

climber that allowed him to make enormous contributions to the National Park Service technical rescue program. Jim helped develop some of the first organized technical rescue courses at Joshua Tree National Park and for 7 years was a lead instructor for the National Park Service Technical Rescue Course, which is taught annually at Canyonlands National Park.

Before coming to Great Basin, Jim served as the chief ranger at Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming. The former superintendent of Devils Tower recalls Jim as an outstanding liaison to both the climbing community and to the American Indian community. In addition to his tours of duty at Great Basin, Joshua Tree and Devils Tower, Jim also served as a ranger at Shoshone National Forest, Denali National Park and Rocky Mountain National Park.

Jim Schlinkmann was a man who dedicated himself to protecting the very best of America's lands and who represented the very best of America's spirit.

I will miss seeing him on my next visit to Great Basin National Park. And I will be thinking about him the next time I look up at the remarkable snow-covered peaks of the south Snake Range.

COMMEMORATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SANDY LEE AVANTS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I rise to honor a woman who has dedicated herself to serving the people of Nevada and who has left a lasting impact through her work in government.

Ms. Sandy Lee Avants was born and raised in Phoenix, AZ. Following graduation from Arizona State University, she moved to Las Vegas. As a testament to Sandy's character, within the first month of her residence in Las Vegas, she immediately became involved in the local community through service clubs.

Sandy has had success both in her professional life and in public service. Following a prosperous private business enterprise, she began her career in Nevada's government when Senator Richard Bryan was serving as Governor. Governor Bryan then appointed Sandy to be chairman of the State of Nevada's Commission on Ethics in 1983 and in 1986 appointed her as the administrator of the Real Estate Division. In 1987, Sandy became the first woman to head a State law enforcement agency when she became the administrator of the Taxicab Authority.

Sandy's accomplishments came at a time when Nevada needed them the most. Her most recent appointment was to the Transportation Service Authority, TSA, in Nevada, where she served as the deputy commissioner, commissioner, and chairwoman. At TSA, she administered and enforced Nevada's law related to passenger transportation, household goods move-

ment, and car towing companies. Additionally, she ensured that consumers utilizing these services were protected. Sandy has met the needs of a rapidly growing public and shown her professionalism and commitment to Nevada and its people.

Those are a few of the many visible contributions that Sandy made to the community, but her most important contributions were made outside of the public eye. Sandy was a founding member and president of the Greater Las Vegas Women's League. She is also a founding member of the International Association of Transportation Regulators, and a Community Advisory Board at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. During her time in Nevada, Sandy enrolled in various courses at the National Judicial College and received certification as an administrative law judge and mentor. From 1999 through 2002, Sandy worked closely with me in Washington, DC, creating congressional legislation to improve transportation in Nevada.

I have known Sandy for many years and recognize the many contributions she has made to the community. Sandy's hard work and character have left a lasting impression on our State and community.

Sandy recently retired from the Nevada State government, but I am sure that she will continue working in public service through her numerous volunteer positions. The State of Nevada is fortunate to have Sandy Avants. I offer her my gratitude and wish her all the best as she embarks on new endeavors.

FULL FUNDING FOR PANDEMIC FLU PREPAREDNESS

Mr. REID. Earlier today, Senator FRIST spoke about the importance of preparing our Nation for the serious and growing threat of an influenza pandemic.

Members of this body made pandemic flu a priority when it unanimously adopted an \$8 billion amendment to combat avian flu offered by Senate Democrats.

I hope that Senator FRIST will join me in standing by this commitment and will work to ensure that Congress provides for the full \$8 billion America needs to begin addressing this critical issue before we adjourn.

The avian flu has spread to 15 countries and killed 70 of the 137 individuals it has infected. Scientists are warning that it is only a matter of time before this virus mutates to a new strain that will allow for sustained human-to-human transmission and cause the next pandemic.

The human and economic impact of an influenza pandemic on our Nation would be devastating.

According to a recent report by the Congressional Budget Office, a severe flu pandemic could infect 90 million U.S. residents and 2 million would die.

Thirty percent of the workforce would become ill and those who sur-

vived would miss 3 weeks of work. This lost productivity and decrease in consumer spending could cause a \$675 billion reduction in U.S. gross domestic product and move the Nation into a recession.

Perhaps the only thing more troubling than the human and economic consequences of an avian flu pandemic is the fact that our Nation is dangerously unprepared to deal with it.

We are not dedicating enough resources to global surveillance activities that allow us to detect and contain an outbreak of avian flu.

If we are unable to contain a pandemic overseas, our strongest defense at home will be an effective vaccine. However, our domestic vaccine manufacturing capacity is so inadequate it could take nearly a year to produce and distribute a vaccine.

Effective drugs that can slow the spread of a pandemic until a vaccine is developed are only available for 2 percent of our population.

Finally, all of these problems are compounded by the fact that our public health infrastructure cannot handle a pandemic and the medical community, businesses, and general public must be better prepared for a pandemic.

All of these facts are reasons why Congress must immediately address the avian flu threat and why the Senate voted to do just that earlier this year.

I am troubled by reports that congressional Republicans are on the verge of approving about half of the amount approved by the Senate.

Senator FRIST rightly pointed out that the threat of pandemic flu is not and should not be a partisan issue. A pandemic strain of flu will not distinguish between Democrats or Republicans.

That is why I hope that Senator FRIST will stand with me and will continue to fight for the full funding level approved by the Senate so our Government may begin to prepare and protect our Nation from this looming threat.

STEM CELL THERAPEUTIC AND RESEARCH ACT

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005, which would establish a national cord blood stem cell bank. This legislation was agreed to last night during wrap-up under unanimous consent.

I would like to congratulate the majority leader and all parties involved in yesterday's achievement, which resulted in passage of the cord blood bill. As you will recall, it was just 2 days ago that the other side, through the junior Senator from Iowa, reaffirmed their objections to consideration of this important legislation.

Their objections, it seems, were not substantive as this legislation has been championed by Members from both sides of the aisle and as further evidenced by the lifting of objections and

the cord blood bill passing without any opposition. Passage without any opposition in the Senate is truly rare. Rather, the other side's objections were tied to their support for additional funding of highly controversial destructive human embryonic stem cell research, which despite sufficient funding and years of research has yet to cure—or even treat—one human patient yet.

Clearly, the other side wants a vote on their embryonic stem cell legislation, which requires the destruction of young human lives. On the other hand, I and many of my colleagues would also like for us to have an up-or-down vote on the Human Cloning Prohibition Act or the Human Chimera Prohibition Act, but we have been denied this by the other side. There will be a time for a vigorous debate on all of these issues next year, and I look forward to engaging in that debate.

However, ethical, noncontroversial cord blood stem cell research should not have been made the political football that it was for the intervening months between House passage of the bill in May and yesterday's action in the Senate. Once again, I would like to commend all of my colleagues for depoliticizing the issue of cord blood. Patients will be benefited almost immediately, and, yes, more kids' lives will be saved because we passed this bill yesterday, rather than sometime next year. I applaud the other side for recognizing this fact.

Yesterday, the junior Senator from Iowa took to the floor and challenged my statement from Thursday evening that "more kids will die if we don't take up the cord blood bill." I would merely like to spend a few minutes highlighting the truth of my statement.

Cord blood stem cell research involves the blood from human umbilical cords. Cord blood contains a high number of pluripotent stem cells; and it is currently treating real people and saving many lives.

Contemplation of cord blood stem cell's therapeutic power is something that many in my office are currently contemplating, as at least five staff members or their spouses are expecting babies right now. We even thought that one of them was coming a few nights ago, but it was a false alarm.

Unlike human embryonic stem cells, which require the destruction of young human beings, umbilical cord blood stem cells are completely ethical as their derivation and use results in no harm to any human beings. Cord blood has incredible therapeutic power.

To better harness the power of cord blood, thereby saving more lives, the cord blood bill that passed last night was essential. While I had worked closely with Senator SPECTER in channeling appropriation funds to establish a national cord blood stem cell bank, without the authorizing legislation, which we passed last night, these funds did not have the necessary structure to be effective.

However, should the House send the bill to the President tonight—as we expect—a structure will go into effect that will immediately begin collecting cord blood units and making them available to Americans suffering from a variety of diseases from blood cancers to neurological diseases. Without the structure that cord blood bill provides, many fewer patients will benefit and some waiting on cord blood will die.

To highlight this, I will share a few stories of real people who have been successfully treated with cord blood stem cells.

The first story is of Keone Penn, a young man cured of sickle cell anemia a disease that afflicts more than 70,000 Americans, particularly African Americans. Keone, of course, tells his story the best; so listen to his testimony before a Senate Science Subcommittee hearing that I chaired on June 12, 2003:

My name is Keone Penn. Two days ago, I turned 17 years old. Five years ago, they said I wouldn't live to be 17. They said I'd be dead within 5 years. I was born with sickle cell anemia. Sickle cell is a very bad disease. I had a stroke when I was 5 years old. Things got even worse after that. My life has been full of pain crises, blood transfusions every two weeks, and more times in the hospital than I can count. The year before I had my stem cell transplant, I was in the hospital 13 times. I never was able to have a normal life. My stem cell transplant was not easy, but I thank God that I'm still here. I will graduate from high school this year. I want to become a chef because I love to cook. I think I'm pretty good at it. Sickle cell is now a part of my past. One year after my transplant, I was pronounced cured. Stem cells saved my life.

It is important to realize though that cord blood treats many other diseases. Consider the story of Erik Haines, who received a successful cord blood stem cell transplant to treat Krabbe disease. Krabbe disease is an often fatal neurological disease. This helps to illustrate how broadly effective cord blood stem cells really are.

Erik Haines made medical history at age 2 when he became one of the first cord blood transplant patients at the University of Minnesota on July 24, 1994. Erik had suffered from the genetic blood disorder Krabbe disease, from which his younger brother Adam died. Since his umbilical cord blood transplant, annual exams at the University of Minnesota are not full of foreboding or anxiety; and check-ups with Erik's pediatrician likewise seem routine. Also, like many boys, Erik enjoys baseball, soccer, and swimming. Erik's father Paul Haines says:

The only real lasting effects are complications from the radiation he received—small cataracts. He wears glasses and has a little trouble seeing the board from the back of the room.

Both Keone and Erik's treatments took place in the 1990s, and cord blood stem cell research has made even greater progress since then. We learn of new, exciting developments every month.

Just 2 weeks ago, we heard about this on local DC television stations.

On November 30, 2005, two local DC TV stations reported on separate life saving cures emerging from umbilical cord blood stem cells. Channel 7 focused on the Korean cord blood stem cell treatment for spinal cord injury and the procedure's first U.S. patient, a Virginia woman.

Channel 4 highlighted two children in a local family—Riverdale, MD—cured of SCIDS—severe combined immune deficiency syndrome—also known as "bubble boy disease" by cord blood from unrelated donors.

And on October 23, 2005, the Chicago Tribune reported:

Cord blood is surprising researchers with previously unrecognized healing powers that go far beyond its known effectiveness against childhood leukemia and some other disorders. Early research in animals suggests that cord blood may provide a new bounty of cures and treatments for many other medical conditions, including heart attack, Parkinson's disease, stroke, Alzheimer's disease, muscular dystrophy, diabetes, spinal cord injury and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis . . . In May, the New England Journal of Medicine published a study showing that a cord blood transplant performed as soon as possible after birth can, for the first time, stop the deadly course of Krabbe disease.

There are thousands of testimonies of the efficaciousness of cord blood stem cells. There are also innumerable new stories and medical journal articles on amazing advances in disease treatments in real human patients with cord blood stem cells.

There are more than ample, documented medical articles, on which I base my claim that because the Senate acted and passed the cord blood bill this week, more kids' lives will be saved.

As for speculative, destructive, human embryonic stem cell research, there is not yet even one patient trial with embryonic stem cells for any disease; and it is not for lack of years of research, prohibitions—there are none—or lack of funding. It is because embryonic stem cells form cancers and tumors due to their immature state. Regarding destructive human embryonic stem cell research, even the prestigious journal *Science* acknowledged on June 17, 2005, that:

It is nearly certain that the clinical benefits of the research are years or decades away. This is a message that desperate families and patients will not want to hear.

With last night's passage of the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act, the Senate formally recognized the life-saving value of cord blood stem cell research. I have worked closely with Senator SPECTER over the past few years to appropriate nearly \$20 million for the purpose of establishing a national cord blood bank. And I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the bipartisan legislation that passed out of this chamber last night.

I am also proud that we were able to move in a bipartisan manner on this legislation. Working alongside Senators HATCH, DODD, SPECTER, HARKIN, ENZI, and FRIST on this issue was a

pleasure and helps to demonstrate that the two parties can work together effectively.

Everybody wins with cord blood stem cell research. Patients win because they receive successful treatments and cures. Human dignity wins because cord blood stem cell research respects all human life and does not kill the young human embryo, as is the case with human-destructive embryonic stem cell research.

Cord blood doesn't just hold promise. Cord blood is producing real treatments and even real cures for a variety of maladies afflicting real people right now. Passage of this bill should be celebrated, and I commend my colleagues for this wonderful achievement.

I yield the floor.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I want to congratulate Chairman SPENCER and Chairman ROBERTS for their extraordinary work in forging a conference report on the reauthorization of certain provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act. I remain disappointed that many concessions were made to minority members of the conference which not only did not result in their support of the conference report but which, in my judgment, are unwise on the merits.

On November 17, I wrote to the conferees identifying some of these unwise concessions. They included: a three-part test for relevance in section 215; additional reporting requirements and inspector general audit provisions; sunseting the "lone-wolf" wolf FISA warrant provisions; thirty day initial limit on delayed notice search warrants; applying minimization provisions to subpoenas; and the deletion of important death penalty provisions which were contained in the House version.

In my letter, I urged that no further concessions be made. Yet further concessions were made. These additional concessions include stripping a criminal penalty of up to 1 year imprisonment for a knowing and willful violation of the nondisclosure provision of national security letters. This makes a mockery of the nondisclosure provision itself.

Despite these significant accommodations which were made in the interest of bipartisan compromise, I am distressed to learn that, even now, certain of my colleagues are not only still opposing this bill, but are urging further delay, further compromise, and further weakening of the bill. This effort should be soundly rejected by this body. However, should there be a delay, and the opportunity for additional changes to the conference report, I will urge that we revisit these ill-advised concessions already made and that they be deleted from the bill. That said, I hope that we do not go down that road. I hope that both sides will rise above our particular preferences for a perfect bill, and vote for the good of the Nation and its citizens who have been protected by this historic legislation for the last 5 years.

I am also disappointed that certain of my colleagues have seen fit to oppose the conference report over a single issue—the appropriate standard of judicial review of the national security letters nondisclosure provisions. These opponents would ask courts to assess potential damage to national security rather than the officials in our Government in the intelligence and diplomatic community who are the only ones capable of making such determinations based on all available intelligence and investigative information.

While I am not pleased with every provision of this final bill, some of which I have just reviewed, on balance I am satisfied that overall the final language agreed to represents a reaffirmation of the Nation's commitment to modernization of our criminal and intelligence investigative laws and commonsense law enforcement.

The USA PATRIOT Act provisions, which Congress wisely passed following the terrorist attacks on our soil and the callous murder of innocent civilians, have stood the test of time. The act's provisions have helped to keep us safe and to protect our liberties which were jeopardized, not by expanded governmental authority, but by violent attacks against our way of life by terrorists.

Those who urge further changes and further weakening are, in my judgment, playing a dangerous political game, intended or not, at the expense of our national security and our personal liberties—liberties protected by the commonsense provisions of the PATRIOT Act. Provisions of the act have been utilized to accomplish amazing victories in the war on terrorism and to keep us safe and free. Let me highlight just a few from information provided by the Department of Justice:

The Department of Justice successfully dismantled a Portland, OR, terror cell known as the "Portland Seven." Members of this terror cell had attempted to travel to Afghanistan in 2001 and 2002 to take up arms with the Taliban and al-Qaida against United States and coalition forces fighting there. The USA PATRIOT Act information-sharing provisions were critical in taking down the Portland cell.

The Department of Justice successfully convicted members of an al-Qaida cell in Lackawanna, NY, that involved several residents of Lackawanna who traveled to Afghanistan in 2001 to receive training at an al-Qaida-affiliated camp near Kandahar. Five of the Lackawanna Six pleaded guilty to providing material support to al-Qaida, and the sixth pleaded guilty to conducting transactions unlawfully with al-Qaida. The USA PATRIOT Act information-sharing and national security letter provisions were critical to this case.

The Department of Justice successfully prosecuted the so-called Virginia Jihad case involving members of the Dar al-Arqam Islamic Center, who trained for jihad in Northern Virginia,

including eight individuals who traveled to terrorist training camps in Pakistan or Afghanistan between 1999 and 2001. Six of the defendants have pleaded guilty and three were convicted in March 2004 of charges including conspiracy to levy war against the United States and conspiracy to provide material support to the Taliban. The USA PATRIOT Act was critical to this case.

In May of 2003, Ahmed Omar Abu Ali was arrested after having sought out and joined an al-Qaida cell in Medina, Saudi Arabia, where he received training in weapons, explosives, and document forgery. He, along with other members of the cell, began to develop plans for several potential terrorist attacks against the United States, including a plot to assassinate President Bush. Abu Ali was recently convicted in Federal district court.

On November 23, 2005, Uzair Paracha was convicted in New York of all five counts in an indictment that included charges of conspiracy and providing material support to al-Qaida. Paracha traveled to the United States in February 2003 to assist al-Qaida, including posing as a person Paracha knew to be an al-Qaida associate, obtaining immigration documents that would permit that al-Qaida member to enter the United States, and conducting financial transactions involving the al-Qaida associate's bank accounts.

The Department of Justice also indicted Mohammed Junaid Babar for material support of al-Qaida after he arranged for a month-long jihadi training camp, at which attendees received training in basic military skills, explosives and weapons. Among the attendees were individuals who were plotting to bomb targets abroad. Babar pleaded guilty to providing material support, among other charges, and cooperated with ongoing investigations.

New York defense attorney Lynne Stewart, Mohammed Yousry, and Ahmed Abdel Sattar were recently convicted by a jury of material support charges in connection with passing messages to a terrorist organization, known as the Islamic Group, from Sheik Abdel Rahman, the Islamic Group's imprisoned leader. Abdel-Rahman is serving a life sentence plus 65 years for his role in terrorist activities, including the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center. Sattar was also convicted of conspiring to kill persons in a foreign country and for solicitation of crimes of violence.

On October 24, 2005, the Department of Justice announced the historic extradition of the notorious Taliban-linked narcoterrorist Baz Mohammad. Mohammad has been indicted for allegedly manufacturing and distributing tens of millions of dollars worth of heroin in Afghanistan and Pakistan. He was closely aligned with the Taliban and other Islamic-extremist groups in Afghanistan, providing financial support to the Taliban with proceeds from heroin sales in the United States.

John Walker Lindh, the “American Taliban” captured on the battlefield in Afghanistan, pleaded guilty to supporting the Taliban and has been sentenced to 20 years in prison. As part of his plea agreement, Lindh has provided information about training camps and fighting in Afghanistan.

Another potentially devastating attack was averted when Richard Reid, the so-called shoe bomber, was foiled in his attempt to detonate a bomb on American Airlines flight 63 during flight. Reid was charged as a trained terrorist for this attempted terrorist attack. He pled guilty to all charges and was sentenced to life imprisonment on January 30, 2003.

The Department of Justice successfully detected and disrupted sinister plans in Lodi, CA. Hamid Hayat was indicted and charged with material support to terrorists after he allegedly attended a terrorist training camp in Pakistan in 2004 and returned to this country with the intent of committing jihad against America. Additional associates have been deported and one charged with two counts of lying to Federal agents.

In *United States v. Odeh*, a naroterrorism case, investigators used a court-issued delayed-notice search warrant to search an envelope mailed to a target of the investigation. The search confirmed that the target was operating an illegal money exchange to funnel money to the Middle East, including to an associate of an apparent Islamic Jihad operative in Israel. The delayed-notice provision allowed investigators to conduct the search without compromising an ongoing wiretap on the target and several confederates.

The information sharing between intelligence and law enforcement personnel made possible by USA PATRIOT Act section 218 was useful in the investigation of two Yemeni citizens, Mohammed Ali Hasan Al-Moayad and Mohshen Yahya Zayed, who were charged in 2003 with conspiring to provide material support to al-Qaida and Hamas. Following their indictment, Al-Moayad and Zayed were extradited to the United States from Germany, and both were convicted in March 2005 of conspiring to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization.

The Department of Justice used USA PATRIOT Act section 218 to gain access to intelligence that facilitated the indictment of Enaam Amaout, the executive director of the Illinois-based Benevolence International Foundation, BIF. Amaout had a long-standing relationship with Osama bin Laden and used his charity organization both to obtain funds illicitly from unsuspecting Americans for terrorist organizations, such as al-Qaida, and to serve as a channel for people to contribute money knowingly to such groups. Amaout ultimately pleaded guilty to a racketeering charge, admitting that he diverted thousands of dollars from BIF to support Islamic militant groups in Bosnia and Chechnya.

He was sentenced to more than 11 years in prison.

The broader information sharing made possible by USA PATRIOT Act section 218 also assisted the prosecution in San Diego of several persons involved in an al-Qaida drugs-for-weapons plot, which culminated in two guilty pleas. Two defendants, Muhamed Abid Afridi and Ilyas Ali, admitted that they conspired to distribute approximately five metric tons of hashish and 600 kilograms of heroin originating in Pakistan to undercover U.S. law enforcement officers. Additionally, they admitted that they conspired to receive, as partial payment for the drugs, four Stinger anti-aircraft missiles that they then intended to sell to the Taliban, an organization they knew at the time to be affiliated with al-Qaida. Afridi and Ali pleaded guilty to the felony charges of conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists and conspiracy to distribute heroin and hashish. The lead defendant in the case is currently awaiting trial.

Section 218 of the PATRIOT Act was critical in the successful prosecution of Khaled Abdel Latif Dumeisi, who was convicted by a jury in January 2004 of illegally acting as an agent of the former government of Iraq as well as two counts of perjury. Before the gulf war, Dumeisi passed information on Iraqi opposition members located in the United States to officers of the Iraqi Intelligence Service stationed in the Iraqi mission to the United Nations. During this investigation, intelligence agents conducting surveillance of Dumeisi pursuant to FISA coordinated and shared information with law enforcement agents and prosecutors investigating Dumeisi for possible criminal violations. Because of this coordination, law enforcement agents and prosecutors learned from intelligence agents of an incriminating telephone conversation that took place in April 2003 between Dumeisi and a coconspirator. This phone conversation corroborated other evidence that Dumeisi was acting as an agent of the Iraqi government and provided a compelling piece of evidence at his trial.

The use of cigarette smuggling to fund terrorism has been of grave concern. On January 23, 2003, in *United States v. Akhdar, et al.*, the Department of Justice indicted members of an organization that smuggled low-taxed and untaxed cigarettes from State to State to evade sales tax. The defendants produced counterfeit tax stamps, laundered money, obstructed justice, and committed arson, and many are suspected of having links to and financing the terrorist organization Hizballah. As the investigation has continued, additional indictments have been filed, and many defendants have pleaded guilty to charges including RICO violations and material support.

Investigators have also been able to avert potentially devastating attacks on our children. Ahmed Hassan al-

Uqaily, an Iraqi national, spoke of “going jihad,” and arranged to procure pistols, machine guns, grenades and a “tank missile,” while suggesting he might target several Jewish schools in the Nashville area. An undercover agent completed the deal, posing as the weapons supplier, and the Iraqi national agreed to pay \$1,000 for two machine guns, ammunition and inert grenade components. The aspiring terrorist was arrested on October 7, 2004, and was sentenced on October 24, 2005, to 57 months in prison.

The PATRIOT Act has kept us free and kept us safe, and is doing so day in and day out. It is essential that this Congress renew this historic legislation and I urge my colleagues to support the bill. We owe no less to the future generations of Americans and the freedom-loving peoples of the world. The stakes are too high to ignore our obligation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENT

TRIBUTE TO THE CARROLL COLLEGE FIGHTING SAINTS

• Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the best NAIA football team in the Nation. The Carroll College Fighting Saints of Helena, MT, defeated the St. Francis University Cougars in Savannah, TN, earlier today.

The Saints beat the Cougars by a final score of 27-10 for their fourth straight NAIA National Championship. Today’s “Rumble on the River” was also a historic victory marking the first NAIA team to win four straight national titles. Only one other team on any level of modern college football has won four straight titles.

The Saints’ defense entered today’s game as the best in the Nation allowing an average of only nine points per game this season.

We have some very talented football players in Montana at all levels of play. But today belongs to the Fighting Saints.

As on any football team, each player has a role in the success or failure of the team. However, it is important to recognize those players who were individually awarded for their efforts. All Americans like Kyle Baker, Casey Crites, and Tyler Emmert contribute to the team’s success.

Saints’ quarterback Tyler Emmert had thrown this season for 3,039 yards and 32 touchdowns prior to entering today’s game, becoming the NAIA career leader in total offense.

He has accounted for 13,681 yards in his entire career and owns a record of 50-3 as a starter for the Saints. Now that record is 51-3.

Congratulations as well to Coach Mike Van Diest and his staff as well as to Dr. Thomas Trebon, president of Carroll College.

What an impressive team. What an impressive run of seasons.●