Aerocobra and then, on transfer to 15th Air Force, strategic missions flying the P–47 Thunderbolt and P–51 Mustang. He returned to Tuskegee as a captain and served as a Twin-Engine Instructor until the close of the base.

Colonel McGee later served in the 67th Fighter-Bomber Squadron, flying the P–51 aircraft on 100 missions during the Korean War, earning him a promotion to Major. In 1953, Colonel McGee returned to the United States to attend the Air Force Command and Staff School at Maxwell Air Base, AL. Upon graduation, he was qualified to fly the F–89 Interceptor and promoted to Lt. Colonel.

In 1967, Colonel McGee received tactical Reconnaissance and RF–4C flight training and was assigned to command the 16th TAC Recon Squadron at Tan son Nhut Air Base. From there, he flew 172 missions in Vietnam, earning the Legion of Merit.

After his tour in Vietnam, Col. McGee was stationed in Europe, where he served USEUR and the 7th Army in Air Liaison duty and was promoted to Colonel. He then served as Chief of Maintenance of the 50th Tactical Fighter Wing. He returned to the United States in 1971 to serve for two years at Richard Gebaur Air Force Base, MO. He served the Air Force Communications Service as Director of Maintenance Engineering and Commander of the base and the 1840th Air Base Wing before retiring in 1973. Over his career, he received many awards, including: the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Legion of Merit, Air Medal with 25 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, President Unit Citation, Korean President Unit Citation, and the Republic of Greece WWII Commendation Medal.

Colonal McGee's service to his fellow citizens did not end with his retirement from the military. In 1972, he assisted in the founding of Tuskegee Airman, Incorporated. This organization is dedicated to the preservation of the Tuskegee Airman legacy and the motivation of American youth, with a focus on minority youth, toward career interests in aerospace technology. To date the organization has raised over $1.7 million and helped over 500 gifted American students of all races. Currently, Colonel McGee is serving his second term as the organization's Executive President.

Throughout his life, Colonel McGee has shown extraordinary commitment to both our nation and his fellow citizens. Early in life, he overcame a society adverse to the advancement of African Americans and served with distinction in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. Even in retirement, Colonel McGee remains dedicated to the advancement of American youth and our Nation. On behalf of the citizens of Missouri and our great nation, I thank Colonel McGee for a lifetime of outstanding service.●

THE SPEARFISH SPARTANS ARE THE 2002 SOUTH DAKOTA STATE MEN'S ''A'' BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Spearfish Spartans. The Spartans, under second-year coach Dan Martin, won the South Dakota State ''AA'' Basketball Tournament March 16 in Rapid City, SD.

Coach Martin's squad went through the 2001–2002 season with only one loss, a double-overtime setback to Gillette, WY, a squad that went on to win its own State title. The Spartans entered the State tournament with an impressive 20–1 mark and defeated Rapid City Central and Watertown before rallying in the final exciting minutes to overtake Sioux Falls Lincoln, 65–61, for the State title. It was the Spartans' first-ever State basketball championship and the first Class ''AA'' title for a team west of the Missouri River since 1989.

The team was guided this season by the senior leadership provided by Deming Haugland, Aaron Croff, Slade Larscheid and Timm Cooper. Haugland and Croff were joined by Spartan sophomore Matt Martin on the all-tournament team and Haugland received the coveted Spirit of Su Award, for his sportsmanship and actions both on and off the basketball court.

As Coach Martin told ''The Black Hills Pioneer'' after the title victory, ''It was due to a lot of hard work. The boys put a lot of blood and sweat into it and they deserve it.'' I want to commend and applaud the community of Spearfish for their support of young people. This title reflects that community support. I want to acknowledge Superintendent David Peters, Principal Dr. Dan Leikvold, Athletic Director Karen Hahn, Head Coach Dan Martin, Assistant Coaches Les Schroeder, Dick Tschetter and Pete Wilson for their guidance and support to help make this year's team so successful. I also want to congratulate all of this year's team members: seniors Deming Haugland, Aaron Croff, Slade Larscheid and Timm Cooper; juniors Tanner Tetrault, Josh Delahoyde, Turner Johnson and Jared Noem; and sophomores Billy McDonald, Matt Martin, Josh Stadler, Derek Bertsch and Scott Betten, for their hard work, dedication and commitment this season. Finally, I want to acknowledge the great work of team managers Eric Skavang, Wally Byrne, Rachel Brady and Katie Goodnough, and the hard-working efforts of cheerleaders Terra Ketchum, Sarah Hanna, Amber Orce and Angie Koski.

Again, congratulations to the Spearfish Spartans on winning their first State basketball championship!● j

CONGRATULATIONS TO TARA LYNN POE

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and congratulate Tara Lynn Poe of Paris, KY. Ms. Poe was recently crowned the 2002 Kentucky Cherry Blossom Princess and will serve as ambassador for Kentucky in the historic 90th Cherry Blossom Festival to be held here in our Nation's capital March 30 through April 6.

In 1912, a prominent group of citizens in Japan graciously donated about 3,000 cherry blossom trees, which are not native to North America, to Washington, DC as a symbol of friendship between the United States and Japan. First Lady Helen Herron Taft, who had briefly lived in Yokohama, Japan, decided to bring the beauty of Japan to the then swampy Tidal Basin. Mrs. Taft, along with Vicountess Chinda, wife of the Japanese Ambassador, planted the first two trees on March 27, 1912 in West Potomac Park. These 89 year old trees are still living on the Tidal Basin today. By 1939, State societies across the Nation were recruiting capable and accomplished female college students to be cherry blossom princesses to represent their respective States in the ceremonies and festival parade. The events were and still remain an attempt to educate young women about the history and political makeup of various cultures around the world. Although the festivities experienced a slight delay with the outbreak of WWII in 1941, they soon regained their grandeur in 1948 and were able to help foster the healing process between the United States and Japan. More than 2,500 students have participated in the cherry blossom princess program since 1948.

As a proud representative of the Commonwealth of Kentucky in this year's Cherry Blossom Festival, Tara Lynn Poe, a freshman at Centre College in Danville, KY, will have the unique opportunity to personally meet with President Bush and First Lady Laura Bush. She will be presenting them with a copy of a children's book by Lexington author Paul Brett Johnson for the library foundation. Furthermore, Tara will have the chance to learn from and with her fellow princesses and all involved in the festival about Japan and other countries, international relations, and American culture, politics, and history. On April 5th by a random spin of the wheel, Tara will be eligible to be crowned this year's Cherry Blossom Queen and if selected will be invited to visit Japan, where she will be hosted by local dignitaries, including the Japanese Prime Minister and the Speaker of the Japanese Diet.

Kentuckians should be proud to have Tara Lynn Poe representing the Commonwealth in the Cherry Blossom Festival and I wish her the best in all of her future pursuits.●

THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF E.I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, over the past few weeks, banners have started

to appear on light-posts in my home town of Wilmington, DE, announcing the celebration of the 200th anniversary of E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, more familiarly and succinctly known as the DuPont Company.

It is a fairly modest call of attention to a remarkable event and a remarkable business institution. DuPont is the oldest company in Delaware, and certainly one of the oldest in our Nation; it has employed hundreds of thousands of people in my State and millions around the world; it is a leader in scientific innovation that has remained dynamic throughout its history, changing with the times and, with more patents than any other American firm, sometimes itself changing the times.

One symbol of DuPont keeping and even setting the pace, will soon be seen by NASCAR fans around the country. DuPont is the primary sponsor of Jeff Gordon's race team, and beginning this month, Mr. Gordon will be driving a special DuPont 200th anniversary car, which was unveiled in Wilmington last fall.

The name DuPont is familiar throughout and well beyond our Nation, but many of our citizens, even NASCAR fans, may not realize how familiar DuPont products are in their daily lives, and may not know much of the history of the company that has endured and evolved, with a central place in our scientific and economic life, and with such great importance to our State of Delaware.

Founded in 1802 by Eleuthere Irenee du Pont, with $36,000 in capital, 18 shares at $2,000 a piece, DuPont began as a gunpowder plant, Eleutherian Mills, on the Brandywine River near Wilmington. By 1811, DuPont was the largest manufacturer of gunpowder in the United States.

Explosives long remained an important aspect of the company. During World War I, DuPont supplied the Allies with 1.5 billion pounds of military explosives, as well as providing American industry with half the dynamite and blasting powder needed for construction and mining. And during World War II, DuPont produced 4.5 billion pounds of military explosives, as well as nylon for parachutes, tents, ropes and other military supplies. The company also contributed to the Manhattan Project, with the Hanford plant in Washington and the Oak Ridge plant in Tennessee, and built and operated chemical plants related to the war effort.

It was in the company's 100th anniversary year, 1902, that three of E.I. du Pont's great-grandsons bought out old partners, and started to move toward diversification, opening Eastern Laboratory and, in 1903, the Experimental Station in Wilmington. DuPont was soon in the dye business, the rayon business, and after a company researcher named William Hale Church made cellophane moisture-proof in 1927, the food packaging business. DuPont research in the 1920s also led to the development of a quick-drying paint for cars, which helped speed the manufacturing process, so DuPont's automotive history goes back a long way.

The 1930s saw the development of, among other products, nylon, the first true synthetic textile fiber, which I mentioned was so important early on in World War II supplies; Teflon®, which evolved in part out of war-related research and which we know from our own kitchen supplies; Butacite®, which is used in shatter-proof glass; and Lucite®.

The 1950s brought the development of Mylar®, which has uses from balloons to insulation, as well as Dacron® polyester, Orlon® acrylic fiber and the well-known Lycra® brand fiber, which can stretch to five times its size without losing its shape. DuPont also started its serious global investment, with the opening of the International Department, in 1958.

In 1964, researcher Stephanie Kwolek, whom I have had the pleasure of meeting, developed the remarkably strong fiber that we know as Kevlar®, which, in its application in body armor, has saved thousands of police officers' lives. Tyvek®, which we see so often as building wrap, was also developed for commercial application in the 1960s, as was Nomex®—where we again give credit to Dr. Kwolek, along with Paul Morgan, for their research. Nomex® is a heat-resistant fiber with a range of uses, the most well known of which is in protective gear for fire-fighters. Corian®, which is now so familiar as a counter-top surface, followed shortly after.

To summarize where DuPont was at the close of the 1960s in terms of its leadership and innovation, especially in textile fibers, I'll note that when Neil Armstrong walked on the moon in 1969, he was wearing a space suit made up of 25 layers; 23 of those layers were DuPont materials.

The DuPont Company has continued to explore science-based solutions to real-world problems in a range of markets, from health care and nutrition to apparel and textiles to performance coatings and polymers to construction and electronics, always working to develop new products and to find innovative applications even for old workhorses like polyester and nylon. Just to note two current efforts, DuPont is undertaking leading-edge work in biotechnology, notably soy proteins, and in polymers, with an advanced technology now known as Sorona®.

Among the many events in this anniversary year, in April, DuPont will be presented with the National Building Museum's 2002 Honor Award, and I am proud to serve on the Leadership Committee for that event. In announcing the award, the Building Museum folks noted, ''It is difficult to imagine many aspects of modern construction without DuPont products, which make buildings safer, more durable, and more efficient.''

In addition to its industry leadership, the DuPont Company has set the standard, which has been followed by other leading businesses in our State, for outstanding corporate citizenship. The Company has long engaged in generous charitable giving and support of non-profit agencies, both near its corporate home in Delaware and in communities where it operates throughout the world, as well as supporting and encouraging volunteer work and community leadership by its employees. DuPont has made a particular and extensive investment in science education and research, from kindergarten classrooms to university laboratories.

So this 200-year-old Company remains an innovator, an investor in sustainable and successful communities, and a charitable leader in Delaware, across the country and around the world. I have not always agreed with the Board Chairs and CEOs of the DuPont Company over the last 30 years, but I have always respected them, and deeply respected the place of honor that the DuPont Company has earned in Delaware and in the international business community.

So on behalf of the DuPont Company's neighbors and fellow citizens in Delaware, I am proud to honor its 200th anniversary, and to extend congratulations to the company's board, executive leaders and employees, along with our very best wishes for continued success in bringing ''The miracles of science''® to life in a way that serves us all.●

JOHN E. ROBSON, PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN, EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise in tribute to John Robson, the President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, who passed away yesterday morning.

John had a truly remarkable career in both the public and private sectors. Prior to becoming President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank last year, he most recently had been a senior adviser with the San Francisco investment banking firm of Robertson Stephens. He served as Deputy Secretary of the Treasury under former President Bush from 1989–1992, and was Dean of the Emory School of Business from 1986–88. From 1978–85 he was President and Chief Executive Officer of the pharmaceutical company G.D. Searle. He served as Chairman of the U.S. Civil Aeronautics Board from 1975–77, and was Under Secretary of Transportation from 1967–69. He was a graduate of Yale College and Harvard Law School.

I first worked with John during the crisis in the savings and loan industry in the 1980's. As Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, he served as the Administration's point person in dealing with one of the most serious financial crises since the Great Depression. During that experience, I came to know John as a very tough and determined leader