

supportive friend. I can never overstate what his support has meant to me throughout my years of service.

A natural outgrowth of the successful Freeman Institute was the founding of the National Center for Constitutional Studies which Cleon started to further the study of our Founding Fathers and the U.S. Constitution. He traveled the globe and spoke to literally hundreds of thousands of people each year for many years to promote the ideals of this center.

The mission of the center was so aptly described by our Nation's first President, George Washington, when he said: "A primary object. . . should be the education of our youth in the science of government. In a republic, what species of knowledge can be equally important? And what duty more pressing than communicating it to those who are to be the future guardians of the liberties of the country?"

Cleon took this mission very seriously and spent many hours each week educating and imparting his knowledge of his years of study to people throughout our Nation, and even the world. He cultivated friendships far and wide and became to many the "Master Teacher."

As we all know, Cleon was a prolific author and writer. His books, "The First 2000 Years, The Making of America," and "The Five Thousand Year Leap" have been used by foundations, and in forums across America for many years. His writings and words leave an indelible legacy of knowledge and beliefs that have touched many people and will continue to inspire and educate generations to come.

Many have yearned for even a morsel of his years of study. He was learning, studying and writing until the end. I loved an account I recently read in the *Deseret News* from the Rev. Donald Sills, a Baptist minister who became close friends over many years with Cleon. He spoke of his knowledge and study and recalled a time when he found Cleon sitting on the steps of the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, DC. When he asked Cleon what he was doing just sitting there, Cleon's fitting response was, "I'm talking to Tom Jefferson."

Cleon had a strong desire for good government, and a true love for our Savior Jesus Christ and our Heavenly Father. He believed that our country was founded on pure principles and that our Heavenly Father had a hand in guiding our historic and profound beginnings. He firmly believed, as many believe, that God governs the affairs of men. He was not shy about sharing this belief with all who would listen. The words he shared on this subject were not unlike the words spoken by Benjamin Franklin as he arose on the floor to speak at a particularly trying time during the Constitutional Convention. He pled with his peers to call upon the Father of them all for wisdom and guidance as they continued to contemplate and draft this most important document.

His words remind me so richly of Cleon when Mr. Franklin stated: "I have lived, Sir, a long time; and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings that 'except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it,' I firmly believe this. . ."

And Cleon firmly believed it. He had a true testimony of our Savior's works and our Father's infinite wisdom and love. He wrote of it. He testified of it. And he lived a life following their teachings.

The wonderful, strong leader General George S. Patton once said: "It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived."

I don't believe it is foolish to mourn the loss of this great man—but I do thank my Heavenly Father that W. Cleon Skousen lived, and that he touched my life in so many ways. His example, passionate beliefs, and wonderful mind will never be forgotten. His journey was full and brought rich rewards to people throughout the world.

I am grateful that I had the privilege of knowing W. Cleon Skousen and working with him. He is a great man, and true American. His life's work has touched literally thousands, and his memory will live on through the wonderful words and teachings he leaves behind.

Mr. President, I would like to close with a poem that I wrote for him:

W. CLEON SKOUSEN

His life seemed like 2000 years
By those who feared the truth,
To us who've loved him through our tears
And even from our youth,
This quiet, simple, gentle man,
Who taught us sacred things,
He helped us all to understand
The memories of a thousand springs.

Within this caring, pleasant soul
God's glory was refined,
Experiences had made him whole
For he had peace of mind,
So many lives he touched each day
Explaining holy things,
In writings left along the way
A treasure fit for kings.

He loved the prophets of the Lord,
The Founding Fathers too,
And Israel's most sacred word,
God's children whom he knew,
His precious Jewell, of greatest worth,
He'll love eternally,
He loved his family here on earth
In loving majesty.

So many others one by one,
This giant among men,
He leaves us now, his work now done,
We know we'll meet him once again.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF L-3'S COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS-WEST

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today it is an honor and a privilege to rise and congratulate the men and women of L-

3's Communication Systems-West on the 50th anniversary of that company's arrival in Utah.

I realize that many outside of the state of Utah might not have heard of L-3's Communication Systems-West, but no one can dispute the strategic advantages that this company has provided to our Nation's men and women in uniform. Much of the work that Communication Systems-West performs is of a highly classified nature. However, I can say that the real-time, world-wide dissemination of images and information gathered by the U-2 and our new unmanned aerial vehicles, such as Global Hawk and the Predator, is only possible because of the hard work by the people at Communication Systems-West. For example in 2001, Communication Systems-West was awarded the Collier Award for producing the airborne integrated communications system for the Global Hawk. As my colleagues may know, the Collier Trophy is the National Aeronautic Association's highest honor for that year's greatest American aeronautical achievement.

Other examples of Communication Systems-West outstanding work can be found in the SATCOM Tri-Band Satellite Earth Terminals and the ROVER III Remote Operations Video Enhanced Receiver system that are deployed with our forces today. As a stalwart division for L-3, the employees of Communication Systems-West were honored in 2005 to receive the L-3 Chairman's Award for Best Operating Performance.

It is not an exaggeration to say that the technologies created and built by Communication Systems-West have won battles for the United States and, equally as important, saved countless American lives.

However, the leadership of Communication Systems-West's 2,300 employees, including 1,000 engineers, is not limited to the battlefield. It is also found in their dedication to their community. Communication Systems-West partners with Utah's universities to assist in placing new graduates in promising and creative careers. The company is an active member of the Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement, or MESA, consortium. MESA, of course, provides resources to aid minority and female students entering technological fields of study. As a contributor to the Ames and Challenger advanced education programs for high school students interested in technology sciences, Communication Systems-West continues to bring a bright future to the next generation of students.

Finally, Communication Systems-West also supports its home-town National Guardsmen and Reservists by fully paying the salaries of its employees who have been activated to fight the War on Terrorism.

Communication Systems-West and its employees have been an integral part of Utah for a half-century, and we

all are immensely proud of the contributions they have made to our country and our State. I congratulate them and wish them 50 more years of success and prosperity in the great State of Utah.

CONCEPT2

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, like most Americans, I start off the year with my new year's resolution to work harder at getting in shape. As always, my first stop is the Concept2 rowing machine in the Senate gym. I have used it for years, and always think of Vermont when I do.

The rowing machines are made in Vermont, and last fall the Burlington Free Press had an excellent article about the company and its founders. I ask that a copy of the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Free Press, Oct. 14, 2005]

WHAT A CONCEPT

(By Matt Crawford)

MORRISVILLE.—Peter and Dick Dreissigacker will be on Boston's Charles River next weekend, rowing their way toward the finish line in the annual Head of the Charles regatta.

The Dreissigacker brothers are two members of an eight-man team called the Motley Rowing Club—a team that captured third place in its division during last year's race. If the Motley team is beaten again, part of the blame can be placed squarely on the broad shoulders of the Dreissigackers.

What Nike is to running, what Orvis is to fly-fishing, what Burton is to snowboarding, Concept2 is to rowing. Concept2 is a Morrisville-based company that employs 55 people, and it is run and owned by Mistery Peter and Dick Dreissigacker. The company leads the world in producing oars used by crews and sculling teams and controls a significant portion of the global indoor rowing machine market, too. "Their products are found around the world," said Alex Machi, director of rowing at Middlebury College. "They easily dominate the oar manufacturing business."

How two Connecticut brothers maneuvered their internationally successful company into the center of the rowing universe from a small town in northern Vermont is a remarkable tale, one that continues to evolve on rivers and ponds and indoor gyms around the world . . .

"The challenge," said Peter, "is trying to continue to improve on what we've got."

Dick Dreissigacker, now 58, was a member of the 1972 U.S. Olympic Rowing Team and a Brown University product. He drifted out to California to take a rowing coaching position at Stanford, a school Peter, who's four years younger, was attending.

Dick was looking for a "secret weapon" after the 1972 Olympics and began to explore ways to improve oars, which had been crafted out of wood pretty much since humans started rowing boats through water. "There were quite a few companies making composite boats," said Peter, "but nobody was making oars."

By 1976, the Dreissigackers had built a prototype of a composite oar and began making them in the back of a bread truck. They looked at places around the country and decided to buy an old barn in Morrisville, part-

ly because they were from the Northeast, and started producing oars. By the 1980 Olympics, composite oars—made of carbon fiber and epoxies and glues—were standard, thanks to the work of the Dreissigacker boys.

The company makes "sweep" oars, oars for sculling and oars for a small niche of rowers who specialize in trans-Atlantic crossings. Oars range in price from about \$200 to more than \$400 each, and there are custom orders, blade and shaft repairs and stylized custom painting jobs that keep the company's employees busy. Dick says there are two other companies that are viewed as competitors with the Dreissigackers, but Concept2 controls about two-thirds of the world's competitive oar market.

In 1991, the Dreissigackers struck again, changing the shape of the oar blades to a bigger, "hatchet" style, a change that exploded through the rowing scene. At the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, said Peter, "boats were on the water, changing their blades to our style." There was some discussion of banning the bigger blade, which was more efficient and more effective, but the style quickly became the sport's standard. Two Middlebury teams and a University of Vermont women's team will be using Concept2 oars when they compete at the Head of the Charles next weekend. "If 75 or 80 percent of the teams at the Head of the Charles are using our oars," said Dick, "then almost 100 percent of those teams will have trained on our indoor trainers. They're pretty much the standard."

The Dreissigackers started making the indoor machines in the mid-1980s, the first versions little more than bike wheels and chains. Now the machines—their fourth version—come equipped with computers to monitor an athlete's performance and sell for \$850. There are hundreds of them in the Morrisville factory, stacked up and awaiting the start of the Christmas buying season.

The first indoor rowing machines were called rowing ergometers, or "Ergs," for short, and the Dreissigackers even developed a formula that allows the machines to measure rowing ability—a number that the rowing world now refers to as "Erg scores." "It's kind of like an athletic SAT score," said Dick, who attributes Peter's higher Erg score to the fact that he's four years younger, even though Dick rows almost every day of the summer on a lake at his cottage in Albany. There's a gym for Concept2 employees at the company's headquarters, and yes, it is filled with rowing machines. No longer in the barn, the company moved in 1984 to a more industrial location, not far from the center of Morrisville. The factory today is more than 45,000 square feet.

Sarah Tousignant, a senior at the University of Vermont and president of the school's women's rowing team, knows how important Concept2's Erg machines are. The Catamounts train six days a week on the Lamoille River using Dreissigacker oars. They'll soon move inside for the winter and shift onto Ergs. "We just ordered 12 new Ergs from them," she said.

Most of the Head of the Charles athletes will be using Dreissigacker oars, and nearly all will have trained and honed their skills on Dreissigacker indoor machines. So even if the Motley crew team gets beaten to the finish line on the Charles River next weekend, the Dreissigackers still win. With the Boston Red Sox out of baseball's playoffs, the eyes of the sporting world turn to Boston this month for one thing: The Head of the Charles Regatta.

A stretch? Consider that more than 7,000 athletes from around the globe will compete in 24 race events in the 41st annual Head of the Charles on Oct. 22-23. It is the world's

largest two-day rowing event. Rowing teams from the University of Vermont and Middlebury College will be among the competitors, as will brothers Dick and Pete Dreissigacker from Morrisville.

The Dreissigackers, both former Olympics rowers, have been competing in the Head of the Charles since 1978. In a way, they'll be in the majority of boats on the river, given that most of the competitors will be using oars made by the Dreissigackers' Concept2 company. "It's pretty much the most prestigious fall race," said Sarah Tousignant, women's team president of UVM rowing. "It's the race that everybody looks forward to and holds in high regard." The Head of the Charles was first held Oct. 16, 1965. As many as 300,000 spectators are expected to be on hand for the weekend.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CHINESE LUNAR NEW YEAR

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize the Chinese Lunar New Year. 2006 is the Year of the Dog.

The Chinese calendar is based on the cycles of the sun and the moon, and the Chinese Lunar New Year is the most important of Chinese festivals. Celebration begins on the first day of the first moon of the lunar calendar and ends on the full moon 15 days later, with the Lantern Festival. In order to prepare for the new year, families perform several rituals to cleanse the home and the spirit, to sweep away misfortune and to welcome in the new year with good luck, health, happiness and prosperity.

The Chinese lunar calendar is associated with a 12-year animal zodiac. According to ancient Chinese legend, Buddha asked all the animals to meet him on the Chinese Lunar New Year. Twelve animals came, and Buddha rewarded each animal by naming a year after each one. The 12 animals—Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig—represent a cyclical concept of time. He told each animal that the people born in their year would inherit some of the personality traits of that animal. It is said that those born in the Year of the Dog tend to be loyal, kind, and generous.

America is rich with the cultural traditions of many countries. In California, the Chinese-American community plays a vibrant and important part of our State's history. Celebrating the Chinese Lunar New Year allows us to embrace this significant and most important cultural festival of the Chinese calendar.

I hope that the Chinese Lunar New Year brings good health, happiness, peace and prosperity to all. I give my very best wishes for an auspicious New Year. •

TRIBUTE TO THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY CHEERLEADERS

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute to the Northern Kentucky University cheerleaders. The squad was