

Law, 2007; Volunteer of the Year, Wheeler Boys and Girls Club, Indianapolis, 1988; Member, Indianapolis Bar Association, 1975–Present; Current Vice President and Member Pro Bono Standing Committee, 2002–2004.

Bloomington Board of Visitors, Indiana University School of Law, 1985–1996; Chair, 1994 and Dean Search Committees, 1990, 2003.

Member, Indiana Supreme Court.

Member, U.S. Attorney General's Advisory Committee of U.S. Attorneys, 1985–1987 and Vice Chairman, 1986–1987.

Member, Judicial Conference of the United States; Member, Committee on Automation and Technology, 1994–1997 and Member, Committee on Court and Judicial Security, 1990–1992.

ABA Rating: Unanimous well-qualified.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is, Shall the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of John Daniel Tinder, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit?

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. LOTT. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 442 Ex.]

#### YEAS—93

Akaka	Dorgan	McConnell
Alexander	Durbin	Menendez
Allard	Ensign	Mikulski
Barrasso	Enzi	Murkowski
Baucus	Feingold	Murray
Bayh	Graham	Nelson (FL)
Bennett	Grassley	Nelson (NE)
Bingaman	Gregg	Pryor
Bond	Hagel	Reed
Boxer	Harkin	Reid
Brown	Hatch	Roberts
Brownback	Hutchison	Rockefeller
Bunning	Inhofe	Salazar
Burr	Inouye	Sanders
Byrd	Isakson	Schumer
Cantwell	Johnson	Sessions
Cardin	Kennedy	Shelby
Carper	Kerry	Smith
Casey	Klobuchar	Snowe
Chambliss	Kohl	Specter
Coburn	Kyl	Stabenow
Cochran	Landrieu	Stevens
Coleman	Lautenberg	Sununu
Collins	Leahy	Tester
Conrad	Levin	Thune
Corker	Lieberman	Vitter
Cornyn	Lincoln	Voivovich
Craig	Lott	Warner
Crapo	Lugar	Webb
DeMint	Martinez	Whitehouse
Dole	McCaskill	Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—7

Biden	Domenici	Obama
Clinton	Feinstein	
Dodd	McCain	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the President will be notified of the Senate's action.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will return to legislative session.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORVIS SCHOOL OF NURSING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as the Senate finishes its business for the year, it is my privilege to rise today in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Orvis School of Nursing at the University of Nevada, an important part of Nevada's health care community.

The beginnings of the Orvis School are humble. During a brief hospitalization in Reno, Arthur Orvis, a stockbroker and Nevada resident, noticed the lack of student nurses and began to wonder about the educational opportunities for health care providers in Nevada. On December 15, 1955, in a letter to University President Minard W. Stout, Orvis wrote, "I desire to give \$100,000 to the University of Nevada for the establishment of a department to be known as the 'Orvis School of Nursing.' This is a free will offering with no strings attached."

As a result of this generosity, the Orvis School of Nursing was founded by Arthur and Mae Orvis at the University of Nevada in 1957. When the Orvis School opened its doors in the fall of that year, there were 12 students and 5 faculty members. Unusual for the time period, the Orvis School's first class was very diverse, including one African-American student, one male student, one Asian-American student, and nine white female students.

The Orvis School of Nursing has come a long way from that first class of 12 students. Today, a wide group of students attend a world-class institution that offers the highest quality of nursing education. While traditional nursing programs focus only on hospital nursing, the Orvis School is distinctive in that it offers a bachelor's of science degree in nursing, emphasizing nursing leadership, community health, and nursing research. I confidently believe that this unique focus will lead to greater innovations and ideas for the future of health care.

In closing, I extend my most sincere gratitude to the Orvis School of Nursing, its alumni, and greater community. Nevadans are fortunate to have such a talented and skilled institution in our State.

#### GLOBAL HIV/AIDS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise in recognition of World AIDS Day, which millions around the globe commemorated on December 1. Although this event will be a recent memory as the new year begins, it is my hope that its purpose will be reflected in our thoughts and actions throughout 2008 and beyond.

World AIDS Day is a solemn opportunity to remember that HIV/AIDS continues to wreak havoc on individuals, families, and communities around the globe. Although the new estimates on HIV prevalence is good news, we cannot forget that AIDS is still a leading cause of death. More than 5,700 lives are taken by this disease every day, many just at a time when they are attending school, raising children, or contributing to society as productive adults. At the same time, nearly 7,000 people become infected every day, meaning that as 2.5 million more people—about as many people in my home state of Nevada—will face the start of the new year with HIV/AIDS. More than 30 million globally are already living with HIV/AIDS today.

In Nevada, the number of HIV and AIDS cases diagnosed each year since 2000 is on the upward trend, and AIDS rates continue to disproportionately impact ethnic and racial minorities. Our State also ranks 14th in the Nation for the rate of adolescents and adults living with AIDS. As a Nevadan, as well as a Member of Congress, I know that more must be done to tackle the epidemic at home and abroad.

In Congress, we must continue to support international AIDS relief programs like PEPFAR and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. It should be a priority to fund vital programs that fight HIV/AIDS domestically as well, especially the Ryan White Care Act and the National Family Planning Program, which works to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and other diseases. Medicaid in particular is a lifeline for vulnerable HIV/AIDS patients who would otherwise have no other means of receiving the care they need.

In giving recognition to the human toll of the HIV/AIDS global epidemic, let us also heed the resulting call to action. From supporting prevention to treatment, individual remembrance to public awareness, let us all keep working together to ensure that the goals of World AIDS Day will soon become reality.

#### DARFUR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have repeatedly come to the floor to speak

about one of the worst human tragedies in recent memory—the crisis in Darfur.

For 4 long years the world has watched as thousands of innocent victims have been murdered, tortured, and raped—their villages burned, their livelihoods stolen. More than 2 million people have been chased from their homes—many trapped in dangerous refugee camps for almost 5 years.

Many of us on both sides of the aisle and in the international community have repeatedly called for greater U.S. and global action. President Bush has rightly called the situation in Darfur genocide. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown has said, “Darfur is the greatest humanitarian crisis the world faces today.”

And U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has made ending the crisis one of his top priorities.

His efforts and those of many others led to 2 promising breakthroughs earlier this year.

First, the various parties agreed to start peace talks. With more and more rebel groups involved in the violence, a long-term political settlement will be vital in bringing stability to the region.

Second, the U.N. Security Council voted to deploy a 26,000-member peacekeeping force to bring the ongoing carnage to an end and help create an atmosphere for such negotiations.

Under pressure from the international community, the Sudanese government—notorious for its delays, denials, and obstruction—grudgingly accepted this new force.

Despite these assurances, we had many reasons to be skeptical of the regime's true intentions.

For example, Sudan has appointed its own former minister of interior, Mr. Ahmed Harun, to lead a committee to investigate human rights abuses and also to help oversee the deployment of the peacekeeping force.

Mr. Harun is wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes.

As interior minister, Mr. Harun helped fund, recruit, and arm the Janjaweed militia which was directly involved in perpetuating the genocide in Darfur.

Mr. Harun's place in on trial in The Hague, not investigating violence he helped perpetuate.

Equally troubling are the continued attacks on international aid workers, fissures in the peace agreement between North and South Sudan, and continued violence in Darfur.

While the Khartoum government thumbs its nose at the international community, thousands of innocent victims remain trapped in sprawling refugee camps—their lives horribly uprooted, their families traumatized with fear and dislocation.

And now, tragically, it appears that the Sudanese government was never serious about the U.N. peacekeeping force. With only 3 weeks until the de-

ployment is scheduled to begin the Sudanese government is back to its old tricks.

A few weeks ago, the U.N.'s top peacekeeping official, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, told the Security Council that obstacles created by the Sudanese Government were jeopardizing the deployment of the new peacekeeping force.

In particular, Sudan is now objecting to the deployment of non-African peacekeepers.

Sudan's obstruction is madness and must not be tolerated.

In fact, 13 former world leaders and current activists, including former President Jimmy Carter, former U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, Bangladeshi microfinance champion Muhammed Yunus, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu have called for the immediate deployment of the peacekeeping force.

This group of “Elders” noted in a recent report that the residents of Darfur, as well as Sudanese elsewhere, are desperate for the peacekeepers to arrive.

The stakes are too high and the humanitarian crisis has dragged on too long to allow any further backsliding by the Sudanese Government.

That is why I believe it is time to increase the pressure on the Sudanese Government.

Earlier this year I introduced 2 versions of legislation that would increase economic pressure on the Sudanese regime. Each of those bills supported state and local divestment efforts, and therefore would allow each of us to do our part to end the madness in Darfur by selling off any investments in companies that support the Sudanese regime.

I am pleased that Senator DODD, as chairman of the Banking Committee, adopted ideas from these bills into the Sudan Accountability and Divestment Act of 2007—a bill the Senate passed last week and the House just moments ago passed by a unanimous vote of 411 to 0.

I thank him, as well as Ranking Member SHELBY and others who have worked on this bill—especially Senators CORNYN and BROWNBACK, who joined me as lead sponsors of the legislation I originally introduced.

I hope Congress's support for this bill sends the Government of Sudan an important message—that its brazen delays and obstruction of an internationally sanctioned peacekeeping force in Darfur can no longer be tolerated.

#### CONGRATULATING OLIVET NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Olivet Nazarene University on its 100th-year anniversary.

Olivet Nazarene University was founded by a group of families led by Edward Richards and Orla Nesbitt in

1907, first as a grade school and later as a liberal arts college. From humble beginnings, the university has endured bankruptcy, fire, a change of location to Bourbonnais, and tornado devastation to become the fine institution of higher learning that it is today. Olivet Nazarene University has grown as a liberal arts institution, with additional locations now throughout the greater Chicago area and in Hong Kong.

The university also has the distinction of serving as the summer home of the Chicago Bears. Olivet has hosted the NFL team for its training camp since 2002.

Currently, 4,400 undergraduate and postgraduate students attend the university. Olivet Nazarene offers these students 100 undergraduate fields of study, nearly 20 master's degrees, non-traditional adult degree completion programs, and a doctor of education in ethical leadership.

Olivet Nazarene University has graduated many notable alumni who have given back to the university, the State of Illinois, and this country in significant ways. An estimated 30,000 Olivet Nazarene University alumni live and work around the world, including Georgia Southwestern State University president Kendall A. Blanchard and Ticketmaster cofounder Cecil Crawford.

Olivet Nazarene University sets a standard of affordable excellence, with a cost below average for private colleges nationwide. Approximately 96 percent of traditional undergraduates receive a total of \$24.9 million in scholarships and grants.

I congratulate Olivet Nazarene University, its president, Dr. John C. Bowling, and all the staff on 100 years of service to their students and alumni, the State of Illinois, and our Nation.

#### FARM BILL CONFERENCE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to speak about an issue that may come up during the negotiations between the House and the Senate to reconcile the farm bill.

The bill we passed last week in the Senate included a sense-of-the-Senate resolution addressing trade in sweeteners between parties to the North American Free Trade Agreement, also known as NAFTA.

Apparently, some view this language as just a placeholder for new language that will be inserted in conference.

Even more troubling, the new language that is being contemplated would call for managed trade in sweeteners between the United States and Mexico.

The issue of trade in sweeteners between the United States and Mexico has a long history.

For years, Mexico put up barrier after barrier to our exports of high fructose corn syrup.

It started in 1998. That year, Mexico imposed an antidumping duty order on imports of high fructose corn syrup from the United States.