

barbeques, and other social events. The Retirement Systems of Alabama recognized Miss Helen's service by naming a daycare center in Montgomery the RSA Helen Hunt Learning Center. She also devoted a great deal of her time to helping disabled children—a passion that grew from the fact that Pam, the Hunt's eldest daughter, was a special-needs child.

Not only was Helen Hunt the wife of a Baptist minister, but she was a devoted Christian and her life was a witness to her faith. She will be remembered by all the people of Alabama who loved her dearly as a warm and gracious First Lady, and a devoted and loving wife.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO FORT LEWIS COLLEGE CYCLING

● Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, today I recognize the commendable performance of the Fort Lewis College Cycling Team. On the treacherous slopes of Seven Springs Resort in Pennsylvania the Skyhawks competed against the Nation's best cyclists to determine who was the best. When the dust settled at the bottom of the track the Fort Lewis College Skyhawks stood victorious, clinching the National Collegiate Cycling Association, NCCA, Mountain Bike Championship.

Fort Lewis College has a distinguished history of athletic excellence. This impressive win was the sixth time in the sport's eleven year history that the Skyhawks have brought the championship trophy back to Durango, CO.

In addition to the impressive overall team achievement there were several individual athletes that stood out; Susan Grandjean, Leana Gerrard, Matt Shriver, and Paul Smith all delivered championship performances. Fort Lewis College's victory would not have been possible without the leadership of the team's coach, Rick Crawford.

I would like to share my congratulations with the entire Fort Lewis College Community. Congratulations to all Fort Lewis College Skyhawks, congratulations to President Brad Bartel, congratulations to the Board of Trustees of Fort Lewis College, and especially congratulations to the members of Fort Lewis College Cycling, students and fans. You have made all Coloradans proud.●

THERE'S PLENTY FOR A FREE PRESS TO REPORT

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I recently authored a column that appeared in The State newspaper in Columbia. In it, I offer my thoughts on the media's shoddy coverage of the budget deficit and Social Security, U.S. trade policy, and the War in Iraq. I ask that it be printed in the RECORD. The article follows.

[From The State, Dec. 8, 2004.]

THERE'S PLENTY FOR A FREE PRESS TO REPORT

(By Ernest F. Hollings)

In the beginning, Thomas Jefferson observed that if he had to choose "between a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government," he would choose the latter. He envisioned the press would report the truth to the American people, keeping the Congress honest. The government wouldn't stay free long without a free press.

Today the press—the media, now—has joined the political fray, and the watchdog has become the attack dog. As a result, Mark Twain's admonition has become the creed of both Congress and the media: The truth is so precious a commodity it should be used sparingly.

Take Social Security. Both the Greenspan Commission and the Budget Act forbade using Social Security monies for any programs other than Social Security. But the government continues to spend Social Security surpluses on everything but Social Security. Then—presto!—the Congress and the media contend that Social Security is broke and needs fixing. Social Security is not broke; it's the government that's broke.

One fix is political: Privatize Social Security to get the young vote. The other choice, raising the retirement age or taxes, merely means more money for programs other than Social Security. Moreover, Congress has made it a federal crime for a private company to pay the company debt with its pension fund. Yet the government constantly pays its debt with Social Security and other pension funds. The Congress and the media then cite a false deficit of \$413 billion for fiscal year 2004 while the true deficit, according to the Congressional Budget Office, is \$593 billion.

Take trade. The second bill to pass the Congress on July 4, 1789, was a tariff bill—protectionism. We financed the government and built this economic giant, the United States, with protectionism. But after World War II, we took up the chant of "free trade," treating trade as aid to defeat communism with capitalism in the Cold War. Now after 50 years of draining our industrial strength, it's time to rebuild. Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution provides that Congress shall regulate foreign commerce. To open markets we must control access to ours—practice protectionism. But the media acts as if protecting the economy was unconstitutional.

Worst of all is the media's refusal to report the truth on Iraq. Saddam Hussein was no part of 9/11, had no weapons of mass destruction and was no threat to our national security. We invaded Iraq to implement a plan to democratize the Mideast for Israel.

In 1996, Richard Perle, Douglas Feith and David Wurmser submitted a plan to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for a "Clean Break" from Arafat and to institute democracy in the Mideast by bombing Lebanon, invading Syria and replacing Saddam with a Hashemite ruler favorable to Israel. Rejected by Prime Minister Netanyahu, Perle and company joined Dick Cheney, Paul Wolfowitz, Donald Rumsfeld, Scooter Libby, Stephen Cambone et. al. in the "Project for the New American Century."

They pressured Congress in the 1990s for a change of regime in Iraq, and when George W. Bush was elected president in 2000 "Clean Break" hit paydirt. Cheney became vice president; Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz and Feith took the Nos. 1, 2 and 3 positions in defense; Libby headed Cheney's staff; Cambone became Rumsfeld's right-hand man; and Perle, the architect of "Clean Break," was made chairman of the Defense Policy Board.

Upon winning the presidency and before his inauguration, President Bush sought a briefing on Iraq from President Clinton's secretary of Defense, William Cohen. After the inauguration, Paul O'Neill, the new secretary of the Treasury, tells of going to the first meeting of the Security Council prepared to discuss the impending recession, but the discussion was mostly on Iraq.

When I served in World War II 60 years ago, we liberated Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, but they have yet to opt for democracy. We liberated Kuwait in the Gulf War, but it has yet to opt for democracy. But by 9/11 the president, intent on democratizing the Mideast, was asking Rumsfeld for a plan to invade Iraq. Bush was so determined to invade he disregarded his father's admonition in *A World Transformed*: "We should not march into Baghdad. . . . To occupy Iraq would instantly shatter our coalition, turning the whole Arab world against us . . . condemning (young soldiers) to fight in what would be an unwinnable urban guerrilla war."

If the media had reported the truth to the American people, we would have rejected "Clean Break" like Prime Minister Netanyahu. If the media had kept Congress honest, we would not be sending GIs to a war that most believe is a mistake and the top command says we can't win.●

OBRA S. KERNODLE III

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to reflect on the loss of my good friend, Obra Kernodle. Obra recently suffered a fatal heart attack while in Cancun, Mexico, celebrating his daughter's wedding. The Kernodle family has suffered a tremendous loss, and I offer them my condolences and deepest sympathy in this difficult time.

I was introduced to Obra during my 2000 Senate campaign. He was a bright, resourceful and wonderful person, and I remained in contact with him ever since.

Using his bipartisan negotiating skills to render change, Obra became one of Philadelphia's most influential African American leaders. As a politically active Philadelphia lawyer who most recently served as general counsel to the Philadelphia Parking Authority, Obra actively served his community. Obra was also a member of the Pennsylvania Convention Center board.

His kind disposition and generous heart attracted people from both sides of the aisle, and he will never be forgotten. My thoughts and prayers are with the Kernodle family during the days and months ahead.●

REMEMBERING OUR POW/MIAS

● Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, as a veteran who served in Korea, I have, throughout my congressional career, vigorously sought to ensure that our men and women in uniform who were listed as POW/MIA are not forgotten. I have also worked hard to promote a better understanding and appreciation of these brave men and women's extraordinary service and sacrifice by the American public.

Underscoring this commitment, I was proud to have authored a number of

important laws, including the POW/MIA Memorial flag Act of 2001, P.L. 107-323; the Bring Them Home Alive Act of 2000, P.L. 106-484; the Persian Gulf War Accountability Act of 2002, P.L. 107-258; and the Vietnam Veterans Recognition Act of 1999, P.L. 106-214. I want to take this opportunity to also commend my deputy chief of staff and legislative director, Larry Vigil, for all of his good work in getting these important initiatives passed on behalf of all Americans.

As my colleagues know, the United States has fought in many wars and thousands of Americans who served in those wars were captured by the enemy or listed as missing in action. In the 20th century wars alone, more than 147,000 Americans were captured and became prisoners of war. Of that number, more than 15,000 died while in captivity. When we add to this number, those who are still missing in action, we realize that we cannot do enough to not only remember their service, but to bring them back home alive.

Our mission is far from over. Today we continue to look for Capt. Michael Speicher from the 1991 Persian Gulf war and PFC Keith "Matt" Maupin who went missing in action in Iraq on April 9, 2004. To that end, we must remain fully committed to leave no one behind and push for a full accounting for those who are still missing. We must spare no effort to bring them home.

The power of our democracy and the strength of our society comes from acknowledging our interdependence on each other. In our best moments we know full well that the commitment of so many in the military service has made our Nation and our lives fuller and more complete.

I commend Danny "Greasy" Belcher with Task Force Omega of Kentucky for his tireless efforts in bringing awareness to the POW/MIA issue and organizing national support for many of these successful legislative initiatives. I also thank Artie Muller, president of Rolling Thunder National, for his continued years of work on the POW/MIA issue and the National League of POW/MIA Families, the National Vietnam and Gulf War Veterans Coalition, VietNow and Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc., and others.

As I conclude my tenure in the United States Senate, I challenge my colleagues and those who will follow in my footsteps to continue this valuable and necessary work to support the friends and families of those who are POW/MIA.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. LOUIS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, in 1878 a group of pioneering women led by Mrs. Appoline A. Blair had the innovative idea to open a hospital in St. Louis where children could receive the special care they needed and deserved. In 1879, St. Louis Children's Hospital opened its doors to children and fami-

lies in downtown St. Louis, Missouri in a small, rented house with 15 beds. This year, St. Louis Children's Hospital, the first children's hospital west of the Mississippi River and the seventh oldest in the country, is proud to celebrate its 125th anniversary.

Today, St. Louis Children's Hospital's clinical and community outreach programs touch more than 250,000 patients annually. Patients from all 50 States and nearly 50 countries around the world have passed through the doors and been served by this remarkable institution.

The pioneering spirit with which this hospital was founded has continued through its long and distinguished history. St. Louis Children's Hospital, working in conjunction with Washington University School of Medicine, has consistently been at the forefront of pediatric care. From its earliest days St. Louis Children's Hospital has been home to critical pediatric advances. For example, from 1915 through the 1920s, Dr. Vilray Blair, known as the father of plastic surgery in America, perfected several important methods for correction of cleft palate and cleft lip. At about the same time, Dr. W. McKim Marriott, the hospital's pediatrician-in-chief from 1917 to 1936, revolutionized the artificial feeding of infants developing a formula using evaporated milk, corn syrup and lactic acid supplemented with vitamins and iron. In 1922, for the first time anywhere, insulin was used to successfully treat an infant with diabetes. In 1927, Dr. James Barrett Brown performed the first homograft on a child resulting in the development of modern care for burns for children. In 1929, Dr. Alexis P. Hartmann developed the first practical treatment, Lactate Ringers Solution, for infants suffering from severe diarrhea and dehydration. Dr. Hartmann served as the hospital's pediatrician-in-chief from 1936 to 1964.

St. Louis Children's Hospital pioneered developments in many other health areas, including diagnosis of congenital heart diseases. After the acquisition of a heart-lung machine in 1958, the hospital became one of the most active institutions in the country in the field of pediatric open heart surgery. David Goldring, MD, who formed the hospital's cardiology division in 1950 and remained its director until 1985, was a pioneer in pediatric open heart surgery. In another "first," doctors oversaw the first complete exchange of blood in a tiny infant weighing less than 3 pounds.

The first pediatric dialysis unit in the Midwest was set up at St. Louis Children's Hospital in 1974. Another innovation during the 1970s was the establishment of the Cleft Palate and Craniofacial Deformities Institute, the only one of its kind in the Midwest at the time. This unit works with many other areas of the hospital to reconstruct head and facial deformities in children. Dr. Thomas Spray, a cardiothoracic surgeon, performed his

first successful Norwood procedure, an advanced surgical technique used to correct the fatal congenital heart defect known as hypoplastic left heart syndrome. Doctors at St. Louis Children's Hospital also performed the region's first cochlear implant, surgically implanting a device that helps children who are deaf to speak and comprehend language.

In addition, St. Louis Children's Hospital established the first free-standing pediatric lung transplant program in the United States. Today, St. Louis Children's Hospital is home to the world's most active pediatric lung transplant program. The hospital is one of the nation's leaders in total pediatric organ transplants, offering kidney, liver, heart and bone marrow transplant programs as well.

St. Louis Children's Hospital is recognized among America's best children's hospitals by Child magazine and US News & World Report, and its Neonatal Intensive Care Unit is distinguished nationally by Child magazine.

Mr. President, please join with me in celebrating 125 years of excellence in pediatric care. The pioneering vision and spirit of St. Louis Children's Hospital has improved the lives of children and families in Missouri and around the globe.●

CALIFORNIA GOLDEN BEARS AND THE ROSE BOWL

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my concerns about college football's Bowl Championship Series and the formula used to select teams to play in the major bowls at the end of the season.

Despite having one of their best seasons in years, the University of California at Berkeley Golden Bears were denied an opportunity to play the University of Michigan in the Rose Bowl on New Years Day, and will instead play Texas Tech in the Holiday Bowl on December 30 in San Diego.

For decades the Rose Bowl has featured the top teams from the Pac Ten Conference and the Big Ten Conference. Players and coaches dream of representing their universities in one of college football's showcase events. For their part, Cal fans and alumni have waited 46 years for another opportunity to see their Bears play in the "granddaddy of them all".

With all due respect to Texas, it just does not seem right to see the champion of the Big Ten Conference, Michigan, play a school from the Big Twelve Conference and not the Pac Ten. It would be like eliminating the traditional floats from the Tournament of Roses Parade.

I know it may surprise some that a proud Stanford alum would take to the Senate floor to speak out on behalf of the Cardinal's bitter rival, but as a Senator representing the entire State of California, I feel it is my obligation to support all of our fine college athletes and to ensure that fairness and