

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

named the national champions in the Universal Cheerleaders Association-sponsored competition earlier this year.

The Northern Kentucky University cheerleading squad was awarded their first national title. The title was in the small unit coed category of NCAA Division II competition. They captured this championship at Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL on January 14, 2006.

The citizens of northern Kentucky are proud to have these national cheerleading champs living and learning in their community. Their example of hard work and determination should be followed by all in the Commonwealth.

I congratulate the members of the squad for their success. I also want to congratulate their coaches, along with their peers, faculty, administrators, and parents for their support and sacrifices they have made to help them meet their achievements and dreams. They all represent Kentucky honorably.●

CATHEDRAL CHOIR SCHOOL OF DELAWARE

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, today I rise to honor an outstanding group of young choir members who have brought joy and musical harmony to countless people in Delaware and around the world.

The Cathedral Choir School of Delaware has been chosen to perform on January 25, 2006, for an audience at the White House that will include First Lady Laura Bush. They will also be presented with the Coming Up Taller Award. This award is the Nation's highest honor for afterschool and out-of-school programs that use arts and humanities to enrich the lives of children. Created in 1998, this awards program is a project of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities in partnership with Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Cathedral Choir School has had an enormous positive impact on the lives of the students who pass through its halls. The more than 50 students, ranging in age from 7 to 17, who attend the school are encouraged to learn the enduring values of discipline, responsibility, leadership and teamwork.

With more than 800 alumni since its inception in 1883, the Cathedral choir school has had a positive impact on both the lives of the students who have had the privilege of participating in this choir school and the lives of those around them. By training Delaware's young people in life skills and community involvement, the Cathedral Choir School has consistently enhanced the lives of all that it touches.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication that the paid staff and volunteers of the Cathedral Choir School have demonstrated over the

years. Under the direction today of Dr. Darryl Roland, these dedicated men and women have helped the lives of countless children. During his time of overseeing the Cathedral Choir School, Dr. Roland has served as a shining example of what is possible when good and caring adults decide to make a positive difference in the lives of children.

I would especially like to acknowledge the commitment and enthusiasm that the individual members of the choir have shown during their time with the choir. These outstanding young people have made a personal commitment to themselves and to their communities to challenge themselves and try their best to live up to the high standards of the Cathedral Choir School. The rehearsals and after-school music training are done with a sense of love for artistic expression. It takes a special type of person to share that gift with the rest of us.

The faculty and students of the Cathedral Choir School are to be commended and applauded for their extraordinary efforts. Their dedication and love of music continues to serve as an example of what is possible when young people are given the opportunity to follow their dreams. All of Delaware is proud of them.●

HONORING THE LIFE OF MAURICE GUERRY

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, this past December Idaho unexpectedly lost a generous and gracious man who will be missed terribly by all who had the pleasure of experiencing his welcoming spirit and warm heart.

Maurice was a sheep rancher from Three Creek, ID, who was known for his ready smile, charm and unequivocal love for his wife, family and the land on which he made his livelihood. I had the distinct privilege of working with him a number of times on collaborative land management endeavors and remember well that he made an extraordinary effort to get those who thought themselves at odds to find common ground and work together. He saw the wisdom and value of this approach and was respected for it.

With his sheep dog keeping a sharp eye from the back of his truck, Maurice diligently cared for his land and was known to carry candy with him to share in case he met someone on one of the remote roads near his ranch. He and his wife, Marlene, would put together a dinner party for dozens at the drop of a hat, welcoming strangers with open arms. He was especially close to his fellow Basque friends.

Maurice had a soul of generosity, gentleness, and wisdom and knew the value of hard, honest work. This legacy is his gift and it lives on in his family and friends. My prayers are with them during this difficult time.●

TRIBUTE TO DOUGLAS W. BOOK

● Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I was saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Forest City Chief of Police Douglas "Doug" Book on January 13. Doug leaves behind a remarkable career in law enforcement that spans over three decades. He has had an immense impact not only in his community of Forest City but throughout the entire State of Iowa.

Doug Book began his career as a full-time patrolman in 1968 and quickly rose amongst the ranks of his department until he was appointed chief of police in 1973. He served faithfully in this capacity until his passing. In addition to his dedicated service to his community, Doug also served Iowa as the head of the North Central Iowa Narcotics Task Force for the past 10 years. Doug also served as chairman of the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Board and as president of the Iowa Association of Chiefs of Police and Peace Officers.

Doug's constant support and guidance for his fellow officers did not stop at Iowa's borders but spilled over to other departments in New York City. Chief Book joined a group of Iowa police officers as part of a critical incident stress management team that helped New York City police officers cope with the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

One of Doug's colleagues described him simply as a "good guy, a good cop, and a good friend." His friends and family should be very proud of what he has done for so many people. Chief Book's devotion, hard work, and dedication to duty will be sorely missed.●

40 YEARS OF EXEMPLARY FEDERAL SERVICE

● Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, on February 3, 2006, Mr. Ray H. Jyo, Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management/Chief, Programs and Project Management Division, Honolulu Engineer District, HED, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will retire from the Government following nearly 40 years of exemplary service to Hawaii, the Pacific Region, the military and the Nation.

Born and raised in Hawaii, Mr. Jyo is a registered professional engineer and a member of the American Society of Military Engineers, who served in numerous engineering and executive management positions in the U.S. Army. He holds a bachelor's of science degree in civil engineering from the University of Minnesota. He has attended the Senior Officials in National Security Program, the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University and the Emerging Issues in Public Management Training at the Brookings Institute.

Over the course of his 40-year career, Mr. Jyo has served with pride and distinction. I have witnessed his steadfast dedication and hard work to improve