

to all the families and fans for their continual support of the Blazers throughout the season.

The success of the team could not have been achieved without the exceptional coaching staff, led by head coach David Dean. Coach Dean is in his first season as head coach of the Blazers, having been the team's offensive coordinator for the past 7 years. He is only the second first-year coach in history to lead his team to a Division II title.

Valdosta, a city long known for its tradition in high school football, can now boast about the success of Valdosta State University, which has won 2 Division II National Championships in 4 years. It is my hope that the winning tradition at Valdosta State will continue for many years to come.

Congratulations again to all of these young men and to all associated with the Valdosta State Blazers football program for their great accomplishments and hard work.●

BEST HIGH SCHOOLS IN NEW MEXICO

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, today I applaud the top public high schools in my home State of New Mexico. I was pleased to learn that in U.S. News and World Report's first ranking of America's best high schools, 16 high schools in New Mexico were awarded with silver and bronze medals for their outstanding performance on standardized tests and in providing college-level coursework.

The students come from many different backgrounds, but they are successful because of the mind-set that says every student can succeed. These schools and the communities around them have embraced the differences in their student body and demonstrated that every single student, regardless of background, can and will learn. It takes the dedicated leadership of a good principal, a talented teaching corps and engaged parents to achieve this level.

The teachers and staff of these high schools have demonstrated their commitment to excellence through quality education. I have always been very proud to call New Mexico my home because of the countless opportunities it provides. This is a well deserved recognition for the excellent work being done by these high schools, and I would like to congratulate them on their great success.

The following schools were commended with awards: Academy for Technology and the Classics in Santa Fe, NM; Bloomfield High School in Bloomfield, NM; Clayton High School in Clayton, NM; Cliff High School in Cliff, NM; Eldorado High School in Albuquerque, NM; East Mountain Charter High School in Sandia Park, NM; Hagerman High School in Hagerman, NM; La Cueva High School in Albu-

querque, NM; Lake Arthur High School in Lake Arthur, NM; Logan High School in Logan, NM; Los Alamos High School in Los Alamos, NM; Magdalena High School in Magdalena, NM; Sandia High School in Albuquerque, NM; Springer High School in Springer, NM; Tatum High School in Tatum, NM; and Texico High School in Texico, NM.

Again, I commend these fine high schools on a job well done, and I hope that these awards will inspire high schools in my home State and around the country to strive for the best.●

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE STEPHEN LOW

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate a distinguished former member of the Foreign Service, the Honorable Stephen Low, on the occasion of his recent 80th birthday on December 2, 2007. He has rendered many years of service to our Nation, and I am honored to celebrate this milestone and his achievements.

Upon receiving his doctorate from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in 1956, the future Ambassador joined the Department of State as an Intelligence Research Officer in what was then the Bureau of Far Eastern Affairs. In the years that followed, Ambassador Low served as the Economic-Labor Officer in Kampala, Uganda; the Chief of Political Section, Dakar, Senegal; the Special Assistant to the Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs; and the Counselor for Political Affairs in Brasilia, Brazil. He then returned to Washington where he was named the Director of Brazil Affairs in the early 1970s.

During the Ford administration, Stephen Low advised our Nation's policymakers on the National Security Council as the senior staff member for Latin America. He then returned to service abroad, as the U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria. Three years later he served as Ambassador to Zambia. Ambassador Low performed these duties admirably, receiving the Department of State Distinguished Honor Award and two Presidential Meritorious Service Awards.

In 1982 Ambassador Low became the Director of the State Department's Foreign Service Institute, the Federal Government's primary training institution for officers and support personnel of the U.S. foreign affairs community. His commitment to education has been steadfast ever since. In addition to teaching and administrative posts at the Johns Hopkins University and other schools, Ambassador Low was named President of the Association of Diplomatic Studies and Teaching, an office he held until 1997.

Today the Ambassador continues his active career. As President and Founder of the Foreign Affairs Museum Council, Ambassador Low worked with members of Congress and all living

former Secretaries of State to improve public understanding of the role of diplomacy and the Foreign Service. As he has stated:

Many Americans have little idea what an embassy is, or what an ambassador does. Nor are they aware that our diplomats and other Foreign Service personnel work 24/7 around the world in the interest of the American people.

His subsequent advocacy and leadership in the planning of a National Museum of American Diplomacy at the Department of State has helped to ensure that our Nation honors the past achievements and ongoing service of our country's diplomats.

I congratulate Ambassador Low on his 80th birthday and his lifetime of achievement. I wish him many more years of good health and active service to our country.

I ask that the attached resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows.

Congratulating Hon. Stephen Low on a lifetime of service to the cause and promotion of American diplomacy, and on the recent passing of his 80th birthday on December 2, 2007;

Whereas throughout his years as a career Foreign Service Officer, Ambassador Low served as the U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria and the U.S. Ambassador to Zambia;

Whereas while advising the National Security Council, Ambassador Low served as a senior staff member for Latin America;

Whereas Ambassador Low has received the Department of State Distinguished Honor Award and two Presidential Meritorious Service Awards;

Whereas in his commitment to education, Ambassador Low has served as the Director of the State Department's Foreign Service Institute, President of the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training, and several teaching posts in the United States and abroad;

Whereas Ambassador Low continues to be active in the creation of a museum and center for the study of American diplomacy at the Department of State: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Committee on Foreign Relations expresses to Ambassador Low deep appreciation for his service to the Department of State and the United States of America.●

SERGEANT AARON HENEHAN

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, During this holiday season, I would like to recognize the soldiers and veterans from Alaska who have given so much and continue to give so much. I would like them to know that their sacrifices in Afghanistan and Iraq have not gone unnoticed by their fellow Alaskans. When I was in Iraq I had the pleasure of meeting soldiers and National Guardsmen from Anchorage, Fairbanks, Seward, Soldotna, Eagle River, Slana, and Wasilla. Hearing their stories and commitment made me incredibly proud to be an Alaskan.

Every day, Alaskans write my office praising the service men and women who have returned and those still in