

Before 1700, there was little toleration for anyone who was different. Persons with disabilities were often abused, condemned as incapable of being able to participate in social activities, and simply forgotten. In 1817, Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, a teacher of individuals who are deaf, opened a school for people who are deaf in Connecticut. This was the first school in America designed to serve individuals with disabilities. In 1850, at a time when most caregivers believed that persons with disabilities needed to live in institutions apart from their families, a school for youth with cognitive disabilities was opened in Massachusetts.

In the late 1800s, the number of children with disabilities attending public schools increased dramatically due to education and child labor laws. Many public schools developed special education for children with disabilities, however, this usually involved creating separate classes. In 1899, Michigan was the first State to introduce these classes statewide, and by the 1920s, special education had become well established throughout the Nation.

For the next 50 years, special education took place mostly in isolated classrooms where children with disabilities seldom mixed with their non-disabled peers. It is against this backdrop that advocates in the disability community worked tirelessly to affect the passage of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. It is also against this backdrop that this Congress had the wisdom and understanding to fully comprehend the nature of the problem and the resolve and determination to act. Similar to May 17, 1954, when the U.S. Supreme Court announced the *Brown v. the Board of Education* decision that “separate educational facilities are inherently unequal” with the signing of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, families, Congress, and the President believed that a segregated form of education for students with disabilities was inappropriate and narrowed what children with disabilities could learn and become in society.

As President Ford noted when he signed the Education for the Handicapped Act into law: “Everyone can agree with the objective stated in the title of this bill—educating all handicapped children in our Nation.” IDEA was advanced on the equally simple and equally compelling notion that segregation was not the answer and all people should have the opportunity to receive a free and appropriate public education. It is therefore fitting that we take a moment to remember all those men and women who worked with such purposefulness and passion to ensure that such a simple yet enduring value of our culture was properly reflected in our education laws.

Since the passage of the IDEA, we have seen significant improvements in the educational employment and economic well-being of citizens with dis-

abilities. According to the Department of Education, IDEA currently serves almost 7 million schoolchildren, preschoolers, and infants and toddlers with disabilities along side their counterparts without disabilities. What was unheard of 30 years ago is now a reality for millions of students with disabilities across the Nation: a right to receiving a free and appropriate education in their neighborhood school. Because of IDEA and other similar laws, the education that students with disabilities are receiving is providing such individuals with the skills necessary to succeed in postsecondary environments, work, pay taxes, live independently, and pursue the American dream.

However, anniversaries are not just for looking back, and celebrating the achievements of the past. They must also be an occasion for looking forward in anticipation of the challenges that still lie before us. All involved should be proud of the accomplishments embodied in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, but no one should believe our work is done. Indeed, there is still more to do.

A report issued by the Institute for Higher Education Policy in 2004 focusing on the education level of students with disabilities in the United States contains some disturbing data. It notes that while 91 percent of the general adult population has a high school diploma, only 78 percent of adults with disabilities do. Even more disturbing is the fact that only 57 percent of youths with disabilities received standard high school diplomas. Although the 78 percent graduation rate represents a significantly higher rate than 15 years ago, it remains inadequate, and significantly behind the rate for individuals without disabilities.

The National Educational Longitudinal Study reported in 2000 that 73 percent of high school graduates with disabilities enrolled in some form of postsecondary education compared to 84 percent of their peers without disabilities. However, students with disabilities who were highly qualified academically enrolled in 4-year colleges at the same rate, 79 percent, as their peers without disabilities.

The lesson here is a simple one. When we believe in and have high expectations for all Americans, Americans with disabilities can compete at the same level as Americans without disabilities. With the passage of the No Child Left Behind Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and possibilities available within the soon to be reauthorized Higher Education Act, we have the opportunity to make significant strides and further level the playing field. As elected officials, it is our responsibility to ensure that students, teachers, school systems, and teacher education programs are all held to high standards, improving the education levels, graduation rates, and postsecondary achievements of all students, including students with disabilities.

It is fitting that today, in this place, we recognize and celebrate the anniversary of legislation that says so much about who we are as a people and what we stand for as a nation when it comes to educating all of our citizens. It is the responsibility of those of us who follow to ensure that the brightness never fades, the promise of opportunity never wanes, and our rights to education, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness apply equally and fully to all Americans, including those with disabilities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 329—CONGRATULATING COACH BILL SNYDER FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 17 YEARS AS THE HEAD FOOTBALL COACH OF THE KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY WILDCATS

Mr. ROBERTS (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 329

Whereas, on November 30, 1998, Bill Snyder was named as the 32nd football coach at Kansas State University;

Whereas upon his hiring, Kansas State had experienced years of unsuccessful seasons and in the 52 years prior to his hiring, the Kansas State University football team had a combined record of only 134 wins;

Whereas Bill Snyder directed and orchestrated a football program success and turnaround that is now considered by many to be the greatest in the history of collegiate athletics;

Whereas Bill Snyder coached the Kansas State Wildcats to 11 consecutive postseason bowl appearances;

Whereas the teams coached by Bill Snyder became the second program in college football history to win 11 games, 6 times in a 7 year time span;

Whereas the teams coached by Bill Snyder won the Big 12 North Division title on 4 occasions and appeared in 3 Big 12 Championship games;

Whereas the 2003 team coached by Bill Snyder was crowned the Big 12 Champion;

Whereas Bill Snyder coached 42 National Football League draft picks, 45 All-America selections, and 68 first team all-conference honorees at Kansas State University;

Whereas Bill Snyder was named National Coach of the year in 1991, 1994, and 1998;

Whereas Bill Snyder was named the Bear Bryant and Football Writers Association of America National Coach of the year in 1998;

Whereas in the best sense of collegiate athletics, Bill Snyder has been a mentor and, through his own actions, taught leadership and personal responsibility to young men;

Whereas Bill Snyder has changed the course of history at Kansas State University, including contributing to an increased enrollment from 18,120 at his hiring in 1988 to nearly 24,000 in 2005;

Whereas Bill Snyder and his family have given of themselves and contributed numerous hours and resources to charitable causes throughout the State of Kansas to the betterment of numerous individuals and the State as a whole;

Whereas Bill Snyder has instilled a new sense of pride in the State for all current and native Kansans;

Whereas Bill Snyder currently ranks as the most successful coach in Kansas State University history with 135 wins;

Whereas the Kansas State Board of Regents has recognized the contributions of Coach Bill Snyder and his family to the State of Kansas and Kansas State University by renaming the football stadium "Bill Snyder Family Football Stadium"; and

Whereas the contributions of Bill Snyder to Kansas State University, the State of Kansas, and countless young adults are worthy of honor and recognition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates Coach Bill Snyder and his family upon his planned retirement on November 19, 2005, as the most successful coach in Kansas State University history with a current record of 135 wins;

(2) commends Coach Bill Snyder for his mentoring and teaching of leadership and values to young men;

(3) commends Coach Bill Snyder and his family for their selfless support of Kansas State University and their charitable activities throughout the State of Kansas, while displaying the heartland values of honesty, integrity, and humility; and

(4) respectfully directs the Enrolling Clerk of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) Bill Snyder and his family; and

(B) Kansas State University President Jon Wefald.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, today I am submitting a Senate Resolution commending the contributions and record of a most unique and deserving man, the retiring football coach of Kansas State University Wildcats, Bill Snyder.

I suppose some, especially non sports fans, might raise an eyebrow or question a Senate Resolution congratulating a football coach, no matter how successful in wins and losses—after all, as some have said, "it's only a game." But in the case of Coach Bill Snyder his contributions transcend his outstanding record of wins and losses; they represent being a mentor and teacher of leadership and values to young men during a time when collegiate athletics and sports in general face challenge after challenge involving unbecoming conduct and worse. Coach Snyder's contribution—football is a game of course but in the case of Bill Snyder one of his greatest contributions has been to enable young men to win in the game of life by being responsible citizens.

And, this unique ability on the athletic field became a catalyst for alumni interest and a renewal of financial support throughout the university enabling all students in all academic fields to benefit.

Much has been said in Kansas and throughout the football sports world about the amazing turnaround Coach Snyder achieved at K-State; directing and orchestrating a football program success story that is now considered by many to be the greatest in the history of collegiate athletics.

The record in the resolution I have introduced speaks for itself; three time national coach of the year, 11 post season bowl games, only the second program in college football history to win 11 games, 6 times in a 7-year time span, 42 NFL draft picks, 45 All America selections, and 68 first team all conference players. That is quite a record.

The coaches that first started their careers at K-State under Coach Snyder now read like a "Who's Who" in college football.

But great as those and the rest of the records are, that does not really tell the Bill Snyder story. Simply put, this is a man who restored and instilled a new sense of pride in a university and throughout our State. This is a man and his family who have given of themselves and contributed countless hours and resources to charitable causes throughout Kansas.

With all of his successes and attributes, this is a man who is humble, self effacing, soft spoken, and who knows you can get a lot more done if you don't care who gets the credit.

In many ways, Bill Snyder is a private man who has God given ability to inspire others in the public arena. He has taught his players that in the games of football and life, success is never final, failure is never fatal and that in the end its courage that counts. By his example, he showed them the attributes of honesty, character and reputation are not old fashioned. On the playing field and in life he instilled the truism that if you don't drop the ball you won't have to complain about the way the ball bounces. The same is true regarding his individual player marching orders, never say bad things about your opponent win or lose, take care of your self, conduct yourself in your best interests and that of your university and teammates. A coach on the field and a coach in life.

I want to get back and emphasize this restoring pride achievement on a more personal basis. I know my example is replete with similar experiences with the thousands of families who make up what is now referred to in the sports pages as the "Wildcat Nation."

My Dad was a proud graduate of Kansas State as I was and my son attended Kansas State—three generations. Sports fans and devoted K-State alumni all, we went through what many loyal K-Stater's call the decades of Death Valley Days, seasons of defeat, seasons of eternal optimism always tempered, if not shattered by the reality of yet another loss. There were some average seasons, a few good seasons, but "depths of despair" would not be an understatement for many of the faithful who endured and endured and endured. And, the defeats somehow became interwoven with the fabric of our alma mater and apologies for psychological exaggeration but even into the psyche of being a K-State graduate and our self worth.

And then came President Jon Wefald and then came Bill Snyder and both men grabbed K-State by the collar and said: Enough, we're going to win both academically and on the athletic field. And, wonder of wonders, they did just that.

Sports writers have called it a miracle. To many diehard K-State fans that was not an understatement. Winning season followed winning season and generations of alumni witnessed this success story took it to heart,

loved it and lived it. It has been a grand experience. When K-State goes to a bowl game, 25,000 to 30,000 diehard fans are in attendance, win or lose.

Bill Snyder and his wife Sharon and their family gave K-State their all and Coach Snyder has given us all pride, self esteem, and confidence. It has been one heck of a trail ride for me and my family as I know it has been for countless others.

I just don't know of anyone in their chosen profession who has made more of a difference in so many people's lives than Coach Snyder. Simply put, Bill Snyder has been a class act and then some and collegiate sports, Kansas State University, the State of Kansas and his players and fans have been the beneficiaries.

Thanks Coach. "Every Man A Wildcat!"

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 67—URGING JAPAN TO HONOR ITS COMMITMENTS UNDER THE 1986 MARKET-ORIENTED SECTOR-SELECTIVE (MOSS) AGREEMENT ON MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND PHARMACEUTICALS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. COLEMAN submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 67

Whereas the revolution in medical technology has improved our ability to respond to emerging threats and prevent, identify, treat, and cure a broad range of diseases and disabilities, and has the proven potential to bring even more valuable advances in the future;

Whereas medical technology has driven dramatic productivity gains for the benefit of patients, providers, employers, and our economy;

Whereas investment from the United States medical technology industry produces the majority of the \$220,000,000,000 global business in development of medical devices, diagnostic products, and medical information systems, allowing patients to lead longer, healthier, and more productive lives;

Whereas the United States medical technology industry supports almost 350,000 Americans in high-value jobs located in every State, and was historically a key industry, as it was a net contributor to the United States balance of trade with Japan, which was a trade surplus of over \$7,000,000,000 in 2001, and continued to be a surplus until 2005, when the trade balance became a trade deficit of \$1,300,000,000, due in part to changes in the policies of Japan that impact medical devices;

Whereas Japan is one of the most important trading partners of the United States;

Whereas United States products account for roughly 1/2 of the global market, but garner only a 1/4 share of Japan's market;

Whereas Japan has made little progress in implementing its commitments to cut product review times and improve their reimbursement system in bilateral consultations on policy changes under the Market-Oriented Sector-Selective (MOSS) Agreement on Medical Equipment and Pharmaceuticals, signed