tournament the 2 previous years. If this wasn't pressure enough, the 1963 NCAA championship was also the first nationally televised NCAA title game.

Les Hunter, starting center for Loyola, remembered it as an opportunity to show "that the brand of black basketball was exciting and it provided for more exposure and recruiting for future players."

The championship game was an uphill battle for Loyola. After missing 13 of its first 14 shots, they trailed by 15 points with less than 15 minutes to play. Then, with only 9 seconds left and the score tied, Walter Vic Rouse tipped in a missed shot to put the Loyola Ramblers ahead by 2 points. When the final buzzer sounded, the Loyola University Chicago Ramblers were national champions.

To this day, Loyola remains the only school from Illinois to have won the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship.

To most players, winning the NCAA championship would be unquestionably the highlight of the season.

As Ramblers point guard and All-American Jerry Harkness says, now that he has gotten older he is even more proud of a game Loyola played earlier in that championship season.

On March 15, 1963, Loyola and Mississippi State played a game the NCAA calls The Game of Change. It was a game which changed college basketball forever—and helped change race relations in America.

Mississippi State had won their conference for the past 3 years, but it appeared they would be unable to compete in the 1963 NCAA tournament because of an unwritten State law barring the team from competing against teams with black players. Rather than forfeit their place, Mississippi State's president and coach decided to defy Governor Ross Barnett's vow of "segregation now and forever." They snuck their team out of town under the cover of darkness to avoid being served an injunction barring them from leaving the State.

Loyola won The Game of Change, but both teams, together, made history.

The Game of Change altered college basketball and became a watershed event in the civil rights era. Three years later, for the first time in NCAA history, Texas Western, with an all-black starting lineup, won the championship. The 1963 Loyola University Chicago Ramblers helped make this possible.

Loyola's basketball team was led by Coach Ireland and Assistant Coach Jerry Lyne, and featured starters John Egan, Jerry Harkness, Les Hunter, Ron Miller, and Vic Rouse, as well as reserves Dan Connaughton, Jim Reardon, Rich Rochelle, and Chuck Wood. All of those individuals are members of the Loyola Athletics Hall of Fame, and each of the five starters has also had his jersey number retired.

I congratulate the 1963 Loyola University Chicago Ramblers on their accomplishments and look forward to their induction ceremony in the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame on November 24, 2013.

HONORING MILDRED MANNING

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today I honor the legacy of Mildred Manning, the last surviving American female WWII POW, who died March 8 at age 98. Mrs. Manning's heroics in Bataan and Corregidor are an enduring example of the bravery of American servicemembers and of nurses' dedication to caring for patients. I wish to share her amazing story.

Mrs. Manning, born in 1914 on a poor Georgia farm, aspired to escape the poverty which surrounded her. She attended nursing school during the Depression, and in 1939 she joined the Army Nurse Corps. Wishing to see the world, she requested assignment in the Philippines.

Weeks after Mrs. Manning arrived in Manila, Japanese forces attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii and a U.S. air base near Manila. During the months-long Battle of the Philippines which forced an American retreat to the peninsula of Bataan and the island of Corregidor, Mrs. Manning was one of a handful of Army and Navy nurses who braved the relentless attacks to treat wounded and dying soldiers. When Americans surrendered in May, 1942, Mrs. Manning was one of 77 Army and Navy nurses who were captured and spent the rest of the war in harrowing imprisonment.

The prison, built on the grounds of Manila's Santo Tomas University, held nearly 4,000 people in squalid conditions. There were no showers, beds, or kitchens. Hundreds of people were forced to share a single toilet. Food was so scarce prisoners suffered severely from malnutrition.

Despite these trials, Lieutenant Manning and her fellow nurses remained fiercely dedicated to providing medical care to those around them. For 2½ years, they maintained strict order, wore uniforms, and cared for their fellow prisoners. For their efforts, she and her fellow nurses earned the moniker,

"Angels of the Pacific." Upon their return to the U.S. in 1945, Mrs. Manning and her fellow nurses were honored by President Roosevelt with the Bronze Star Medal and a Presidential Unit Citation.

We are all so grateful for Mildred Manning's service. Her legacy will live on in our Nation's history, reminding us of the horrors of war and of the bravery of the special people who persevere by helping others. Mrs. Manning's unwavering dedication to serving our Nation in the midst of hardship continues to inspire me, and I am honored to commemorate her today.

ISRAEL'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to express my congratulations to Israel on the 65th anniversary of its independence.

Today, America's closest ally in the Middle East, Israel, commemorates its Independence Day, Yom Ha'atzmaut—one day after its Memorial Day, Yom Hazikaron, and one week after Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom HaShoah.

While Independence Day is a celebration for the people of Israel, this Memorial Day was marked by somber ceremonies and national grief over the loss of their soldiers. Nationwide sirens and moments of silence emphasize the sacrifices Israelis have made to protect their thriving, free and democratic state. These intensely personal losses in such a small country underscore the continuing threats faced by Israelis, the scale of their efforts and the importance of a Jewish homeland. And Yom HaShoah reminds Israelis of the terrible devastation of the Holocaust that happened to the Jewish people in a time before they could celebrate the existence of the modern State of Israel.

As we celebrate Israel's Independence Day, we must continue to reduce the key threats to Israel's security. We must focus on opportunities for peace in the Middle East. Israel has always been prepared to pursue those opportunities and make peace with its neighbors. Over the past six decades, despite diplomatic gestures, multiple Arab countries have repeatedly attacked Israel. We should not forget that it was Palestinian, not Israeli, leaders who walked away from the negotiation table at Camp David in 2000, on the eve of what would have been a historic breakthrough for peace.

Today, it is Israel who continues to acknowledge the necessary framework for any peace agreement—a two state solution. While Israel has shown willingness for direct negotiations, the Palestinians continue to be an unreliable partner in moving toward peace. It is vitally important to stress the importance of the Palestinian Authority's close security cooperation with Israel. If peace is to be possible, the Palestinian Authority also needs to confront the recent surge in violence in the