

women's basketball team will be the standard-bearer for years to come in the game of Women's College Basketball: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Maryland Terrapins women's college basketball team for winning the 2006 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I National Championship;

(2) recognizes the breathtaking achievements of Head Coach Brenda Frese, her assistant coaches, and all of the outstanding players; and

(3) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to Brenda Frese, Head Coach of the national champions University of Maryland Terrapins and to the University of Maryland College Park President, Dr. Dan Mote for appropriate display.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. RES. 427 THRU S. RES. 433

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed en bloc to the consideration of S. Res. 427 through 433, which were submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERSTATE SYSTEM

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, as Chairman and on behalf of my colleagues on the Environment and Public Works Committee, I urge support of this resolution to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Interstate System. The Committee as a whole would like to mark the momentous achievements made over the last 50 years that have provided for revolutionary advances in our nation's vital infrastructure. It is essential that Congress, just as it did in 1956, recognize the importance of continued investment in our nation's highways and the undeniable link between a robust economy and a vibrant national infrastructure.

Because of my work on SAFETEA-LU (Public Law 109-59) I have a better appreciation of just how visionary the authors of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 were when they laid out a network of interstate highways and devised a stable and reliable funding stream to pay for it. I am certain that at the time there were those who felt the plan was too ambitious, too expensive and consequently not a good use of scarce Federal dollars. I am sure all would agree that not only was it a good use of scarce Federal dollars, but that the nation has enjoyed a many-fold return on the expenditure.

Laying out the full interstate system—rather than a piecemeal of road segments—along with providing a dedi-

cated funding source expedited construction and provided certainty. This certainty maximized the economic and mobility benefits of the system. Businesses and individuals knew that they could locate somewhere on the future interstate system and be connected to rest of the country.

The second essential element of the success of the highway program over the last 50 years has been the dependable funding stream for the interstate. In the absence of this dedicated funding source, it is my firm belief that investment in our nation's highways and bridges would be far less than has been the case. Without the relative certainty of funding and knowledge of the interstate's general location, the impacts on productivity and economic growth would have been dramatically less than we experienced.

The connectivity and mobility provided for both freight and people by our interstate system is unrivaled; and I believe was more than just a small part of the economic success enjoyed by the U.S. over the past 50 years. It is essential that we continue to make the necessary investment to fight congestion and maintain the mobility necessary to keep the economy growing.

I have always said that the federal government has two main functions: national defense and to provide infrastructure. Since one of the earliest justifications for the interstate system was to provide for national defense, the highway program is actually a perfect merger of the 2 most important functions of government.

For the last 50 years the gas tax has been deposited into the trust fund and used to construct and maintain our roads. In the past, the gas tax has been a reasonably good proxy for road use; and the trust fund has in recent history had sufficient receipts to fund the highway program. This is changing with the increase in fuel efficiency, highlighted by fuel-cell vehicles coming just over the horizon, and improved technology allows for improvements in how to collect the user fee. It is important to look forward to how we fund the highway program in the future because when the next highway bill is drafted, there will be no cushion of a cash balance left in the trust fund.

The current challenges facing the highway trust fund—and hence the highway program—will be very difficult to resolve and not unlike the challenges faced by the authors of the 1956 act. It will be up to policymakers to be as visionary as they were 50 years ago. A new vision is needed in what the highway program will stand for in the next 50 years and how to pay for it.

The resolution (S. Res. 427) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 427

Whereas, on June 29, 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed into law—

(1) the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 (Public Law 84-627; 70 Stat. 374) to establish

the 41,000-mile National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, later designated as the "Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways"; and

(2) the Highway Revenue Act of 1956 (Public Law 84-627; 70 Stat. 387) to create the Highway Trust Fund;

Whereas, in 1990, the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways was renamed the Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways to recognize the role of President Eisenhower in the creation of the Interstate Highway System;

Whereas that web of superhighways, now spanning a total of 46,876 miles throughout the United States, has had a powerful and positive impact on the lives of United States citizens;

Whereas the Interstate System has proven to be a vital tool for transporting people and goods from 1 region to another speedily and safely;

Whereas the use of the Interstate System has helped the Nation facilitate domestic and global trade, and has allowed the Nation to create unprecedented economic expansion and opportunities for millions of United States citizens;

Whereas the Interstate System has enabled diverse communities throughout the United States to come closer together, and has allowed United States citizens to remain connected to each other as well as to the larger world;

Whereas the Interstate System has made it easier and more enjoyable for United States citizens to travel to long-distance destinations and spend time with family members and friends who live far away;

Whereas the Interstate System is a pivotal link in the national chain of defense and emergency preparedness efforts;

Whereas the Interstate System remains 1 of the paramount assets of the United States, as well as a symbol of human ingenuity and freedom;

Whereas the anniversary of the Interstate System provides United States citizens with an occasion to honor 1 of the largest public works achievements of all time, and reflect on how the Nation can maintain the effectiveness of the System in the years ahead: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Senate

(1) proclaims 2006 as the Golden Anniversary Year of the Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways;

(2) recognizes and celebrates the achievements of the Federal Highway Administration, State departments of transportation, and the highway construction industry of the United States, including contractors, designers, engineers, labor, materials producers, and equipment companies, for their contributions to the quality of life of the citizens of the United States; and

(3) encourages citizens, communities, governmental agencies, and other organizations to promote and participate in celebratory and educational activities that mark this uniquely important and historic milestone.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

The resolution (S. Res. 428) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 428

Whereas, on November 21, 2005, after finishing second for 3 consecutive years, the University of Wisconsin men's cross country

team (referred to in this preamble as the "Badgers cross country team") won the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Cross Country Championship in Terre Haute, Indiana, by placing first ahead of—

- (1) the University of Arkansas; and
- (2) Notre Dame University;

Whereas the Badgers cross country team secured its victory through the strong performances of its members, including—

- (1) Simon Bairu, who won his second consecutive individual national championship with a time of 29:15.9;
- (2) Chris Solinsky, who finished third in the championship race with a time of 29:27.8;
- (3) Matt Withrow, who finished ninth in the race with a time of 29:50.7;
- (4) Antony Ford, who finished 14th with a time of 29:55.2;
- (5) Stuart Eagon, who finished 17th with a time of 30:05.3;
- (6) Tim Nelson, who finished 18th with a time of 30:06.4; and
- (7) Christian Wagner, who finished 58th with a time of 30:35.7;

Whereas the success of the season depended on the hard work, dedication, and performance of every player on the Badgers cross country team, including—

- (1) Simon Bairu;
- (2) Brandon Bethke;
- (3) Bryan Culver;
- (4) Stuart Eagon;
- (5) Antony Ford;
- (6) Ryan Gasper;
- (7) Ben Gregory;
- (8) Bobby Lockhart;
- (9) Tim Nelson;
- (10) Teddy O'Reilly;
- (11) Tim Pierie;
- (12) Joe Pierre;
- (13) Ben Porter;
- (14) Codie See;
- (15) Chris Solinsky;
- (16) Christian Wagner; and
- (17) Matt Withrow;

Whereas, on October, 30, 2005, the Badgers cross country team won its seventh straight Big Ten championship with a record-setting score and margin of victory by sweeping the top four positions and eight of the top ten positions;

Whereas numerous members of the Badgers cross country team were recognized for their performance in the Big Ten Conference, including—

- (1) Simon Bairu, who was named the Big Ten Men's Cross Country Athlete of the Year and won the Big Ten Conference individual title;

- (2) Matt Withrow, who was named the Big Ten Men's Cross Country Freshman of the Year after finishing third in the conference meet; and

- (3) Head Coach Jerry Schumacher, who was named the Big Ten Men's Cross Country Coach of the Year for the fifth consecutive year; and

Whereas Simon Bairu, Chris Solinsky, Matt Withrow, Antony Ford, Stuart Eagon, and Tim Nelson earned All-American honors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Wisconsin men's cross country team, Head Coach Jerry Schumacher and his coaching staff, Athletic Director Barry Alvarez, and Chancellor John D. Wiley for an outstanding championship season; and

(2) respectfully requests the Clerk of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM

The resolution (S. Res. 429) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 429

Whereas on March 26, 2006, the University of Wisconsin Badgers won the women's Frozen Four in Minneapolis, Minnesota, with a victory over the 2-time defending champion University of Minnesota Golden Gophers by 3 to 0 in the championship game after having defeated St. Lawrence University by 1 to 0 in the semifinals;

Whereas Jinelle Zaugg of Eagle River, Wisconsin, scored 2 goals, Grace Hutchison of Winnetka, Illinois, scored a goal, and Jessie Vetter of Cottage Grove, Wisconsin, had 31 saves in the championship game, and recorded the first shut-out in the history of the women's Frozen Four championship games;

Whereas every player on the University of Wisconsin women's hockey team (Sara Bauer, Rachel Bible, Nikki Burish, Sharon Cole, Vicki Davis, Christine Dufour, Kayla Hagen, Tia Hanson, Meghan Horras, Grace Hutchins, Cyndy Kenyon, Angie Keseley, Heidi Kletzien, Erika Lawler, Alycia Matthews, Meghan Mikkelsen, Phoebe Monteleone, Emily Morris, Mikka Nordby, Bobbi-Jo Slusar, Jessie Vetter, Kristen Witting, and Jinelle Zaugg) contributed to the success of this team;

Whereas Sara Bauer and Bobbi-Jo Slusar were named to the All-Western Collegiate Hockey Association (known as "WCHA") First Team, Sharon Cole, Meghan Mikkelsen, and Meghan Horras were named to the All-WCHA Second Team, Bobbi-Jo Slusar was named the WCHA Defensive Player of the Year, and Sara Bauer was named the WCHA Player of the Year;

Whereas Coach Mark Johnson, who won a National Collegiate Athletic Association National (known as "NCAA") championship as a member of the University of Wisconsin men's 1977 championship team, was a star on the 1980 United States Olympic hockey team, which produced what is known as the "Miracle on Ice", and is one of the few people who have won a national championship as both a player and coach, and was named the WCHA Coach of the Year;

Whereas Sara Bauer and Bobbi-Jo Slusar were named first team All-Americans, and Sara Bauer won the Patty Kazmaier Award, as the Nation's top player;

Whereas Jessie Vetter won the 2006 NCAA Tournament's Most Outstanding Player award and was joined on the All-Tournament Team by Jinelle Zaugg and Bobbi-Jo Slusar;

Whereas the victory in the women's Frozen Four is the University of Wisconsin's first varsity women's hockey national championship, and the university's first women's team national championship since 1984; and

Whereas this victory ended a terrific season in which the University of Wisconsin women's hockey team outscored their opponents 155-51 and had a record of 34-4-1: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Wisconsin women's hockey team, the coaching staff, including Head Coach Mark Johnson, Athletic Director Barry Alvarez, and Chancellor John D. Wiley on an outstanding championship season; and

(2) respectfully requests the Clerk of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

The resolution (S. Res. 430) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 430

Whereas on Monday, April 3, 2006, the University of Florida men's basketball team (referred to in this preamble as the "Florida Gators") defeated the men's basketball team of the University of California, Los Angeles, by a score of 73-57, to win the 2006 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Basketball Championship;

Whereas that historic victory by the Florida Gators was a product of—

- (1) an almost flawless and unselfish team performance; and
- (2) individual player excellence and versatility from members of the Florida Gators;

Whereas that victory marked the first national basketball championship victory for the University of Florida, and occurred 10 years after the school won the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Football Championship;

Whereas the head coach of the Florida Gators, Billy Donovan, became the second youngest coach to win the national championship, after leading the Florida Gators to a school-best, 33-6 record;

Whereas University of Florida sophomore Joakim Noah was chosen as the most outstanding player of the Final Four;

Whereas each player, coach, trainer, and manager dedicated his or her time and effort to ensuring that the Florida Gators reached the pinnacle of team achievement; and

Whereas the families of the players, students, alumni, and faculty of the University of Florida, and all of the supporters of the University of Florida, are to be congratulated for their commitment to, and pride in, the basketball program at the University of Florida; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the University of Florida men's basketball team for winning the 2006 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Basketball Championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all of the players, coaches, and support staff who were instrumental in helping the University of Florida men's basketball team win the 2006 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Basketball Championship, and invites those individuals to the United States Capitol Building to be honored; and

(4) respectfully requests the Enrolling Clerk of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the University of Florida for appropriate display; and

(B) the coach of the University of Florida men's basketball team, Billy Donovan.

ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY

The resolution (S. Res. 431) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 431

Whereas in the United States and around the world, more than 1,000 species are officially designated as at risk of extinction and thousands more also face a heightened risk of extinction;

Whereas the actual and potential benefits derived from many species have not yet been fully discovered and would be permanently lost if not for conservation efforts;

Whereas recovery efforts for species such as the whooping crane, Kirtland's warbler, the peregrine falcon, the gray wolf, the gray