

GRIZZLY BIG SKY CONFERENCE  
CHAMPION

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, in Montana, we are as proud of Montana as Texans are of being from Texas; we just aren't as loud about it. Until today.

I rise today to congratulate the University of Montana Grizzlies men's basketball team.

For my colleagues who didn't stay awake last night, Montana's own Grizzlies, led by tournament MVP Virgil Matthews, upset the top-seeded Northern Arizona Lumberjacks 73 to 60 to win the Big Sky Conference tournament and earn an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

This marks the second straight year that the Griz will join the "big dance" and could be the start of a dynasty for our very own Coach K.

In only his second year, Coach Larry Krystkowiak has led his teams to conference titles in both years, and this marks the first time that the Griz have had back-to-back NCAA tournament appearances since 1991-1992.

Coach K's achievements both on the court and off are phenomenal. As a player, he is the University of Montana's all-time leader in scoring and rebounding. He went on to a long and successful career in the NBA. He is a true Montana legend.

And then the legend came home to lead his alma mater. And all the victories have been great.

But the class and leadership of Coach K stands out much more. One example that sticks out in my mind happened just recently, when Coach K, along with several members of the Griz athletic department, all shaved their heads to both raise money for "Coaches vs. Cancer" and to show support for a friend who had recently been diagnosed with the disease.

I can't say that Coach K looked very good, but his actions set an example throughout our State.

Coach K is a class act, a great example of a dedicated Montanan, and I just wanted to take a moment to congratulate him and his team and wish them success with their upcoming March Madness.

(The remarks of Mr. BAUCUS pertaining to the introduction of S. 2398 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. BAUCUS. I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURR). Without objection, it is so ordered.

## ONLINE FREEDOM OF SPEECH ACT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, yesterday, I filed the Online Freedom of Speech

Act as an amendment to the lobbying reform bill.

This morning, the House Administration Committee will mark up identical legislation. We expect the House to act as early as next week to pass this vital protection of free speech.

Thomas Jefferson once quipped that, "Advertisements contain the only truths to be relied on in a newspaper."

But despite his low opinion of the press, he also observed that, "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

From the earliest days of our Republic, freedom of speech and freedom of the press—be they anonymous pamphlets, celebrated essays, or local newspapers—were understood to be fundamental to the practice and defense of liberty.

Without the ability to convey ideas, debate, dispute, and persuade, we may never have fought for and achieved our independence.

Ordinary citizens—farmers, ministers, local shop owners—published and circulated their views, often anonymously, to challenge the conventional order and call their fellow citizens to action.

Indeed, as Boston University journalism professor Chris Daly points out, "What we think of as reporting—the pursuit, on a full time basis of verifiable facts and verbatim quotations—was not a significant part of journalism in the time of Thomas Jefferson and Thomas Paine. . . . In historical terms, today's bloggers are much closer in spirit to the Revolutionary-era pamphleteers."

And today, it is bloggers whom we now have to protect.

There are some who, out of fear or shortsightedness, wish to restrict the ability of our modern-day Thomas Paines to express political views on the World Wide Web.

They seek to monitor and regulate political speech under the guise of "campaign finance reform." They argue that unfettered political expression on the Internet is dangerous, especially during the highly charged election season.

Needless to say, I stand firmly against these efforts to hamstring the Internet and squarely with the champions of free speech—whether that expression takes place in the actual or virtual town square.

Free speech is the core of our first amendment. And the Internet represents the most participatory form of mass speech in human history.

It is no accident that this technology was invented here in America. Freedom of speech is encoded in our DNA. It is what allows us to be uniquely curious, daring and innovative.

And it is no coincidence that Americans, steeped in the tradition of inquiry and rebellion, would give flight to yet another revolution on behalf of the principle we value most.

In an era where technology has made instant, unfiltered communication possible, I believe that the Congress has a fundamental responsibility to allow this new medium to flourish.

As an amateur blogger myself, and soon-to-be private citizen, I am committed to ensuring that the extraordinary explosion of political debate in the blogosphere is protected from meddling bureaucrats and regulators in Washington, DC.

I commented on this very issue on my own blog last week. Free political expression is not a narrow privilege but a fundamental right.

Back in April of 1999, when observers and commentators were only beginning to glimpse the rich potential of the Internet, Rick Levine, Christopher Locke, Doc Searls and David Weinberger posted the "Cluetrain Manifesto."

In it they said that, "A powerful global conversation has begun. Through the Internet, people are discovering and inventing new ways to share relevant knowledge with blinding speed."

Since then, the conversation has only grown.

While authoritarian regimes like Communist China struggle to control the information crossing their borders, millions of private citizens, typing away on their home computers, are engaged in millions of discreet and overlapping conversations, exchanging information, and circulating ideas.

As Americans, we should be on the side of this dazzling development. As citizens of the 21st century, we should recognize we have no power to stop it.

Brian Anderson of the Manhattan Institute points out that the Supreme Court has extended free speech to include nude dancing, online pornography, and cross burning.

It seems only reasonable that free speech should include the humble act of posting a blog.

## TRIBUTE TO GEORGE SMALL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I rise to honor a man who has dedicated himself to serving our country and has made the sacrifices necessary to protecting our Nation's freedom during one of our most trying times.

Mr. George Small was born in Montreal, Canada, in 1908 and then moved with his family to New York City as a child. Upon graduating from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn in 1935, he began to look for work. The country was deep in the throws of the Great Depression however, and there was none to be found. This sparked a move to California, where he found a job with a chemical plant near Death Valley. When the employees of the plant went on strike, George went on Active Duty in the Army; where he was already a 2nd lieutenant in the Army Reserves.

George's active service began on April 25, 1941, and he began training at the Army Chemical Warfare School. In

October of the same year, he was transferred to the Philippines. This proved to be a fateful event. He arrived 6 weeks before the attack on Pearl Harbor and America's involvement in World War II. He was ordered to Bataan on Christmas Eve of 1941. He fought bravely alongside the other men of the 31st Infantry against overwhelming odds until the surrender of Bataan on April 9, 1942.

Upon capture by the Japanese, George and the other 76,000 POWs set out on the infamous 55-mile Bataan death march to prison camps. Along the way, the prisoners endured intensely cruel and inhumane treatment. George watched as many of his friends were beaten and killed. It was during this agonizing journey that George promised himself he would survive the nightmare he was living.

After 3½ years in captivity, George was liberated on September 10, 1945. Even though he was severely malnourished, weighing only 98 pounds, and suffered from malaria, he was still alive. George was awarded the American Defense Service Medal with one Bronze Star, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with two Bronze Stars, Distinguished Unit Badge with Two Oak Leaf Clusters, Combat Infantry Badge, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Star, WWII Victory Medal, and the POW Medal.

Following discharge from the Army on November 26, 1946, George remained in the Army Reserves until he retired at the rank of major in 1968. He worked as a civil engineer for the State of California during the post-war years, and in 1954 he married his wife, Hadassa. They raised two daughters together.

George recently celebrated his 98th birthday in Reno, making him the oldest former POW living in Nevada. He is truly an American hero, and has earned my admiration and the respect of all those who have known him. I offer him my gratitude and wish him all the best in the years to come.

#### NEW U.N. INITIATIVE FOR CYPRIOT REUNIFICATION

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the President of Cyprus, Tassos Papadopoulos, for promoting a new U.N.-sponsored initiative to resolve the division of the island of Cyprus. Cyprus has been divided for more than 30 years, following a 1974 invasion by Turkey. The time is ripe for resolving this longstanding split, and I applaud President Papadopoulos for taking the initiative to end the division.

On February 28, 2006, President Papadopoulos met with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and proposed that the U.N. appoint a special envoy for Cyprus to lay the groundwork for negotiations to end the division of Cyprus. President Papadopoulos also proposed a number of cross-community confidence-building measures to strength-

en the foundation for reunification. After the meeting, Secretary-General Annan and President Papadopoulos issued a joint statement agreeing on the resumption of bicomunal discussions on the technical aspects necessary to prepare the ground for full peace negotiations.

There have been significant developments in Cyprus over the past 2 years that make this the right time for reunification. Nearly 2 years ago, Cyprus joined the European Union, and in that time, the Government of Cyprus has promoted the opening up of several crossing points through the U.N.-patrolled cease-fire line. As a result, the Government of Cyprus has transformed the everyday realities on Cyprus to that unlike any other divided nation.

Unlike other divisions with which my colleagues may be familiar, such as East and West Berlin, the people of Cyprus are able to cross the dividing line to visit their ancestral lands, work, and shop. Indeed, since the opening of crossing points, there have been more than 9 million incident-free crossings. Every day, more than 10,000 Turkish Cypriots cross from the occupied territory to the government-controlled area to work. This increased economic activity and trade across the dividing line has contributed in more than doubling the per-capita income of the Turkish-Cypriots in the past 2 short years.

As confidence building measures, President Papadopoulos has proposed to take additional steps to build on the gains of the past 2 years. The Government of Cyprus has already proposed the reopening of the occupied Port of Famagusta and the return of the adjacent city of Varosha to its original inhabitants; a "ghost" city that has been abandoned since the 1974 Turkish invasion. Famagusta would operate under the joint administration of the two communities, bringing the two communities closer together, and also under the EU's regulatory auspices, enhancing trade opportunities. President Papadopoulos has also proposed to open additional crossing points to make travel and trade between the two communities easier.

Last week, the European Union announced economic aid to the Turkish Cypriots of 139 million eurodollars—approximately \$165 million. The Government of Cyprus had pushed strongly for this aid, despite unfortunate attempts by others to attach preconditions and political stipulations to its release. This aid from the EU further demonstrates the positive effect of Cyprus's EU membership on the prospects for reunification.

I applaud the steps that the Government of Cyprus and President Papadopoulos have taken to encourage a just and lasting solution to the Cyprus division. His meeting with Secretary-General Annan is a positive first step toward the resumption of reunification negotiations. On Cyprus today, the two communities are closer to-

gether than at any time since the invasion. Although prior reunification efforts have failed, the developments of the past 2 years offer the greatest prospect for a peaceful and lasting solution to the division.

#### IN MEMORY OF DANA REEVE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to an extraordinary woman, Dana Reeve, who died on Monday, March 6 at the age of 44. Dana's courage, grace and love in dealing with the tragic paralysis of her late husband, actor Christopher Reeve, were an inspiration to millions of Americans. Dana and Christopher's tireless advocacy on behalf of individuals and families living with spinal cord injury made them American heroes.

Dana Morosini was born in 1961 to Dr. Charles Morosini and Helen Morosini. She grew up in Scarsdale, New York, graduated cum laude from Middlebury College in Vermont and studied acting at the California Institute of the Arts.

Dana was an accomplished actress and singer. She appeared on Broadway, off Broadway and in regional theatre, on television and in HBO films, and performed as a singer on national television and in venues around New York. Reeve co-hosted "Lifetime Live," a daily women's information program on the Lifetime network.

It was while Dana performed in a late-night cabaret at the Williamstown Theatre Festival in 1987 that she met actor Christopher Reeve, who was in the audience. They married on April 11, 1992. Their son Will was born in 1992. She was also stepmother to Christopher's children Matthew and Alexandra Exton Reeve. She was a devoted and loving mother, deeply committed to her family.

In 1995, America watched in disbelief as an equestrian accident left Christopher Reeve, perhaps best known for his film role as Superman, paralyzed. America was inspired as Dana Reeve courageously and publicly supported Christopher with humor and grace. Dana and Christopher helped propel spinal cord injury into the national spotlight, working to increase funding and find a cure. They became actively involved in fighting for the rights of the disabled and helping families live with spinal cord injury. Our hearts went out to Dana and her family when Christopher Reeve passed away on October 10, 2004.

Dana was a founding board member of the Christopher Reeve Foundation, which became the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation after its merger with the American Paralysis Association. Dana took over as chair after her husband's death. Dana was deeply involved with the Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Resource Center, PRC, which promotes the health and well-being of people and families living with paralysis.

Dana was also committed to the Reeve-Irvine Center for Spinal Cord