

We also honor the thousands of Intruder maintainers, both past and present, who kept the A-6E flying day and night, at sea and ashore. The excellent record of the Intruder is a testament to the hard work of these men and women.

Finally, let us remember the Intruder crews who never returned. In service to our Nation, they paid the ultimate price flying this machine that they loved. We must never forget them. From this day on, the United States Navy must continue to carry on the spirit of Intruder attack.

On a personal basis, my son-in-law, Joe Nortz, was an A-6 bombardier/navigator during most of his 20-year Navy career. He is attending the stand down ceremony at NAS Whidbey as a great admirer of a great aircraft.●

#### COMMEMORATION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONCORD COLLEGE

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, on February 28, 1872, the West Virginia State Legislature passed a proposal to create the Concord State Normal School. Now, 125 years later, Concord College, as it is commonly referred to, educates some 2,400 students in a wide range of programs. I wanted to take this opportunity to share with my colleagues my pride in this remarkable institution that celebrates its 125th year of bringing southern West Virginia's best and brightest together.

The enabling legislation that created Concord provided no State funds for the school. So the townspeople raised \$1,700 by subscription to erect the first building on land donated by Mr. William Harvey Martin. On May 10, 1875, 70 students attended classes that first session in a rough frame building. In 1885, under the leadership of principal Capt. James Harvey French, the school received \$5,000 in State funds to build a new brick building to recognize the service given the State by the school. That new building was completed in 1887, and the first dormitory was built in 1891, on North State Street. In 1896, the town in which the college is located changed its name to Athens in recognition of Concord's role as a crucial and influential center of education for southern West Virginia.

In November 1910, the downtown facilities were destroyed by fire. The faculty and students were resilient, as typical West Virginians are, and they began holding classes the next day in other locations about town. The current campus site on Vermillion Street in Athens was bought by the town in early 1911. The campus endured a second and even more damaging fire in 1912, but Concord rebounded stronger than ever.

On July 1, 1919, Concord gained its independence from the State Normal School in Huntington. The title of principal of the institution was changed to president. The school awarded its first baccalaureate degree

to three graduates in June 1923. Eight years later the school changed its name to the Concord State Teachers' College. Under the direction of President Joseph Franklin Marsh, Sr., the named changed again in 1943, to the current Concord College.

President Joseph F. Marsh, Jr., one of the longest serving presidents, oversaw the construction of the Alexander Fine Arts Center, Centennial Hall, three residence halls, the faculty housing units at Witherspoon Park, and the maintenance building. Years later, in the administration of President Meredith N. Freeman, enrollment grew and several new academic programs were established. And as of 1991, under the direction of current president, Jerry Beasley, Concord became one of the first institutions in the Nation to join the prestigious Bonner Scholars Program. The Bonner Program rewards students who are actively involved in public service by helping to finance their college education.

This program, in particular, is very dear to me. In 1964, I moved to West Virginia as a VISTA volunteer. To see that our young people want to be involved in community service warms my heart and gives me hope for the future.

In recognition of the legislative act founding Concord State Normal School, an anniversary convocation has been designated for today in Athens.

Mr. President, Concord College is an enormously important part of West Virginia higher education, and continues to be an institution West Virginia residents are proud of. The 125th anniversary convocation taking place today is a program commemorating the college's beginning—and its future. I have no doubt the school's future will continue to be a bright one.●

#### TRIBUTE TO GEORGE BALD ON BEING NAMED THE ROCHESTER BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to commend George Bald, the economic development director for the Pease Development Authority and a Rochester community leader, on being named the Rochester Business Leader of the Year. I congratulate him for his record of excellence in business and community development.

George Bald's record of achievement is certainly worthy of this outstanding honor. In 1978, he was elected mayor of Somersworth where he served until 1984. He had a bold plan for the Rochester area which spearheaded the development of a new municipally owned industrial park while utilizing an existing park. George's next endeavor was as head of the newly established economic development department where he became known for exceptional economic success. Through his leadership, Rochester was effectively promoted as

an attractive business location. He also strengthened relations with existing industries. Thanks to George's efforts, Rochester became the corporate headquarters of Cabletron Systems and during his tenure thousands of new jobs have been created.

George also helped establish a solid foundation on which the city of Rochester will continue to grow. From 1991 to 1993, he became city manager and in 1994, George was entrusted the position of economic development director for the Pease Development Authority. He served on the Industrial Affairs Council at the Chamber of Commerce and the Governmental Affairs Committee.

His outstanding community support is demonstrated in his participation with the Heritage Trust and his service on several boards of directors such as the Frisbie Memorial Hospital, the Rochester Visiting Nurses Association, the Gafney Home and the Somersworth Housing Authority. George is a former vice president of the New Hampshire Association of Industrial Agents, a member of the American Economic Development Council and a director of the Northeast Industrial Developers Association. Equally important, his friends know him for his integrity and dedication and as a man who is willing to go the extra mile to help his community.

I wish to congratulate George for his recognition as Rochester's Business Leader of the Year, and I am proud to represent George in the U.S. Senate. He has certainly earned this praise from the business community he has sought to help over the years. Congratulations George.●

#### VONNIE AND DALE BROWN

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, the great State of North Dakota has brought forth many sons and daughters who have made tremendous contributions to our Nation and our world. Throughout its history, our State has given rise to individuals of great character, strong perseverance, and expansive vision. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing two such individuals of whom North Dakota is very proud: Vonnie and Dale Brown.

A native of Columbus, ND, Vonnie Ness was the daughter of Martha and Clifford Ness and the granddaughter of Norwegian homesteaders, who came to the United States in the 1800's to settle in North Dakota. Possessed with both a great love and talent for dance, Vonnie graduated with a degree from Minot State University. When she and Dale married and later moved to Baton Rouge, LA, she combined a career as an instructor at Louisiana State University with the responsibilities of full-time motherhood to their daughter, Robyn. For many years, Vonnie taught a variety of dance courses at LSU where she was a much-loved and highly popular instructor. Since leaving LSU, she has continued her internationally acclaimed research in ethnic and folk

dance and maintains an extensive schedule of travel throughout eastern Europe as a preeminent scholar in this field.

Born in Minot, ND, 61 years ago, Dale grew up in the most challenging of circumstances. He was raised in a single-parent home by a mother, Agnes Brown, whose strength of character and persistence in the face of great poverty kept the family together. Dale's life is a testament to overcoming hardship through optimism and hard work. Indeed, he has never not worked, having held a job throughout his childhood and young adulthood to support his family and help pay for his college education at Minot State, of which he is also a proud alumnus. In turn, North Dakota and Minot State University are extremely proud of him. When he arrived at LSU, charged with reestablishing a once-powerful basketball program that had fallen on hard times, Dale took to the task with his usual blend of tenaciousness and God-given ability. It was not long before the Fighting Tigers were living up to their name, and LSU was once again on the map as a basketball powerhouse.

The statistics are in the record books and speak for themselves. Since he arrived at LSU in 1972, Dale's teams have gone on to secure four Southeastern Conference titles, made 13 NCAA tournament appearances, including two trips to the Final Four, and provided thousands of hours of enjoyment to spectators who appreciated seeing skill and sportsmanship in college basketball. Over 25 years he has recruited, coached, and mentored a long list of players who have had significant careers in the NBA.

But the record books don't even begin to tell the full story of what Dale Brown has done at LSU and contributed to our society. Ask any of the players he has coached what it is that they most value about their experience at LSU and they will tell you, clearly and simply, "It's been an honor playing for him." A current team member recently said in an article in the Washington Post about Dale's upcoming retirement, "He just teaches you more than basketball. He teaches you how to be successful in life. Every day it's always more than basketball. It's how to have an interview, how to hold a job. He's always bringing in motivational speakers to talk to us."

Too often in college sports, the goal of developing mature young women and men is forgotten to the all-consuming need to win, to show more skill on the playing field takes precedence overall else. To be sure, Dale Brown has compiled a record of great success on the basketball court; his players have benefited from his technical skill and coaching ability and have played very, very well. But his greatest legacy will be the players who have matured, through exposure to his character and example, into fine human beings. Our society needs more of these people and we need more teachers like Dale and

like Vonnie to help our young people aim high and grow.

As Dale prepares to leave his position at LSU, coaching his last game this Saturday, we would like to recognize him and Vonnie for their contributions and wish them well as they enter this exciting new period of their lives together. Many new experiences await them, but some things will remain; undoubtedly, they will continue to leave their own special marks on the people they encounter and the lives they touch every day.

Mr. President, North Dakota is a State of achievers, of people who overcome adversity and who embody the most noble characteristics of our pioneer ancestors and try their hardest, sometimes failing, but never quitting. Such is the example set for us by Vonnie and Dale Brown. Vonnie and Dale live in Louisiana now, but they will forever be North Dakotans, carrying forth their fellowman that make our State strong and all of us proud. I ask my fellow Senators to join me in saluting them today.●

#### TRIBUTE TO GILES PRIDE

● Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the work of Nashville's own Capt. Giles Pride. Giles Pride has been a cornerstone to the success and service of the Nashville Fire Department for 52 years. At age 72, he is hanging up his fireman's hat and flame retardant jacket.

Pride began his career at the young age of 19, when he said he was 21-years-old in order to meet the eligibility requirements for joining the fire department. He was given very little training, worked 12 hours a day, and was paid \$150 a month. That was in 1944, and at his retirement he had served longer than any other full-time firefighter in the State of Tennessee.

Over the years, Pride has seen many advancements in firefighting, from the introduction of more innovative equipment to new strategies for fighting certain types of fires.

Mr. President, the work of a fireman is not always pleasant. Giles Pride has plenty of memories of comradery and friendship at Nashville's Fire Department. But he has also faced the hard reality of putting his life on the line every day to save the lives of others. Captain Pride has given 52 years of his life to the people of Nashville.

Too many times we hear of fire taking and destroying the lives of its victims. Not often enough do we thank the firefighters, like Captain Pride, who bring safety and security to our communities. Today, Mr. President, I tip my hat to Capt. Giles Pride for a job well done, and I wish him all the best in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MELISSA BROWN ON BEING HONORED WITH THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute

to Melissa Brown for receiving the Girl Scout Gold Award by the Swift Water Girl Scout Council in Manchester, NH.

Melissa is a member of Girl Scout Troop No. 1487 and has diligently served her community and the people of Manchester. She started working toward the Girl Scout Gold Award in 1995. Melissa had to earn four interest project patches, which are the career exploration pin, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, the Senior Girl Scout challenge and design and implement a Girl Scout Gold Award project. She completed her project in the areas of community service and environmental awareness.

Melissa received outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. The Swift Water Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest attainable rank for a young woman between the age of 14 to 17. Melissa has every reason to be proud of this recognition.

Melissa promotes citizenship, character-building, and community service among the girls of our country. She also provides a respectable, solid role model for the youth of our Nation and teaches commitment, dedication, and hard work. As a member of the Swift Water Girl Scout Troop, Melissa learned valuable skills that will serve her for a lifetime.

I am proud to honor Melissa for her outstanding accomplishments and congratulate her on this truly deserved award.●

#### AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 1997

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I am pleased to have joined my colleagues in supporting final passage of H.R. 668, an urgently needed measure to reimpose the aviation excise taxes through the end of fiscal year 1997, and give the Internal Revenue Service authority to transfer previously collected aviation excise taxes into the Airport and Airway Trust Fund.

Reinstatement of these excise taxes for fiscal year 1997 are essential to the continued operation of our Federal aviation system. The Airport and Airway Trust Fund into which these taxes are deposited, is funded by a 10-percent passenger ticket tax; a 6.25-percent cargo waybill tax; a \$6.00 per person international departure tax; and certain general aviation fuel taxes. In 1997, this trust fund is expected to provide 62 percent of the Federal Aviation Administration's [FAA] fiscal year 1997 budget. More specifically, the trust fund is expected to provide \$5.3 billion of the FAA's \$8.6 billion total fiscal year 1997 budget. Of this \$5.3 billion, \$3.6 billion will provide 100 percent of the resources necessary to fund the FAA's capital programs, while \$1.7 billion will provide 34 percent of the fiscal year 1997 budget for FAA operations.