

a disability rating of not less than 50 percent. This is our way of saying thank you and helping our veterans achieve their dreams.

Some of the hardest hit victims of this war are not soldiers or veterans, but survivors of the fallen. These brave men and women need our help. This year I voted to extend survivor benefits from \$12,000 to \$100,000 and to extend military housing privileges from 6 months to 1 year. To complete our support for survivors, my bill will extend childcare privileges for survivors from 6 months to 2 years in any Federal childcare program, giving surviving family members the help they need to grieve, heal, and move on from a painful loss.

Mr. President, legislation such as this is not without costs and it will require the Senate to make difficult choices. Sending troops into harm's way is a difficult choice, even when that choice is clearly justifiable, like it is in Iraq and Afghanistan. But taking care of veterans and their families is not a difficult choice, it is one we must embrace. As General Omar Bradley once said: "We are dealing with veterans, not procedure—with their problems, not ours."

Scripture tells us there is a time for everything, a time for peace and a time for war. America is facing a time of war, and we are fighting an evil and determined enemy. We have to ensure that the men and women who are bearing the burden of this war are cared for and are confident they can count on their government in their hour of need.

I ask unanimous consent that this statement be entered into the RECORD as if read.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute in the Senate to the Northern Kentucky University Women's Softball Team for their remarkable season and recent participation in the NCAA Division II World Series.

The NKU was the No. 1 ranked team in the country and were the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Regional Champs. The team finished the most successful season in school history with a 55-2 record. The 55 game winning streak is the longest in collegiate softball history.

The Commonwealth of Kentucky should be very proud of this team. Their example of hard work and determination should be followed by all in the Commonwealth. I want my colleagues in the Senate to know of the pride that I have in representing these athletes and their families: Sarah Newland, Jamie Patton, Becky Napier, Krystal Lewallen, Kara Lorenz, Ricki Rothbauer, Heather Cotner, Stephanie Leimbach, Michelle Logan, Angie

Lindeman, Emily Breitholle, Jeni Schamp, Sarah King, Megan Owens, Rachele Vogelpohl, and Sara Becker.

Congratulations to the members of the team for their success. I also want to congratulate their coach, Kathy Stewart, along with their peers, faculty, administrators, and parents for their support and sacrifices they've made to help the NKU meet their dreams and achieve their goals.●

HONORING THE TOWN OF KENNEBEC, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I wish today to honor and publicly recognize the 100th anniversary of the founding of the town of Kennebec, SD. Kennebec has a strong sense of past and anticipates a bright future.

Since 1924, Kennebec has been the county seat for Lyman County, located in central South Dakota. Few people lived in the area prior to the town's establishment in 1905, as it was challenging to import the supplies necessary to sustain a substantial population. In 1905, however, railroad tracks were laid through the area, thus making it significantly easier for residents to build homes and other structures, since materials no longer needed to be hauled in from surrounding towns and cities. The railroad and influx of people mark the birth of Kennebec. By 1907, Kennebec was a bustling prairie town full of diverse and eager residents.

As years passed and the town flourished, a number of businesses opened, such as the hardware store operated by Albert Williamson. In addition to running the hardware store, Williamson also edited and printed the county newspaper known as the *Prairie Sun*. Also around this time, Sam Abdnor built and operated a store that survives to this day as the Kennebec movie theatre. Many of my colleagues will recognize the surname "Abdnor" and will recall that former U.S. Senator Jim Abdnor hails from Kennebec. He served admirably as Lt. Governor, in the U.S. House of Representatives for 8 years and in this body for an additional 6 years, having never forgotten the community of Kennebec or its people.

In the town's early days, there was only a single doctor in Kennebec, and water had to be hauled by horse-drawn wagons from wells over a mile and a half to the north of the community. All other needs were met by the railroad, which delivered merchandise to the stores and shops, as well as thousands of tons of coal, which was required to heat homes in Kennebec during the long winters. Not only did the railroad allow imports into town, but it also fostered the transport of Kennebec's main exports, which included cattle, sheep and hogs.

Kennebec had no electrical power until 1914, when John Spotts of Armour, SD moved into town. Spotts bought a track of land southeast of Kennebec and built a two-story brick building with a full size basement. The

upper floors provided a dance floor and silent movie theater for Kennebec residents, while the basement served as the first electric power plant in the town.

After a hundred years, Kennebec supports a population of over 280 citizens and continues to modernize and improve itself in its role to serve the farmers and ranchers throughout the region. Kennebec's proud citizens celebrate their 100th anniversary on June 18, 2005, and it is with great honor that I share with my colleagues the achievements made by this great community.●

HONORING THE CITY OF RELIANCE, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, it is with great honor that I publicly recognize the 100th anniversary of the founding of the city of Reliance, SD. It is at this time that I would like to draw your attention to and commemorate the achievements and history of this charming city on the western prairie, which stands as an enduring tribute to the moral fortitude and pioneer spirit of the earliest Dakotans.

Located in Lyman County in western South Dakota, the original town-site of Reliance was plotted in the summer of 1905 after officials decided the new railroad's route would not include the already-established towns in the area. As a result, a new town was created on the homestead of Mr. C.C. Herron in order to service the Milwaukee Railroad. This original town-site, located on the southwest quarter of Section 21, encompassed a mere eight blocks. However, several additions were made to this small city between 1905 and 1910 with the help of the Milwaukee Land Company. Today, the town is nearly one square mile in area.

Reliance's early years proved to be incredibly prosperous. The Dirks Mercantile Company, a two-story building used for general store business and public gatherings, was a central part of life in the early years of this small city. An advertisement in the Lyman County Record stated that Dirks Mercantile Company "would buy anything you wanted to sell and sell anything you wanted to buy."

Reliance grew rapidly and in less than a decade came to include two saloons, two blacksmith shops, two banks, two lumberyards, a livery barn, three stores, two hardware stores, one creamery, three elevators, one harness shop, one cafe, and two hotels.

Like many small agricultural communities in the area, Reliance experienced a great deal of economic prosperity in the years after World War I. In 1918, the town became the first in Lyman County to provide a 4-year accredited high school.

Today, Reliance is a popular fishing spot thanks to the dam built by the Works Project Administration (WPA) during the 1930s. The dam was heavily stocked with several species of fish and provides sportsmen with the opportunity to enjoy the recreational treasures of South Dakota.

While the small city of Reliance boasted a population of 317 at its peak in 1920, the town has seen small declines in recent years, and is home to 206 residents today. Despite its small size, in the years since its founding, Reliance has proven its ability to thrive and serve farmers and ranchers throughout the region. The proud residents of Reliance will celebrate their vibrant history and the legacy of the pioneer spirit to which our small cities stand as a living shrine with its 100th anniversary on July 25, 2005.●

HONORING THE TOWN OF PRESCHO, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, it is a pleasure to honor and publicly recognize the 100th anniversary of the founding of the town of Prescho, SD. As the 100th anniversary approaches, Prescho looks back on a proud history and looks forward to a promising future.

Named by the town's first Postmaster, Chris Hellekson, Prescho is named for the extinct county in which it was originally located, Prescho County. Now located in Lyman County, Prescho was platted in June of 1905 when the Milwaukee Land Company purchased a plot of land from Sidney F. Hockersmith. On November 9, 1905, the Milwaukee Land Company divided the land into 16 lots and held a public auction. Peter B. Dirks and E.M. Sedgwick purchased the first lot for \$500, and within eight minutes of completing the sale, Prescho's first bank was moved onto the site, having already completed its initial transaction while en route.

Despite being only .7 square miles in area, Prescho drew an enormous population as newcomers took the Milwaukee Railroad as far west as it went. Until 1906, the westernmost point was Prescho, SD. Once the railroad was extended farther, however, Prescho's population, which totaled 2,000 at its peak, gradually decreased. Currently, about 600 residents live in this flourishing community.

One of the town's most notable historic events was its first Fourth of July celebration and auto race, which took place in 1906. In fact, it is thought that this auto race is the first ever held west of the Missouri River. At least 5,000 people were in attendance.

Mr. President, Prescho's proud residents celebrate their community's centennial anniversary on July 4, 2005, and it is with great honor that I share with my colleagues the history of this great community. ●

CAM NEELY'S INDUCTION INTO THE NHL HALL OF FAME

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, Cam Neely was recently inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame. That is the highest honor for a professional athlete, but I believe it is appropriate for us to honor him in the Halls of Congress as well. Cam Neely is a special citizen,

one worthy of recognition and emulation.

As a hockey player, Cam Neely was unique. His rare combination of strength, size and skill made him difficult to stop and feared by all opponents. Whether fighting through pain or battles on the boards, Cam Neely's play taught us the meaning of hard work and perseverance. His career may have been cut short by injury, but there is no doubt that Cam Neely was one of the finest players to wear a Boston Bruins uniform, and indeed one of the greatest "power forwards" ever to play the game.

Since hanging up his skates, Cam Neely has devoted his life to service. The Cam Neely Foundation has raised over \$11 million in the last decade to help cancer patients and their families during treatment. Thousands of New England families have found hope during difficult times due to the generosity and hard work of Cam Neely.

In his first career, Cam Neely brought us all the joy of victory. In his second career, Cam Neely brings joy to families who need it most, while providing a model of service to his countless fans. Cam Neely is an American in whom we can all be proud and who deserves our recognition today for a career that has been hall of fame in every respect. ●

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S LACROSSE

● Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, on May 22, 2005, the women's lacrosse team from Northwestern University captured the NCAA Division I championship. This was the first championship for the Wildcats' women's lacrosse team and the first women's lacrosse champion to come from outside of the eastern time zone.

This championship also marks a milestone for Northwestern sports. It is the first ever women's team championship for the university and only the second team championship in school history. The men's fencing team was national champion in 1941.

This talented and dedicated team from the great State of Illinois secured the championship by defeating traditional lacrosse powerhouses, Dartmouth and Princeton. The Wildcats completed their undefeated, 21 win season with a 13-10 victory over defending champion Virginia. Since regaining varsity status in 2002, this outstanding program has taken only four seasons to capture the championship.

Congratulations to Abby Bangser, Donna McCann, Sarah Albrecht, Kristen Kjellman, Sara Crosby, Aly Josephs, Kristen Boege, Ashley Koester, Courtney Koester, Hilary Alley, Ashley Gersuk, Courtney Flynn, Christy Finch, Lindsey Munday, Emily Lovett, Laura Glassanos, Shelby Chlopak, Kaitie Lenahan, Lynda McCandlish, Abby Alley, Sarah Walsh, Lindsay Finocchiaro, Jenny Bush, Fallon McGraw, Quinn Cammarota, Lindsay

North, Meredith Philipp, Hannah Whitman, Rebecca Zazove, Annie Elliott, Bailey Su, Kate Darmody, Minnie Doherty, Kim Corcoran, Head Coach Kelly Amonte Hiller, Assistant Coach Alexis Venechanos, Assistant Coach Danielle Shearer, and Assistant Coach Scott Hiller.

Please join me in congratulating the Northwestern women's lacrosse team on its historic championship season.●

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2545. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "NASA Grant and Cooperative Agreement Handbook—Research Misconduct" (RIN2700-AD11) received on June 3, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2546. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Deputy Secretary, received on June 3, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2547. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs, received on June 3, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2548. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Administrator, received on June 3, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2549. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs, received on June 3, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2550. A communication from the Acting White House Liaison, Technology Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Technology, received on June 6, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2551. A communication from the Acting White House Liaison, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary and Director General, received on June 6, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2552. A communication from the Acting White House Liaison, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for International Trade, received on June 6, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2553. A communication from the Acting White House Liaison, Office of the Deputy Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Deputy Secretary,