

this sad episode has left a permanent impression on Shigeru. Fortunately, Shigeru has overcome this tragedy and has maintained a standard for other young people to follow. Shigeru has proven to me that life is too important to waste and to enjoy every moment by being an active member of society, not just a spectator.

Sincerely,

JOHN INUMERABLE.

TRIBUTE TO PHISH

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, on August 15 in Coventry, VT, a beloved chapter in American music history will come to a close as the jam band Phish holds its final concert for legions of devoted "phans" and "Phish-heads." We in Vermont are well known for our superb maple syrup, our wonderful ice cream, our award-winning cheese and our beautiful scenery, but after 21 remarkable years, the jam band Phish has certainly become one of our most famous exports.

The four musicians of Phish—Trey Anastasio, Mike Gordon, Page O'Connell, and Jon Fishman—met and started playing together as undergraduates at the University of Vermont in the early 1980s. The band quickly moved beyond its humble beginnings in a dormitory basement to playing a small nightclub in Burlington called Nectar's. While they toured for 5 years before releasing any commercial albums, the buzz around the band spread as their striking melodies and lively jam sessions endeared them to a growing legion of fans.

Phish released its first commercial album, *Junta*, in 1989. Since then, the band has put out more than 35 studio and live albums that have sold millions of copies. They have more than 200 original songs, and many of the songs die-hards love most were never recorded in the studio.

But the magic of Phish is not as much in its studio recordings as it is in its live performances. In an era when slick marketing techniques often overshadow the musical accomplishments of the artists themselves, this talented band from Vermont has provided a refreshing contrast by promoting free spiritedness and individuality in their music.

The band has always been unconcerned about releasing catchy singles and making millions of dollars from record sales. Instead they play long jams—oftentimes with songs lasting 30 minutes or longer—and tour year-round. Bucking a trend in the industry, they even encouraged people to tape their shows for free and trade them on the Internet. For the members of Phish, it really is all about their music and their fans.

Every night on stage is a new and different showcase for the talents of the versatile and endlessly creative band members. Whether they are playing electric guitars, keyboards, drums, or vacuum cleaners, Phish's improvisational talent has never disappointed. Many fans—often referred

to as "Phish-heads"—follow the band from concert to concert living off veggie burritos, grilled cheese sandwiches and the charity of others.

Through it all, Phish has always considered Vermont home. In a tribute to their Burlington roots, the band's first album produced with a major record company was titled *A Picture of Nectar*. And the band's share of proceeds from sales of the popular "Phish Food" Ben and Jerry's ice cream flavor goes directly toward environmental projects in Vermont's Lake Champlain Watershed. Now, as they prepare for their final show in Vermont, it is appropriate that they finish where they started.

Though Phish has sold millions of albums and become a huge success, in spirit they remain a group that is unpretentious and unfailingly loyal to their fans. Their admirable generosity has fostered a sense of community among those who follow the group. The band's break-up is a source of sadness to all of us who know and love them.

I congratulate Trey Anastasio, Mike Gordon, Jon Fishman and Page O'Connell on their remarkable success. I am grateful for all they have done for Vermont, for American music, and for their fans. Most importantly, we sincerely appreciate their authenticity, their enthusiasm and their generosity.

While no one wants to see Phish stop playing after this summer, we can all take some solace that their music will live on, in these words from their song, "Down With Disease."

Waiting for the time when I can finally say
That this has all been wonderful, but now
I'm on my way.

But when I think it's time to leave it all behind,

I try to find a way, but there's nothing I can
say to make it stop.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

LAUREN AMBER COOK

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute and congratulate Lauren Amber Cook of Princeton, KY on being awarded the William R. Sprague Scholarship from the Kentucky Farm Bureau Education Foundation. This academic scholarship will provide Lauren with \$4,000 toward her education.

Lauren has proven to be a very able and competent student by winning this prestigious award. She will represent the graduates of Caldwell County High School very well when she enrolls at Vanderbilt University in the autumn. There she plans to study chemical engineering with a focus on agriculture.

The citizens of Caldwell County should be proud to have a young woman like Lauren Amber Cook in their community. Her example of dedication and hard work should be an inspiration to the entire Commonwealth.

She has my most sincere appreciation for this work, and I look forward to her continued service to Kentucky.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HOMEOWNERSHIP TAX CREDIT ACT

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, President Bush officially declared the month of June as "National Homeownership Month," and with this annual tradition, America's attention was again drawn to the importance of homeownership and the stability it can bring to families and neighborhoods. It is often homeownership that financially anchors American families and civically anchors our communities. But I believe our focus on homeownership also returns our attention to the basic ideals of the American Dream. Ensuring access to homeownership, and through it access to the American Dream, is among the most significant ways we can empower our citizens to achieve the happy, productive and stable lifestyle everyone desires.

Having a house of one's own that provides security and comfort to one's family and that gives families an active, vested interest in the quality of life their community provides is central to our collective ideas about freedom and self-determination. As a nation, we know that homeownership helps the emotional and intellectual growth and development of children. We know that homeowners show greater interest and more frequent participation in civic organizations and neighborhood issues. We know that when people own homes, they are more likely to accumulate wealth and assets and to prepare themselves financially for such things as their children's education and retirement.

In America today, homeownership is at a record high. Unfortunately, however, there remains a significant gap between minority and non-minority populations, leaving homeownership an elusive financial prospect for many. The homeownership rate for the nation's African American and Hispanic households lags more than 25 percentage points below White households.

In Congress, we have the responsibility of ensuring that the dream of homeownership is possible for more of our citizens. Last year, Senator JOHN KERRY and I drafted and sponsored S. 875, the "Community Development Homeownership Tax Credit Act," a bill that enjoys strong bipartisan support in the Senate. This legislation would give developers and investors an incentive to participate in the rehabilitation and construction of homes for low- and moderate-income buyers. This measure is aimed at reaching President Bush's goal of increasing American minority homeownership by 5.5 million families, thus making 5.5 million new dreams come true.

Owning a home is an integral part of attaining the security, continuity, and comfort of living the American Dream. I will continue to advocate policies that help make this dream become a reality for our Nation's families. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting homeownership by cosponsoring S. 875. •

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT
GENERAL ROBERT B. FLOWERS

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I want to take a few moments today to publicly thank Lieutenant General Robert Flowers, who left his post as commander and chief of engineers of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on July 1. General Flowers is one of the finest individuals I have worked with as a U.S. Senator representing North Dakota. He is not only a fine, trusted public servant, he is also a good friend.

North Dakota and the Nation owe General Flowers a deep debt of gratitude. He served as chief of engineers for 4 years, and he served admirably. During that period, he helped advance the construction of the Grand Forks flood control project and other important flood control projects in the Red River Valley. He also fought hand in hand with the North Dakota congressional delegation as we have worked to implement solutions to the chronic flood at Devils Lake. Throughout it all, he has always gone above and beyond the call of duty.

General Flowers is one of the most capable leaders of the Corps of Engineers I have ever had the pleasure of working with. He is a true professional, and has a unique ability to walk into a difficult condition, assess the situation, and calmly, but decisively, take action. He listens carefully to people and has a leadership style that invites creative solutions to complex problems.

General Flowers is also a man of tremendous integrity. He cares deeply about the people of this Nation, and his commitment to doing the right thing was unmatched. He was willing to fight for the needs of common citizens, even if it meant leading an uphill fight and challenging others within the Corps. To General Flowers, "no" was simply unacceptable. He worked diligently to turn over every stone and formulate solutions that are workable and responsive to the water challenges faced by communities across the country.

I know that the General Flowers leaves the Corps a much better organization due to his leadership. The General set high standards for his team, and they delivered time and time again. I will not forget the contributions General Flowers has made to the people of my State and the country.

I want to again express my deep appreciation and respect for General Flowers for his service to my state and to our Nation. We in North Dakota will miss you, General, but wish you all the best.●

RETIREMENT OF ADMIRAL JAMES
O. ELLIS, JR. FROM U.S. STRATEGIC COMMAND

• Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, today, it is my honor and my privilege to recognize one of the finest officers in the U.S. Navy, and a good friend of mine, ADM James O. Ellis, Jr.

For the past 3 years, ADM Jim Ellis has demonstrated his leadership as commander of United States Strategic Command. During his time at Offutt AFB, in Nebraska, Jim Ellis personified the Navy's core values of integrity, selfless service, and excellence in all things. I join the many Members and staff who enjoyed the opportunity to meet with him on a variety of strategic issues and came to appreciate his ability to integrate his many talents at Offutt.

Admiral Ellis is retiring from his post tomorrow. There will be a ceremony in Omaha to honor him that I will attend.

Today, it is my privilege to recognize with admiration and thanks some of Admiral Ellis' many accomplishments since he entered the military 35 years ago, and to commend the superb service he provided the Navy, the Congress and the Nation. Admiral Ellis is a 1969 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. He was designated a Naval aviator in 1971 and has held a variety of sea and shore assignments since 1972.

His sea duty billets as a Navy fighter pilot included tours with Fighter Squadron 92 aboard USS *Constellation*, CV 64, and Fighter Squadron 1 aboard USS *Ranger*, CV 61.

From early in his career, Jim Ellis' exceptional leadership skills were evident as he repeatedly proved himself in select command positions. Admiral Ellis was the first Commanding Officer of Strike/Fighter Squadron 131, deploying in 1985 with new F/A-18 Hornets aboard USS *Coral Sea*, CV 43. He served as executive officer of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS *Karl Vinson*, CVN 70, and as commanding officer of USS *LaSalle*, AGF 3, the Arabian Gulf flagship of the Commander, Joint Task Force, Middle East.

In 1991, Admiral Ellis assumed command of the USS *Abraham Lincoln*, CVN 72, and participated in Operation Desert Storm while deployed during her maiden voyage in the western Pacific and Arabian Gulf. In June 1995, Admiral Ellis assumed command of Carrier Group FIVE/Battle Force SEVENTH Fleet, breaking his flag aboard USS *Independence*, CV 62, forward deployed to the Western Pacific and homeported in Yokosuka, Japan. As carrier battle group commander he led contingency response operations to both the Arabian Gulf and Taiwan Straits.

Admiral Ellis also excelled in a variety of key shore and staff assignments that included tours as an experimental/operational test pilot, service in the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs, and duty as F/A-18 program coordinator, deputy chief of Naval Operations, Air Warfare. He also served as deputy commander and chief of Staff, Joint Task Force FIVE, the counternarcotics force for U.S. Commander in Chief Pacific. In November 1993 he reported as inspector general, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, and subsequently served as director for Operations, Plans and Policy, N3/N5, on

the staff of the commander in chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. He assumed duties as deputy chief of Naval Operations—Plans, Policy and Operations—in November 1996.

Admiral Ellis became commander in chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe headquartered in London, England, and commander in chief, Allied Forces, Southern Europe headquartered in Naples, Italy, in October 1998. During his time serving in Europe, Admiral Ellis provided support to NATO forces as they waged war over Kosovo.

I was especially pleased when he was nominated to continue service to the Nation as commander, U.S. Strategic Command in 2001. As such, Admiral Ellis is responsible for the global command and control of U.S. strategic forces and provides a sweeping range of strategic capabilities and options for the President and Secretary of Defense. While combatant commander in 2002, Admiral Ellis oversaw the merger of U.S. Space Command with U.S. Strategic Command, demonstrating exemplary leadership during a critical period of transition.

Over the years, Admiral Ellis' leadership, professionalism and expertise enabled him to foster exceptional rapport with many Members of both the Senate and the House. I am personally grateful for his friendship. I offer congratulations to him and his wife, Polly, on his exceptionally well-deserved retirement. The Congress and country applaud the selfless commitment his entire family has made to the Nation in supporting his military career. I know I speak for all my colleagues in expressing my heartfelt appreciation to Admiral Ellis. We wish our friend the best of luck. He is truly a credit to both the Navy and the Nation.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:26 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, 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. 1856. An act to reauthorize the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998, and for other purposes.