

With the great joy and pride that I and all Connecticut residents feel right now, I am almost sorry to see the season end. But with every single member of the team set to return next year. I am already looking forward to another great season. If anyone can top this year's accomplishments, I know the Huskies can.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the University of Connecticut Huskies on their national championship, the fourth in the school's history. With their impressive 73-68 victory over the Tennessee Lady Vols, another powerhouse program, the Huskies proved that they could do much more than rebuild their team after last year's undefeated season. The Huskies showed that they could repeat as the best team in the land. That makes them just the third repeat champion in women's college basketball history.

With this victory, the great Geno Auriemma—national coach of the year—has earned a place, alongside Jim Calhoun of course, as one of the best basketball coaches in America. Diana Taurasi, the Naismith Player of the Year and the Final Four's Most Outstanding Player, has become a full-fledged superstar. And the rest of this young team has demonstrated a harmony and chemistry that are almost impossible to match, especially for such a young group. Do you realize this is the first team ever to win the championship without a senior on the roster? That says a lot about the coaching prowess of Geno, the leadership of Diana, and the spirit of the UConn program.

This season, things did not come quite as easy as they did in the last one. Last year, the program dominated with its four superstar seniors and its then-sophomore phenom. This time, many, many games were close. Sometimes they came close to blowing big leads. They even lost . . . once. Honestly, after their record-breaking 70-game winning streak, that single loss in an otherwise perfect season was big, big news in my State of Connecticut.

But this team did not flinch. They did not waver. They kept their eyes on the prize and reached down into their gut, game after game.

The championship game itself was no different. It was intense, hard fought. Everybody found a way to contribute. Tough play in the paint, graceful outside shooting. Strong defense. And "D"—that's Diana—scored 28 in a passionate and poised performance. After the game, she was humble about it. "No superstars, just blue collar," she said.

In the process, Connecticut-Tennessee has become, hands down, the best rivalry in women's college basketball. The Huskies against the Vols. Geno Auriemma against Pat Summit, both basketball legends. And, with my condolences to the Tennessee delegation, I must say proudly that Con-

necticut has the upper hand, with four straight victories over the Lady Vols, including in the 1995, 2000, and 2003 title games.

I do not want to get mushy here, but when speaking of the Huskies, it is hard to stop myself from wagging my tail with joy. All of Connecticut, and especially girls who love basketball like my daughter, are cheering today, and eager to welcome the Huskies home for a victory celebration.

With so much success already under the belt of this great program, it is hard to say that we are surprised by what they have accomplished yet again. But with such a remarkable road to their second straight title, it is easy to say we are proud.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 113) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 113

Whereas the University of Connecticut women's basketball team won its third national championship in 4 years by defeating arch-rival University of Tennessee by the score of 73 to 68;

Whereas the Huskies finished the 2002-2003 season with a record of 37 wins and 1 loss, and have now won 76 of their last 77 games;

Whereas during the 2002-2003 season the Huskies won their 70th game in a row, setting a new record for NCAA Division I Women's Basketball;

Whereas Coach Geno Auriemma has been coaching the Huskies for 18 years, and achieved his 500th career win this season;

Whereas Coach Auriemma won his second-straight Coach of the Year honor this year;

Whereas Diana Taurasi was chosen as the national women's player of the year, and the NCAA Tournament's most valuable player;

Whereas Ashley Battle was chosen as Big East defensive player of the year;

Whereas the high caliber of the Huskies in both athletics and academics has significantly advanced the sport of women's basketball and provided inspiration for future generations of young men and women alike; and

Whereas the Huskies unparalleled success continues to bring enormous pride and joy to the people of Connecticut and to sports aficionados around the country: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commends the Huskies of the University of Connecticut for—

(1) completing the 2002-2003 women's basketball season with a record of 37 wins and 1 loss, including winning their record 70th game in a row; and

(2) winning the 2003 NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship, their fourth national championship.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NBC REPORTER DAVID BLOOM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 114, introduced earlier today by Senators DAYTON and COLEMAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 114) honoring the life of NBC reporter David Bloom, and expressing the deepest condolences of the Senate to his family on his death.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 114) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 114

Whereas the Senate has learned with sadness of the death of NBC Reporter David Bloom;

Whereas David Bloom, a native of Edina, Minnesota, greatly distinguished himself by his rapid rise in the field of journalism;

Whereas, most recently, David Bloom was embedded with the Third Infantry Division of the United States Army to provide in-depth reporting on the war in Iraq;

Whereas David Bloom, as a skilled and determined reporter, covered many major news stories for NBC News, including reporting from Israel on the escalating violence in the Middle East, the recovery efforts from Ground Zero after September 11, 2001, the war on terrorism at home, and the Washington, D.C., sniper story;

Whereas, while covering the White House beat between 1997 and 2000, David Bloom reported on the Maryland Peace Summit with Yassir Arafat and Benjamin Netanyahu, on Operation Desert Fox in Iraq, and on the NATO air campaign in Kosovo;

Whereas, prior to being named White House Correspondent, David Bloom was a Los Angeles-based correspondent for NBC News, where he reported extensively on the Unabomber, the Freeman ranch standoff, and the war in Bosnia;

Whereas David Bloom was a co-recipient of the 1992 George Foster Peabody Award, a winner of the Radio-Television News Directors Association Edward R. Murrow Award for his coverage of Hurricane Andrew, and a 1991 Regional Emmy Award winner for Investigative Journalism for his report on the shipment of arms to Iraq from south Florida;

Whereas David Bloom was a devoted husband to his wife, Melanie, and a proud father to three exceptional daughters, Nicole, Christine, and Ava; and

Whereas David Bloom's life was distinguished for its great ambition, multitude of accomplishments, standards of excellence, dedication to family, and important contributions to the dissemination of unbiased information to citizens throughout the country: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) pays tribute to the outstanding career and devoted work of David Bloom;

(2) expresses its deepest condolences to his family; and

(3) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of David Bloom.

CONGRATULATING SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to immediate consideration of S. Res. 115, submitted earlier today by Senators SCHUMER and CLINTON.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 115) congratulating the Syracuse University men's basketball team for winning the 2003 NCAA Division I men's basketball national championship.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

SYRACUSE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as all of America now knows, Syracuse defeated Kansas in the national championship Monday night 81 to 78. This is the Syracuse Orangemen's first national championship. My, how long we have waited. But my, how sweet and deserved victory is.

As you remember, in 1987, in New Orleans, the same building, the same site as this year's championship, Syracuse lost to Indiana by 1 point on an acrobatic shot by Keith Smart. Coach Jim Boeheim said: "I think that building owed us." Well, the building did, and Syracuse is now the national champion.

In a time of war, when so much sorrow is among us, it is a time for a little happiness, the happiness that the Orangemen brought New Yorkers, soldiers overseas who follow the game, and the tens and tens and tens of thousands of Syracuse fans across New York State and across the country.

This is Jim Boeheim's first national championship. He has been coach for 27 years. His loyalty to his alma mater, Syracuse, is unparalleled. Now, Boeheim has been criticized for not being able to win the big game, but he has quieted his critics and has established himself as a legitimate candidate for the Hall of Fame. He called the win not a validation of his coaching skills but a testament to the talent of his players—typical of Jim Boeheim's modesty. This Syracuse team is a model for all of America. They have persisted and persisted and persisted. Coach Boeheim persisted and persisted and persisted, and we so admire him. His heart belonged to Syracuse.

Jim Boeheim is Mr. Syracuse. As the old story goes, Boeheim was sitting on the beach in Hawaii with his former assistant, Rick Pitino, and Pitino's wife, Joanne. Someone posed a question: If you could live anywhere, where would it be?

Rick picked San Francisco, and his wife Joanne picked New York City.

"Syracuse," Boeheim said. "Hawaii was just Syracuse in July," Boeheim sniffed. "For 8 months a year, it's the best weather in the country, and the other 4 months we are playing basketball."

Well, the Orangemen had an amazing story this year. They came in to the season as underdogs, not even earning a ranking in the ESPN/USA Today coaches poll until February. They stormed through the regular season, finishing tied for first in the Big East, with a 13-3 record. They finished the regular season 24-5 overall.

Of course, one of the biggest stories is the youth of this team. Where have we ever seen—ever—two freshmen guards lead as well as they have?

Carmelo Anthony, a freshman and leader of the team, had 20 points Monday night, with 10 rebounds and seven assists in the final game against Kansas. You could see the pain on his face. He was playing with an injured back, but he kept going and going, as he has done all season. He scored a career high 33 points and had 14 rebounds against Texas in the semifinal. Many scouts believe he could be the No. 1 or No. 2 draft pick this year in the NBA lottery.

How about Gerry McNamara, that feisty Irishman, a freshman point guard. He was huge in the championship game. In the first half, he hit six 3-pointers and scored 18 points.

Hakim Warrick, only a sophomore, made the biggest play of the game. As all of us were sitting around holding our breath as Kansas came within three points, with 1.5 seconds left, Warrick made an amazing block of Michael Lee's 3-point attempt that would have tied the game.

What a game it was, Mr. President. What a victory for Syracuse. All of central New York is cheering. It is 80 degrees and that orange sun is shining brightly over Syracuse in central New York this afternoon, and it will continue to do so for a long time. Because Syracuse has so many proud alumni and fans from one end of New York State to the other, there is a smile across our State this afternoon spreading from Buffalo to New York City.

Mr. President, we are proud of the coach, Jim Boeheim; we are proud of the team, the great Orangemen; we are proud of the university, Syracuse University.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table without intervening objection or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 115) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 115

Whereas on Monday, April 7, 2003, the Syracuse University Orangemen men's basketball team won its first Division I national basketball championship;

Whereas Syracuse University won the championship game by defeating the University of Kansas Jayhawks 81 to 78;

Whereas the Syracuse University team was led by freshman Carmelo Anthony, who was voted Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four, and received outstanding effort and support from Gerry McNamara, Billy Edelin, Kueth Duany, Hakim Warrick, Craig Forth, Jeremy McNeil, and Josh Pace;

Whereas the roster of the Syracuse University team also included Tyrone Albright, Josh Brooks, Xzavier Gaines, Matt Gorman, Gary Hall, Ronneil Herron, and Andrew Kouwe;

Whereas Head Coach Jim Boeheim has coached at Syracuse University for 27 years and been involved with the Syracuse University men's basketball team for more than half his life;

Whereas Coach Boeheim had previously coached in 2 national championship games, including a heartbreaking loss in 1987;

Whereas Coach Boeheim and his coaching staff, including Associate Head Coach Bernie Fine and Assistant Head Coaches Mike Hopkins and Troy Weaver, deserve much credit for the outstanding determination and accomplishments of their young team; and

Whereas the students, alumni, faculty, and supporters of Syracuse University are to be congratulated for their commitment and pride in their national champion men's basketball team: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Syracuse University men's basketball team for winning the 2003 NCAA Division I men's basketball national championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all the team's players, coaches, and support staff and invites them to the United States Capitol Building to be honored;

(3) requests that the President recognize the achievements of the Syracuse University men's basketball team and invite them to the White House for an appropriate ceremony honoring a national championship team; and

(4) directs Secretary of the Senate to make available enrolled copies of this resolution to Syracuse University for appropriate display and to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to each coach and member of the 2003 NCAA Division I men's basketball national championship team.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2003

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 10 a.m. Thursday, April 10. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and there be a period of morning business until 11 a.m. with the first 30 minutes equally divided between Senator HUTCHISON and the minority leader or his designee, and the remaining time