

accomplishments which have brought her to the highest level of rank and responsibility in military medicine.

HONORING JASON RAY

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of Jason Ray, a young man whose life was tragically cut short this past weekend while with the University of North Carolina basketball team during their trip to the NCAA Tournament games in New Jersey.

Jason, a 21-year-old native of Concord, NC, was set to graduate from UNC-Chapel Hill this May majoring in business administration with a minor in religion.

Jason was best known for regularly performing at sporting events as the university's mascot, "Rameses." He was a member of UNC's cheerleading squad.

I have seen Jason perform at the school's sporting events. I admired his unmatched school spirit and his animated, energetic interaction with the Tar Heel fans.

The University of North Carolina community lost a dear friend in Jason on Monday. However, he left a legacy that will certainly last for the many generations of fans that watched him perform. College basketball holds a special place in North Carolinians' hearts. Jason's team spirit and dedication helped make rooting for UNC basketball a community tradition.

I send my thoughts and prayers to his family, teammates, classmates, fans, and friends.

COLLEGE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate a college basketball team that this past weekend won a national title.

I am speaking of Barton College in Wilson, NC, which beat the defending champion Winona State to win the Division II Basketball Championship.

Through their win, Barton College also ended Winona State's Division II record 57-game winning streak.

Now I have seen a lot of college basketball games over the course of my life, especially representing the State of North Carolina, where basketball is not just a game but a way of life, but this one ranks close to the top when it comes to exciting endings.

With only 45 seconds left to play in the game, Barton down by 7 points—a deficit that would be extremely difficult to overcome by any team—and assisted by the stellar performance of his teammates, Barton's Anthony Atkinson scored an unbelievable 10 points in the remaining 39 seconds, included a buzzer-beating lay-up, to win the Division II national title by a score of 77 to 75.

If you didn't see the game live, I would suggest you go on the Internet and watch the ending to this fantastic game.

It is simply unbelievable and is reminiscent of Christian Laettner's game-winning last-second jump shot in Duke's dramatic 104 to 103 victory over Kentucky in the East regional final of the 1992 NCAA Tournament.

For Barton College, a small private school with a student body of only 960 students, this win over Winona State, a relatively large school with an enrollment of over 8,000 students, represents a "David and Goliath" story for a smalltown North Carolina basketball team.

Again, I congratulate the NCAA Division II National Champion Barton Bulldogs and head coach Ron Lievens on an extremely exciting end to an extraordinary season.

BIOFUELS FOR ENERGY SECURITY AND TRANSPORTATION ACT

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, over 18 months ago, the President signed into law the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The enactment of that legislation was a watershed event in structuring sound energy policy for this Nation's future. One of the linchpins of that act is its commitment to the development of ethanol and other alternative fuels that will move us toward greater energy security by displacing foreign sources of energy for our transportation fuels.

Since EPACT was enacted, we have seen a surge of interest in the development of infrastructure for production and distribution of ethanol and other biofuels. I am proud that the Energy Policy Act of 2005 is greatly responsible for that. EPACT is creating American energy and American jobs in America's heartland.

Just as I am proud of the new world of alternative fuels created in EPACT, I am also very proud of the bill Senator BINGAMAN and I have introduced to build on the renewable fuels provisions of that Act—the Biofuels for Energy Security and Transportation Act, the BEST Act—of 2007.

The Energy Policy Act established the first renewable fuels standard, which required the production of 7.5 billion gallons of ethanol annually by the year 2012. Private industry responded, and today we are on course to exceeding significantly the levels set in the Energy. Since August 2005, construction has begun on more than 70 new ethanol biorefineries, creating more than 160,000 new jobs, and last year, this country produced nearly 5 billion gallons of ethanol.

Building on that success, the BEST Act that Senator BINGAMAN and I have introduced increases the renewable fuels standard, RFS—beginning at a level of 8.5 billion gallons next year and increasing to 36 billion gallons in 2022. We get this ambitious RFS with the understanding that promotion and enhancement of advanced biofuels, such as cellulosic ethanol, will be essential to making this new goal a reality.

In his recent State of the Union speech, the President laid out an ambitious but worthy goal to reduce our consumption of gasoline by 20 percent in 10 years. The President envisioned biofuels as a key component to meeting this goal. In addition to implementing the 2005 Energy Bill, the BEST Act is another step, and a very significant one, in achieving that mark. By increasing our production and consumption of biofuels in the United States, we can decrease our reliance on foreign oil, while at the same time creating American jobs in a growing biofuels industry.

To complement the increase in the renewable fuels standard, our bill includes several measures to help promote the establishment of a biofuels infrastructure, including grants to States and localities to build biofuels corridors.

Another enhancement to speed production and distribution of these fuels is Federal loan guarantees specifically for these projects. I am pleased that we appear to be getting on the right path to implementing a significant loan guarantee program as envisioned in the title 17 of EPACT. This provision is absolutely essential to starting up some of the domestic clean energy investments we so urgently need to ensure our energy security. The BEST Act further refines those provisions to reflect the realities of commercial project finance.

Finally, the bill increases our investment in bioenergy research and development by 50 percent. This research is essential to developing methods to produce advanced biofuels, such as cellulosic ethanol, that we will need to meet our long-term goals.

Several weeks ago, Senator BINGAMAN and I sponsored a biofuels conference in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee to explore all of the issues related to this important piece of our energy policy. We heard from numerous government and private sector scientists, industry project developers, and the financial community. We explored every facet of the issues related to increased biofuels production and development. The BEST Act we have introduced is the culmination of our deliberations. I am very pleased with this effort and hopeful that it will be every bit as successful as the effort we spawned in the 2005 Energy bill.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RETIREMENT OF JOE DART

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I honor a great and dedicated American, Joseph A. Dart, who for almost 30 years has championed the rights of workers across Massachusetts. As he prepares for a well-deserved retirement, I am grateful to be able to pay tribute to this wonderful man and give him the recognition he deserves for touching the lives of so many.

Joe has spent his career bringing real meaning to the American dream. As president of the Massachusetts Building Trades Council, AFL-CIO, and executive vice president of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, Joe advocates for the rights of more than 75,000 construction trades men and women throughout the Commonwealth.

Joe has fought for, and defended, the right to collective bargaining and the empowerment that it has brought to working families throughout our history.

Joe helped write competitive bid laws for public construction projects, helped to pass the OSHA 10-hour law which requires all construction workers on public projects to undergo safety training, and helped to pass a law strengthening wage enforcement.

Throughout his years in public service, Joe has negotiated dozens of agreements to guarantee fair, competitive wages, a reasonable work week, and safe working conditions on billions of dollars of construction projects throughout the Commonwealth.

I am most fortunate to have had his support, friendship, and counsel throughout many campaigns and many years in office here in Massachusetts.

An exemplary community leader, Joe has worked tirelessly to uphold the rights of thousands of Massachusetts workers who entrusted him with this office. Massachusetts is grateful for the service he has provided. Countless families in Massachusetts are living better, safer lives because of Joe Dart and his commitment to organized labor.

On behalf of workers throughout our State, I am proud to honor him for his selfless dedication to countless works across the Commonwealth.●

RECOGNIZING DR. LEN PETERS

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a great contributor to the State of Washington and to the national science and education communities. Dr. Len Peters recently stepped down as the Director of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, WA. Fortunately, Dr. Peters has agreed to remain in Richland, working for Battelle Memorial Institute to help promote and build education and community projects.

PNNL, a DOE national laboratory, experienced tremendous growth during Dr. Peters' tenure. The lab added 330 new members to its world-class staff, enabling the facility to better serve the Nation in the areas of renewable energy, national security, and environmental research. Dr. Peters led the staff in enhancing relationships with a number of research universities in the region, continuing his commitment to quality public-private relationships in the interest of furthering math and science education.

Dr. Peters came to PNNL in 2003, after serving as the vice provost for research at Virginia Polytechnic Insti-

tute and State University. Prior to guiding Virginia Tech's ambitious research portfolio, he served as acting vice president for research and graduate studies at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Peters spent nearly 20 years in the classroom, educating our next generation of scientists. He is a distinguished scholar and a leader in the field of atmospheric chemistry.

In his new role at Battelle, Dr. Peters will continue to serve Washington State through community outreach programs. His work to expand higher education opportunities in the Tri-Cities, as well as his leadership on the Hanford Reach Interpretive Center Board are examples of his strong commitment to building a better community, region and State.

I thank Dr. Len Peters for his guidance and commitment to PNNL over the past 3½ years. For the people of Washington State and the entire Pacific Northwest region, I thank Dr. Peters for his continued service to our community and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:01 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 137. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen prohibitions against animal fighting, and for other purposes.

H.R. 580. An act to amend chapter 35 of title 28, United States Code, to provide for a 120-day limit to the term of a United States attorney appointed on an interim basis by the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

H.R. 753. An act to redesignate the Federal building located at 167 North Main Street in Memphis, Tennessee, as the "Clifford Davis and Odell Horton Federal Building".

H.R. 802. An act to amend the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships to implement MARPOL Annex VI.

H.R. 1019. An act to designate the United States customhouse building located at 31 Gonzalez Clemente Avenue in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, as the "Rafael Martinez Nadal United States Customhouse Building".

H.R. 1138. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 306 East Main Street in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, as the "J. Herbert W. Small Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

H.R. 1195. An act to amend the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1468. An act to ensure that, for each small business participating in the 8(a) business development program that was affected by Hurricane Katrina of 2005, the period in which it can participate is extended by 18 months.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S.494. An act to endorse further enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and to facilitate the timely ad-

mission of new members to NATO, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 238. An act to repeal a prohibition on the use of certain funds for tunneling in certain areas with respect to the Los Angeles to San Fernando Valley Metro Rail project, California; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1019. An act to designate the United States customhouse building located at 31 Gonzalez Clemente Avenue in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, as the "Rafael Martinez Nadal United States Customhouse Building"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 1138. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 306 East Main Street in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, as the "J. Herbert W. Small Federal Building and United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 1195. An act to amend the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users to make technical corrections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 1468. An act to ensure that, for each small business participating in the 8(a) business development program that was affected by Hurricane Katrina of 2005, the period in which it can participate is extended by 18 months; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 137. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen prohibitions against animal fighting, and for other purposes.

H.R. 580. An act to amend chapter 35 of title 28, United States Code, to provide for a 120-day limit to the term of a United States attorney appointed on an interim basis by the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 997. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for human embryonic stem cell research.

S. 1001. A bill to restore Second Amendment rights in the District of Columbia.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-49. A resolution adopted by the California State Lands Commission urging the Senate to pass Senate Resolution 151; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Whereas, U.S. Senators Boxer and Feinstein have introduced S. 151 to prohibit new oil and gas leasing in federal waters off California; and