

to congratulate him today on this great honor.

RECOGNITION OF THE UMD LADY BULLDOGS FOR WINNING THE 2003 NCAA DIVISION I NATIONAL WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my distinguished colleague from Minnesota in recognizing the University of Minnesota Duluth Women's Ice Hockey Team for winning their third straight national championship.

A Stanley Cup-winning professional hockey player said that "when you start a tournament, you stick with it." History has shown that the Lady Bulldogs maintain this same principle. In 2001 at the inaugural Frozen Four, they took on St. Lawrence University and won 4-2. The following year, they made it through the semifinals again, allowing them the opportunity to face Brown University, who they defeated 3-2 for their second title.

They entered this year's national tournament playing Dartmouth College in the semifinals, a game which was tied in the second period before UMD came back to win it 5-2.

Two days later, in the championship, they met No. 2 seeded Harvard University in what has been referred to by some as the best women's college hockey game ever.

Knowing what makes a good hockey game, I would have to agree. There was a near-capacity crowd; a first period ending score of 2-0, with Duluth in the lead; a solid return by Harvard in the second; and a scoreless first overtime, which resulted in a second where sophomore Nora Tallus scored the winning goal at 4 minutes and 19 seconds.

This goal concluded the 84-minute game, giving the Lady Bulldogs their third and probably most memorable title, as it was won at home in front of a near-capacity crowd at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center.

I am pleased to stand here today, commending the UMD Women's Ice Hockey Team for winning the 2003 NCAA Division I National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship and recognizing the achievements of all the team's players, coaches, and staff.

THE POSTAL PENSION LIABILITY ACT, S. 380

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate has taken action to pass S. 380, the Postal Pension Liability Act.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the Governmental Affairs Committee for their effort in getting this bill passed, particularly Senator COLLINS and Senator LIEBERMAN, chairman and ranking member, respectively, as well as Senator STEVENS and Senator CARPER, who have provided tremendous leadership in getting this bill through the Senate.

As my colleagues may know, the U.S. Postal Service, USPS, is required to pay into the Civil Service Retirement System, CSRS, an amount that equals the full cost of its obligation to CSRS. While the Postal Service has done so, the money it has placed into this account has earned interest at a higher rate than previously thought. Thus, the Office of Personnel Management estimated in November that the pension obligations for the USPS totaled \$5 billion and not a previously estimated \$32 billion.

This bill would correct the formula that overpays the Postal Service's obligation to the civil service retirement fund. In addition, this bill would stabilize postage rates through 2006 and help the Postal Service to pay down some of its debt. Stable postage rates will help keep shipping costs down as well as the indirect cost of all consumer goods.

Without this bill, the U.S. Postal Service would continue to overfund its contribution to the Civil Service Retirement System fund. If it had not been evaluated and corrected, the overpayment could have reached tens of billions of dollars in the decades ahead.

Mr. President, as a cosponsor of S. 380, I am pleased with the bipartisan manner in which the Senate has acted to pass this much-needed bill. This spirit of cooperation is truly in the best interest of the American people.

RETIRED OFFICERS' COMMENTARY

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, there has been much discussion here in the Senate and in the press about retired military officers who have been appearing in the media throughout the coverage of the diplomatic efforts and the actual military operations to end the global threat posed by Saddam Hussein and his weapons of mass destruction.

My own opinion is that most of these retired officers have, in a very fair, constructive, helpful way, interpreted the complexity of modern military operations, the highly technical range of military equipment, and have conveyed their positive observations of the courage and professionalism of our men and women in uniform—from the generals to the privates.

In most presentations, these retired officers have shown professional responsibility and prudent restraint in giving their views and interpretations. But a few have added personal criticisms over the planning and execution of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Professionals in the military have devoted their careers to protecting our Constitutional freedoms. Among the most cherished of these is freedom of speech. But that freedom has its legal, as well as ethical, restraints, and requires the exercise of good judgment, common sense, and taking into account the likely impact of their criticisms on servicemen and their families.

By and large, the retired officers have, through their careers of

dedicated service, earned the admiration of the general public. Consequently, a special trust is accorded them by the families, the parents, the grandparents of those serving in uniform. Quite often, the families take to heart what they say, even more so than the views of others.

If retired officers have professional views and judgments at variance with the active duty chain of command, they are, like all Americans, free to speak their mind. But how to do it—publicly or privately?

They have ample opportunity to convey their views to their former colleagues—today's military commanders—through private channels, and I know many do so through a variety of forums and through personal communications. Before making critical public statements during the course of military operations, I hope they carefully consider the consequences of such statements and recall how they, and their families, felt about unexpected public criticism when they were in the "trenches of conflict."

The tradition followed by Presidents, especially in times of conflict, is a worthy precedent. A sitting President customarily receives the views of past Commanders in Chief by way of private communication rather than through the media.

Mr. President, I expressed these points to members of the media after a Capitol Hill meeting Tuesday evening with Secretary Rumsfeld and General Meyers, and I ask unanimous consent that the excerpted text of my remarks at that news conference, and those of the general, be printed in the RECORD.

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

EXCERPT FROM TRANSCRIPT, NEWS CONFERENCE WITH SECRETARY OF DEFENSE DONALD RUMSFELD; GENERAL RICHARD MYERS, CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF; SENATOR JOHN WARNER (R-VA); REPRESENTATIVE DUNCAN HUNTER (R-CA)

Sen. WARNER.—We covered that very carefully. The general gave us a complete briefing. And I think, Duncan, I believe you will join with me, the consensus in our group just now is that a good plan has been in place, it is being executed. It is timely. Considerable progress has been made to date. And we see no reason at this time for anyone to be in criticism of this program.

And I want to talk a little bit about this retired military. I've been associated with the military a half-century or more. I think some of them have in a very constructive way interpreted the complexity of military operations today and the equipment, and I think they have done a good job in portraying the courage shown by the men and women who are executing this plan.

And if some have criticisms, we don't mean to stifle freedom of speech, but I think they should follow the tradition of President, the Commander in Chiefs. You do not see former Presidents criticizing a sitting President during a war. And in the same way, if they've got constructive criticism at variance with the plan, I think they should confidentially contact their own peers in the Pentagon and share it that way rather than open.

Question: But Senator Warner, what about current commanders? It is reported this morning, Army—(inaudible)—Army colonel—(inaudible)—concerned about doing this war—(inaudible)—not bring enough—(inaudible)—

Sen. WARNER. Well, there's always, during any conflict, going back to George Washington, complaints among his forces. I have personally been involved in the wars in Korea, and Vietnam, and Panama, and Somalia—and I could go on for a few more, and I think Duncan, you've been in them—but that's all right, we'll take that in stride. I'm more concerned about the very senior officers who by virtue of their training and experience have a lot of credibility, and I think that if they have criticism, fine. Call up the chairman—

General RICHARD MYERS. You bet.

Sen. WARNER: You'd take the call?

Gen. MYERS: Absolutely.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SACRED HEART ACADEMY

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the Sacred Heart Academy in Louisville, KY. Their basketball team won their second straight Sweet 16 girls title last night.

Sacred Heart won their second straight Sweet 16 title after defeating Lexington Catholic 42-40. Sacred Heart is the first team in over 25 years to repeat as state champions. Their win last night was their 62nd straight victory against in-state competition.

The citizens of Louisville, KY should be proud to have Sacred Heart Academy basketball team living and learning in their community. Their example of hard work and determination should be followed by all in the Commonwealth.

I would like to congratulate the members of the basketball team for their success, along with Crystal Kelly for being named the tournament's MVP. But also, I want to congratulate their coach, Donna Moir, along with their peers, faculty, administrator, and parents for their support and sacrifices they've made to help meet those achievements and dreams.●

TRIBUTE TO BILL CANARY

• Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend, William Canary, of Montgomery, AL. Bill Canary was recently name president of the Business Council of Alabama.

While he now calls Montgomery, AL, home, Bill is a native of New York and attended the State University of New York at Oneonta. He also holds a juris doctorate degree from the Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center at Touro College.

Bill came to BCA from the American Trucking Association, the national trade and safety organization of the U.S. trucking industry. He began his career at ATA nearly a decade ago, serving as counselor to the AT presi-

dent and CEO, Thomas J. Donohue. Over the years, he served ATA in various capacities including political advisor to the president and senior vice president for State, Federation and Intergovernmental Affairs. In 2001, the ATA board of directors named him their president and CEO.

Prior to his service at the ATA, Bill served as a Special Assistant to President George H.W. Bush for Intergovernmental Affairs. From January 1989 through June 1991, Bill served the White House as the President's liaison to local elected officials and mayors throughout the Nation.

Bill has also served as chief of staff for the Republican National Committee and as national political director for the Committee to Re-Elect President Bush. During the 2000 Republican National Convention he served as a senior advisor to the co-chairman, Andrew Card, currently chief of staff to President George W. Bush.

He is the coauthor of the public research product "The Alabama Poll," and is a writer, commentator, and political analyst for several Alabama television programs.

In 2001, I was proud to recommend Bill's wife Leura to serve as the U.S. attorney for the Middle District of Alabama. Leura has served in this position with distinction. Bill and Leura have a daughter, Margaret, and a son, Will.

Bill Canary is a good friend and a beloved family man. I offer him my congratulations and best wishes in his new role as president of BCA.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:58 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 522. An act to reform the Federal deposit insurance system, and for other purposes.

H.R. 743. an act to amend the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide additional safeguards for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries with representative payees, to enhance program protections, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 522. An act to reform the Federal deposit insurance system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 743. An act to amend the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide additional safeguards for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries with representative payees, to enhance program protections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and

were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-72. A concurrent resolution by the House of the Legislature of the State of New Hampshire relative to a peaceful and rapid resolution of the conflict between India and Pakistan relative to the state of Jammu and Kashmir; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 16

Whereas, the people of the former Princely State of Jammu and Kashmir have for the past 55 years been subjected to documented and unspeakable human rights abuses, including the execution of civilians, the rape and burning of women, the immolation and mutilation of children, the deliberate shelling of civilians by military artillery, and the torture and murder of political detainees; and

Whereas, 2 wars between India and Pakistan, in 1965 and 1971, failed to justly resolve either the issue of self-determination or the ongoing and egregious violations of human rights; and

Whereas, the threat of nuclear war between India and Pakistan has reached unprecedented levels because of the volatility of the issues attendant to the accession of Kashmir; and

Whereas, resolution of this conflict, the cessation of atrocities, and the reduction of the threat of nuclear war is unquestionably in the best interests of the people of the state of New Hampshire, the United States of America, and the world community of nations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the New Hampshire general court, fully mindful of the sacred obligation embodied in our state motto, "Live Free or Die," respectfully requests that the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives immediately initiate hearings to discern all relevant facts and circumstances attendant to the Kashmiri conflict so as to facilitate its just, peaceful, and rapid resolution; to bring a cessation of atrocities against the people of Jammu and Kashmir; and to minimize the threat of nuclear war in Southwest Asia; and

That the New Hampshire general court hereby calls upon all parties to this conflict to adhere to the principles of the United Nations Charter on Human Rights forthwith, and grant observers from Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch free and unrestricted access to the entire State of Jammu and Kashmir to monitor the status of human rights therein; and

That copies of this resolution be sent by the house clerk to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the New Hampshire congressional delegation.

POM-73. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to federal transit funding for highways and transit programs; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1

Whereas, Michigan faces a difficult task in maintaining a transportation network that meets the many needs of the individuals and businesses of this state. This challenge is made more difficult because of the fact that Michigan receives in return from the federal government far less in highway funding than we send to Washington; and

Whereas, under the provisions of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, Michigan currently receives approximately 90.5 cents in return for every highway dollar we send to the federal government. While this is a notable improvement