shield the school from the devastation that sprang out of the Great Depression. The school was forced to sell its property in 1930 and drastically scale back its academic offerings. Simmons was down, but in no way, shape, or form was it out. In 1935 its leaders obtained a new location at 1811 Dumesnil Street. At this location, Simmons continued to provide Christian education, and in 1982 the school was renamed Simmons Bible College in order to reflect this focused mission.

In 2007 the school, now bearing its current name of ''Simmons College of Kentucky,'' returned to its old location at the corner of 8th and Kentucky. The property was purchased in 2005 by the Reverend Dr. Kevin W. Cosby—himself the grandson of a Simmons College alumnus. Dr. Cosby's immense respect for the history and mission of the school led him to launch a campaign to return Simmons to its original location. Dr. Cosby also took on the role of president of the university and worked to once again expand Simmons's educational offerings.

Dr. Cosby was helped in this endeavor by University of Louisville president James Ramsey. The two developed a friendship, and in 2010 they signed an agreement that made it easier to transfer credits between the schools. President Ramsey called the deal ''historic'' as well as a ''testament to Reverend Cosby's persistence in seeking partnerships and opportunities for the less fortunate.''

Simmons's recent accreditation by the Association for Biblical Higher Education is another enormous step forward for this venerable institution. The school continues to fulfill its mission of producing ''productive citizens and agents of change in society.''

Accreditation inherently brings increased credibility and prestige to the university, but it also provides more tangible benefits. With this formal recognition, Simmons is now eligible to receive government subsidies designated for historical Black colleges and universities. This money, coupled with a $2-million private donation from the Gheens Foundation, will undoubtedly lead to even brighter days ahead for Simmons College. Cole states that the university has plans to increase their enrollment from 130 to 350 students, as well as expand the range of programs offered.

Through thick and thin, Simmons has weathered the storms of history to arrive at this moment stronger than ever. President Cosby believes that the school's past trials mustn't be forgotten but, rather, harnessed as source of strength to spur on future successes. I extend my gratitude and congratulations to the president of Simmons College, the Reverend Dr. Kevin W. Cosby, for his extraordinary success in leading the renaissance of this historic school.

Simmons College is a truly remarkable institution, and their recent accreditation serves as testament to its perseverance and the good it continues to accomplish today. I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in honoring President Cosby and this admirable school.

REMEMBERING PFC WILLIAM T. CARNEAL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this April 25, PFC William T. Carneal will be laid to rest in his hometown of Paducah, KY. Private First Class Carneal made the ultimate sacrifice in giving his life in service of his country. I rise today to honor him and to share the remarkable story that culminates in his forthcoming burial—70 years after he was killed on the island of Saipan during the Second World War.

William T. Carneal, known to his family as ''Teetum,'' was the youngest of Plummer and Johnnie Ella Hite Carneal's 10 children. Raised in McCracken County, KY, William's childhood was marked by tragedy and loss. His mother passed away when he was 18 months old and his father when he was 7, leaving the responsibility to raise William to his older sister, Ruth Anderson, and her husband, L.O.

William graduated from Heath High School in 1939 and, like so many members of the ''greatest generation,'' answered his country's call of duty and joined the U.S. Army in 1941. In January of the following year he was sent to Hawaii in preparation for deployment into the Pacific theater.

On July 7, 1944, his company in the 105th infantry regiment, 27th infantry division was engaged in hostilities with Japanese forces on the island of Saipan. When the enemy counterattacked, his company was forced to withdrawal—but William was never seen again. That day he was reported as missing in action, and a year later he was reported dead at the age of 24. Soon the war ended. Yet William's remains were never found—still buried somewhere in the Saipan soil.

His remains stayed lost for nearly 70 years—the chances of ever finding them no better than finding a needle in a haystack. In March of 2013, however, an unlikely source happened upon that needle. Keuntai, a Japanese nonprofit dedicated to finding the remains of Japanese soldiers killed during the war, was conducting an excavation on Saipan when they discovered the remains of five American soldiers—one of whom bore a 1939 Heath High School class ring. Carneal's dog tags were found, too, along with some loose change and a pocket-watch.

To confirm the identity of the remains, Keuntai passed them along to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command for DNA testing. On December 4 of last year, the tests confirmed what Carneal's surviving family members already knew—the class ring and the remains belonged to William T. Carneal.

William's family—nephews J.T. and Carlton, niece Mary Carneal Christian, great-nephew Jimmy Fields, and great nieces Carol Ann Fields Lindley and Beverly Fields Swift—were given the option of a burial at Arlington Cemetery. But after 70 years they thought it was time for William to come home to Kentucky, where he will be buried next to his sister Ruth.

The military believes that a grenade blast, possibly part of a suicide attack, killed William and the four other soldiers he was found buried with under 3 feet of clay. On April 25 of this year, William's birthday, he will be laid to his final resting place. He will receive the full honors of a military burial, including a 21-gun salute and a flag ceremony. Military personnel from Fort Campbell will preside over the funeral, and local World War II veteran Edward ''Earl'' Gidcumb will play taps.

As of December 19, 2013, there remain 73,640 U.S. personnel whose bodies have not been recovered from the Second World War. Most never will. But in this story, Sandy Hart, curator of the Kentucky Veteran and Patriot Museum in Wickliffe, KY, finds solace for the families of all the missing. ''When Teetum is brought home,'' she said, ''a part of them are all going to be brought home.''

I ask that my U.S. Senate colleagues join me in honoring PFC William T. Carneal's service to this country and all those who played a role in the incredible story of returning his remains, at last, to his old Kentucky home.

Mr. President, the Paducah Sun recently published an article regarding the incredible discovery and return of William's remains. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Paducah Sun, Feb. 26, 2014]

FAMILY GETS WORLD WAR II CASUALTY'S BELONGINGS

(By Laurel Black)

Most people wouldn't choke up at the sight of a deteriorated poncho, a rust-eaten key or a decades-old pocket knife. But tears rose to the eyes of several members of Private First Class William T. Carneal's family on Tuesday as they perused the items found with the World War II veteran's remains.

The belongings, which included Carneal's dog tags, belt buckle and a 1939 class ring from Heath High School, were recovered on the Japanese island of Saipan, where Carneal was killed in July 1944. After nearly seven decades without news of their relative, Carneal's descendants had little reason to believe they'd ever recover his possessions or remains.

But Carneal's possessions finally crossed the ocean and arrived in his family's hands. During a brief presentation at Reidland Clothing Company, U.S. Army Sergeant Tyler Holt unpacked a brown cardboard box and returned the objects, one by one.

''We kind of feel like now he's home with us,'' nephew J.T. Carneal said after the presentation.

J.T. Carneal added that the family has also found closure because of a recent investigation that revealed the cause of his uncle's death. The military believes that William Carneal, whose body was found with four others under more than three feet of clay, was killed by a grenade blast during a suicide attack by enemy forces, his nephew said.

''It's a blessing to us that the whole family now can know what happened and put it to rest,'' Carneal said. ''He gave his life for his country.''

Except for a dog tag that will be given to the Veterans Museum in Wickliffe, the belongings will remain in the hands of Carneal's descendants. Carneal is also survived by nephew Carlton M. Carneal, niece Mary Carneal Christian, great-nephew Jimmy Fields, and great-nieces Carol Ann Fields Lindley and Beverly Fields Swift.

The process of finding and returning Carneal's possessions and remains was hardly straightforward. Japanese non-profit Keuntai, which searches for the bodies of Japanese soldiers killed in World War II, discovered Carneal's remains a year ago and turned them over to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command. The class ring gave the family hope that their ancestor had at last been found, but DNA testing was required to confirm Carneal's identity. The results arrived in December.

After Tuesday's presentation, the family gathered to make plans for Carneal's interment, scheduled for April 25, his birthday. Although Carneal could have been buried at Arlington National Cemetery, the family agreed that he should be laid to rest next to sister Ruth Anderson at Palestine United Methodist Church in West Paducah. Following a brief ceremony at 1 p.m. at Milner & Orr, Carneal will receive full military honors at the cemetery, including a 21-gun salute and flag ceremony. The military personnel of Fort Campbell will preside over the funeral. Local World War II veteran Edward ''Earl'' Gidcumb has offered to play taps.

''So many families exist that don't have any idea where their loved ones are,'' said Gidcumb, who also served in the Pacific theater, ''and it's an honor to be involved in this whole thing.''

EL PASO DIOCESE CENTENNIAL

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the centennial anniversary of the Roman Catholic Diocese of El Paso, which took place on March 3, 2014.

For nearly 400 years, the Catholic Church has served the needs of people in the El Paso area, beginning with the arrival of Franciscan missionaries in the late 1600s. By the time Pope Pius X founded the Diocese of El Paso on March 3, 1914, the Church had established a network of parochial schools and private sanatoriums to treat tuberculosis patients. The ministries, parishes, and schools were founded with a desire to share Catholic life and give witness to Christ. Today, under the leadership of its 6th bishop, Mark J. Seitz, the Diocese includes 64 parishes and missions, 11 schools, and a seminary that serve more than 600,000 Catholics.

I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating the Diocese's legacy of service and faith in El Paso. I ask God's continued blessing on the leaders and members of the Diocese as they carry on their good work in providing health care, education, and spiritual care to the people of West Texas.

2014 OLYMPIANS

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate athletes with strong Idaho ties who competed in the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics and contributed to three of the U.S. Olympic team's 28 total medals. Their dedication is inspiring.

Idaho-connected Olympians earned two gold medals and one silver medal in the Olympic Games in Sochi. Kaitlyn Farrington, who was raised on a ranch in Bellevue, Idaho, earned a gold medal competing for the first time as an Olympic snowboarder in the halfpipe competition. Hilary Knight of Sun Valley competed once again in women's hockey in the 2014 Winter Olympics where the team earned a silver medal. Additionally, Sage Kotsenburg, a Coeur d'Alene native, took home the first-ever gold medal in the new men's slope style event and the first U.S. gold medal in the 2014 Winter Olympics.

Six other remarkable athletes also represented our state and nation well on the U.S. Olympic team. Nick Cunningham, a graduate of Boise State University and Sergeant in the New York National Guard, earned 12th place in both the two-man bobsled and four-man bobsled competitions. Erik Fisher, an alpine skier from Middleton, Idaho, went to Sochi as part of the U.S. Olympic team. Simi Hamilton, a Sun Valley skier, competed in cross country skiing, and he placed 6th in the men's team sprint classic and 11th in the men's 4x10k relay. Nate Holland, who grew up in Sandpoint, Idaho, placed 25th in men's snowboardcross in Sochi. Jessika Jenson of Rigby competed in the first Olympic snowboard slopestyle competition in Sochi where she finished 13th. Sara Studebaker from Boise competed in her second Olympics in biathlon competitions at Sochi where she helped earn a 7th place finish in the Women's 4x6k Relay Biathlon.

These athletes, like their fellow Olympic athletes from communities across the country and around the world, inspire us to push beyond the limits of what we may think is possible. They commit themselves to significant training and turn that preparation into achievements. Congratulations to Idaho and American Olympians for their extraordinary efforts leading up to and during these Olympics.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COOK INLET HOUSING AUTHORITY

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, in 2014, Cook Inlet Housing Authority celebrates its 40th anniversary of building housing opportunities for the people of the Cook Inlet region of Southcentral Alaska.

In 1974, the Alaska State Legislature facilitated the creation of Cook Inlet Housing to ensure elders, individuals, and families in the Cook Inlet region would have access to quality, affordable housing. Since that time, Cook Inlet Housing has developed more than 1,500 energy-efficient and affordable homes for seniors and families and has catalyzed the revitalization of the Mountain View neighborhood in Anchorage.

The passage of Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act by the U.S. Congress in 1996, and the flexibility allowed within it, has empowered Cook Inlet Housing to leverage funding from private and public sources and more than doubled the amount of quality, affordable housing available to families in Southcentral Alaska.

This year, Cook Inlet Housing is being recognized nationally with the prestigious HUD and American Planning Association's 2014 HUD Secretary's Opportunity and Empowerment Award. This award honors excellence in community planning resulting in measureable benefits in terms of increased economic development, employment, education, or housing choice and mobility for low- and moderate-income residents. I know the work that Cook Inlet Housing is doing for our community matters and helps transform lives.

I would like to congratulate Cook Inlet Housing Authority for their commitment to innovation and thoughtful, dynamic development that promotes their critical mission: To create housing opportunities that empower people and build communities.•

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN KERNER

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 95th birthday of Dr. John Kerner, an American hero, healthcare pioneer, and cherished doctor to so many families, including my own.

John Kerner was born in Portland, OR, and raised in Boston and San Francisco. He graduated from the University of California, Berkeley and UCSF Medical School, serving in the ROTC while in school. In 1943, he was called to active duty and commissioned as a first lieutenant.

As a battalion surgeon and combat medic in World War II, Dr. Kerner served with great distinction on the battlefields of Omaha Beach, Saint-Lô, and Bastogne. Shortly after landing in Normandy, he delivered a breech baby at a combat aid station, saving the mother and her child. On another occasion, when a group of U.S. soldiers was nearly surrounded by German SS troops, Dr. Kerner and one of his medics drove straight through the lines to deliver medical supplies and care to the wounded.

For his valiant service in World War II, Dr. Kerner was awarded the Combat Medic Badge, two Bronze Stars, five Battle Stars, and a Presidential Unit Citation. In 2007, he was awarded the Legion of Honor by French President Nicolas Sarkozy. He later recounted his experiences in a stirring memoir, ''A Combat Medic Comes Home.''

After the war, Dr. Kerner returned home to California, where he served