the 17th century. Our obligation to the future demands that we take our place at the forefront of these transformations. We must organize ourselves in ways that enable us fully to engage in such exploration, as we have begun to do by creating the Broad Institute, by founding cross-school departments, by launching a School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. We must overcome barriers both within and beyond Harvard that could slow or constrain such work, and we must provide the resources and the facilities—like the new science buildings in both Cambridge and Allston—to support it. Our obligation to the future makes additional demands. Universities are, uniquely, a place of philosophers as well as scientists. It is urgent that we pose the questions of ethics and meaning that will enable us to confront the human, the social and the moral significance of our changing relationship with the natural world.

Accountability to the future requires that we leap geographic as well as intellectual boundaries. Just as we live in a time of narrowing distances between fields and disciplines, so we inhabit an increasingly transnational world in which knowledge itself is the most powerful connector. Our lives here in Cambridge and Boston cannot be separated from the future of the rest of the earth: we share the same changing climate; we contract and spread the same diseases; we participate in the same economy. We must recognize our accountability to the wider world, for, as John Winthrop warned in 1630, ''we must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us.''

HARVARD AS A SOURCE AND SYMBOL

Harvard is both a source and a symbol of the ever expanding knowledge upon which the future of the earth depends, and we must take an active and reflective role in this new geography of learning. Higher education is burgeoning around the globe in forms that are at once like and unlike our own. American universities are widely emulated, but our imitators often display limited appreciation for the principles of free inquiry and the culture of creative unruliness that defines us.

The ''Veritas'' in Harvard's shield was originally intended to invoke the absolutes of divine revelation, the unassailable verities of Puritan religion. We understand it quite differently now. Truth is an aspiration, not a possession. Yet in this we—and all universities defined by the spirit of debate and free inquiry—challenge and even threaten those who would embrace unquestioned certainties. We must commit ourselves to the uncomfortable position of doubt, to the humility of always believing there is more to know, more to teach, more to understand.

The kinds of accountability I have described represent at once a privilege and a responsibility. We are able to live at Harvard in a world of intellectual freedom, of inspiring tradition, of extraordinary resources, because we are part of that curious and venerable organization known as a university. We need better to comprehend and advance its purposes—not simply to explain ourselves to an often critical public, but to hold ourselves to our own account. We must act not just as students and staff, historians and computer scientists, lawyers and physicians, linguists and sociologists, but as citizens of the university, with obligations to this commonwealth of the mind. We must regard ourselves as accountable to one another, for we constitute the institution that in turn defines our possibilities. Accountability to the future encompasses special accountability to our students, for they are our most important purpose and legacy. And we are responsible not just to and for this university, Harvard, in this moment, 2007, but to the very concept of the university as it has evolved over nearly a millennium.

It is not easy to convince a nation or a world to respect, much less support, institutions committed to challenging society's fundamental assumptions. But it is our obligation to make that case: both to explain our purposes and achieve them so well that these precious institutions survive and prosper in this new century. Harvard cannot do this alone. But all of us know that Harvard has a special role. That is why we are here; that is why it means so much to us.

Last week I was given a brown manila envelope that had been entrusted to the University Archives in 1951 by James B. Conant, Harvard's 23rd president. He left instructions that it should be opened by the Harvard president at the outset of the next century ''and not before.'' I broke the seal on the mysterious package to find a remarkable letter from my predecessor. It was addressed to ''My dear Sir.'' Conant wrote with a sense of imminent danger. He feared an impending World War III that would make ''the destruction of our cities including Cambridge quite possible.'' ''We all wonder,'' he continued, ''how the free world is going to get through the next fifty years.''

HARVARD'S FUTURE

But as he imagined Harvard's future, Conant shifted from foreboding to faith. If the ''prophets of doom'' proved wrong, if there was a Harvard president alive to read his letter, Conant was confident about what the university would be. ''You will receive this note and be in charge of a more prosperous and significant institution than the one over which I have the honor to preside . . . That . . . [Harvard] will maintain the traditions of academic freedom, of tolerance for heresy, I feel sure.'' We must dedicate ourselves to making certain he continues to be right; we must share and sustain his faith.

Conant's letter, like our gathering here, marks a dramatic intersection of the past with the future. This is a ceremony in which I pledge—with keys and seal and charter—my accountability to the traditions that his voice from the past invokes. And at the same time, I affirm, in compact with all of you, my accountability to and for Harvard's future. As in Conant's day, we face uncertainties in a world that gives us sound reason for disquiet. But we too maintain an unwavering belief in the purposes and potential of this university and in all it can do to shape how the world will look another half century from now. Let us embrace those responsibilities and possibilities; let us share them ''knitt together . . . as one;'' let us take up the work joyfully, for such an assignment is a privilege beyond measure.

LOSS OF SOUTH CAROLINA STUDENTS

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, as we are confronted by the deep sadness of this tragic loss, may we never lose sight of the life, vitality, and youth that was suddenly taken from us on October 27, 2007, in Ocean Isle, NC. Today and in the difficult days to come, we offer our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of these seven young men and women. The University of South Carolina, Clemson University, and the State of South Carolina feel the immeasurable pain of losing seven of our most precious sons and daughters, and as the family South Carolinians are, we share in your grief and offer our love and support.

Not only do we mourn the loss of sons and daughters, but we mourn the loss of future leaders and scholars, peacemakers and trailblazers, parents and friends. The world was vastly open to these young men and women. I ask others to find the courage and resolve to fulfill their suspended hopes and dreams, ensuring that futures overcome flames and aspirations prevail over ashes.

Though it is grief that connects us now, let it be the spirit of their lives that forever bonds our community. We should honor these students by taking up the load they left for us to carry and seeing their earthly aspirations through to their full fruition.

XV PAN AMERICAN GAMES

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I join all of Connecticut in extending congratulations to the many young athletes who competed in the 15th Pan American Games, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. For over half a century, these games have brought together athletes from across the Western Hemisphere. This year 5,648 athletes from 49 countries came together in Rio to compete in 38 sports.

The Pan American games, similar to the Olympics, provide us another valuable opportunity to enjoy international athletic competition undertaken for pride and the love of the sport. By participating in the 15th Pan American Games, these young Americans have had an opportunity that few of their fellow Americans ever will—to join in competition with other young people from North, Central, and South America.

I would like to commend the 14 athletes from Connecticut who competed in the games: John Ball, Andrew Bolton, Eliza Cleveland, Reilley Dampeer, Robert Merrick, Alyssa Naeher, Todd Paul, Cara Raether, Geoffrey Rathgeber, Sarah Trowbridge, Karen Scavotto, Cameron Winklevoss, Tyler Winklevoss, Bartosz Wolski. It is with great pleasure and pride that I offer further congratulations to the Connecticut athletes who brought home three gold and five silver medals and one bronze medal. Without a doubt, the nine medals won by Connecticut's athletes contributed to America's overall victory at the 15th Pan American Games. It is my hope that these kinds of events will further unite our hemisphere.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE WAILUKU COURTHOUSE

● Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, this month, the county of Maui celebrated the centennial anniversary of the historic Wailuku Courthouse. Built in 1907, the Wailuku Courthouse served as

the center of the judicial system on Maui for more than 80 years. Today, it is home to Maui County's Department of the Prosecuting Attorney.

The Hawaiian Organic Act, passed by Congress in 1900, created a system of governance for the new Territory of Hawaii. County governments were established along with a territorial court system. The town of Wailuku was selected as the seat of Maui's county government, making it the logical place to construct a new courthouse and other public buildings.

The contract to build the Wailuku Courthouse, at the cost of $23,312.40, was awarded to Angus P. McDonald in September 1907. Construction began the next month and was completed a year later. In 1909, the Honorable Judge Aluwae Noa Kepoikai became the first judge to preside over cases presented in the new Wailuku Courthouse.

As Hawaii and the county of Maui grew, so did the demand for legal services and the needs of the judiciary. In 1988, the State judicial system on Maui moved into a new building, and in 1991, plans were made to gut the courthouse. However, the county of Maui intervened and took control of the courthouse by way of a land swap with the State, saving the historic building and its interior. A $1.8 million restoration followed, and in 1993, Maui's Department of the Prosecuting Attorney moved into the newly renovated courthouse.

The historic courthouse has served the people of Maui for 100 years. The fact that it remains as both a working government building and as an architectural treasure of Hawaii's past is the result of the efforts of the many people who are to be commended and honored as we celebrate the centennial of the Wailuku Courthouse.●

RECOGNIZING MAJOR GENERAL HARRY B. BURCHSTEAD, JR.

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, today I ask the Senate to join me in recognizing Major General Harry B. Burchstead, Jr. on the occasion of his retirement from the South Carolina Army National Guard. Since entering the United States Army as a commissioned officer through the ROTC program at Clemson University, General Burchstead has remained a dedicated serviceman for his entire career. Immediately after his graduation from Clemson, General Burchstead loyally answered his call of duty and deployed for combat service in the Vietnam War.

After leaving active duty in 1971, General Burchstead went on to pursue his law degree at the University of South Carolina. While in law school, General Burchstead continued his military service by joining the South Carolina Army National Guard in 1972. For the next thirty-five years, General Burchstead proudly served the State of South Carolina as a traditional citizen soldier through many levels of military service.

In 1997, General Burchstead was appointed to serve as the Deputy Adjutant General of South Carolina. In this capacity, he was critical in advising the Adjutant General's oversight of the South Carolina Army and Air National Guard. For six years, General Burchstead's strategic and diligent counsel was integral to the effective military operations of our state's full-time servicemen and women.

As a distinguished leader, General Burchstead was selected to command the 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command in 2003. In his role as Commander, General Burchstead led Joint Task Force Cobra in its execution of the Juniper-Cobra Missile Defense Exercise in Israel. Additionally, General Burchstead was successful in commanding the Joint Project Optical Windmill Air and Missile Defense Exercise in Europe, as well as the U.S.-Russian Federation Missile Defense Exercise at Fort Bliss, Texas.

A dedicated patriot, General Burchstead formally retired from the South Carolina Army National Guard on September 30th, 2007. Over his thirty-five years of service General Burchstead has amassed numerous awards and decorations including the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Purple Heart, the U.S. Meritorious Service Medal and the Army Commendation Medal. His military career will be forever marked by his selfless devotion and sacrifice to both our country and the State of South Carolina. I wish General Burchstead the very best in his retirement and ask that the United States Senate join me in thanking him for his lifelong career of service.●

CONGRATULATING FLOTATION TECHNOLOGIES

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Flotation Technologies, an extraordinary global leader in the design and production of deepwater buoyancy products from my home State of Maine. Flotation Technologies of Biddeford recently received the Manufacturing Excellence Award from the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership, MEP, for ''superior manufacturing practices'' that have successfully propelled the firm into the international market.

Flotation Technologies creates and manufactures syntactic foam buoyancy and polyurethane elastomer products for the offshore, oceanographic, and seismic industries, as well as for the U.S. military. Founded in 1979, the enterprise has been manufacturing syntactic foam longer than any other company in business today. This year, to meet the company's rapid expansion, Flotation Technologies relocated to a 45,000-square-foot facility in the Biddeford Industrial Park. The new facility will allow Flotation Technologies to install state-of-the-art automated production equipment that will triple production capacity.

This pioneering company makes extraordinarily resilient products for extreme environments. Flotation Technologies' buoys are lowered miles below the ocean surface, where they face up to 10,000 pounds of pressure per square inch, equivalent to the weight of a truck. They are as dense as oak, yet still relatively lightweight, and the buoys can survive under the frigid polar ice in the Arctic and under the searing heat in West Africa. These high-quality products were even relied upon to help shoot the 1997 Oscar-winning blockbuster movie ''Titanic.''

Flotation Technologies began as a small family enterprise, primarily serving scientists engaged in oceanographic and earthquake research. In 2002, as energy prices rose sharply, interest in offshore exploration grew rapidly. Flotation Technologies' buoyancy products are crucial to support the miles of flexible piping needed to extract resources from the ocean floor. In the last few years, the company has become a major supplier of these products, and most recently, Flotation Technologies won a $4.1 million contract to build buoyancy modules for Frontier Drilling, a Houston oil company.

Expansion into this business has been a rewarding endeavor, and Flotation Technologies is setting its sights on further growth. The firm currently employs 42 people in Maine, and they expect to add at least 10 more employees by the end of the year. Revenues are expected to hit $10.5 million this year, and management is aiming for $30 million in sales within 3 years. Flotation Technologies recently worked with the Maine MEP to develop a strategic business plan that dramatically improved the efficiency of its operations. The Maine MEP is part of a nationwide network of technical, manufacturing, and business specialists linked together through the U.S. Department of Commerce. By implementing the Maine MEP's streamlining techniques, the company was able to double sales for 2006.

Despite such impressive growth, Flotation Technologies has remained in the hands of a tightly-knit group of family members. Tim Cook, the current president, is the son of the company's founder, David Cook. As Tim notes, his family has ''put it all on the line'' for this venture for nearly 30 years. I congratulate Tim and his family on their success and wish them well in the years to come. Their dedicated entrepreneurial spirit is very much a part of what makes our Nation great, and I am proud to have them in my home State of Maine.●

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2295. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry.