

Dr. King to the esteemed place he occupies today.

Perhaps Dr. King's most enduring virtue was his hope. It surely was on display when he delivered his most famous oration. In 1963, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, gazing out at the Washington Monument and beyond to the Capitol, he delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech, which is familiar to all Americans.

As Dr. King looked upon these impressive symbols of America, he reflected upon the glaring shortcoming of our democracy. For all its successes, America had failed to realize the truth put forth in our Declaration of Independence: "that all men are created equal." Amid these monuments to the promise of America, he told hundreds of thousands of the Nation's greatest injustice: racial inequality. Yet he still maintained hope, speaking in terms of dreams and freedom.

In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act, and the Voting Rights Act became law the following year. Despite these legislative gains, Dr. King realized that achieving equality of opportunity required something much greater, and far more difficult, than mere legislation. It required a change in the hearts and minds of citizens.

Despite this challenge, his optimism did not waver. In 1967, he appeared on "Meet the Press" where he was asked if he believed "the American racial problem can be solved."

"Yes, I do," he replied. "I refuse to give up. I refuse to despair it in this moment. I refuse to allow myself to fall into the dark chambers of pessimism, because I think in any social revolution, the one thing that keeps it going is hope."

King's hope survived him, and today we are closer to the world that he envisioned.

We honor historical figures not merely because they achieved or said great things. We honor them because their lives continue to offer insight that we might use to improve our world.

"[T]he goal of America is freedom," he wrote as he sat in a Birmingham, AL, jail cell. Only a man with great hope and faith in the triumph of good could write those words in those circumstances. It is with similar hope that we as Americans should proceed today, whatever the challenges that confront us.

NATIVE HAWAIIAN REORGANIZATION ACT

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, today the Senator from Hawaii, Mr. AKAKA, reintroduced the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act, a bill that would create a new, race-based government within the borders of the United States. I strongly oppose this bill. This legislation was considered and rejected by the Senate last year; we ought not waste one moment of the Senate's time on it this year. Instead, we should con-

sider legislation that unites us all as Americans. Our Nation must remain "one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all"—"not many Nations, divided by race, with special privileges for some." Here are four reasons this bill should be stopped in its tracks: 1. It would create a new, sovereign government within our borders. 2. As noted by the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, the bill "would discriminate on the basis of race or national origin." 3. The bill is really about transferring control over "land" and "other assets" to this new, race-based government. 4. Native Hawaiians are not just "another Indian tribe" since they do not meet the requirements under current law of being sovereign for the last 100 years, living as a separate and distinct community, and having a preexisting political organization.

I hope my colleagues will join me in opposing this dangerous piece of legislation.

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY LAKERS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate the Grand Valley State Lakers on winning the 2006 Division II National Championship. Grand Valley completed a highly entertaining and rewarding season on December 16, 2006, when they defeated Northwest Missouri State 17-14 in the championship game. This victory is a great source of pride for all those affiliated with Grand Valley State University and for the State of Michigan.

It was a record breaking year on many fronts for the Grand Valley State Football team. This victory was the culmination of a perfect 15-0 season for the Lakers. Under the guidance of Coach Chuck Martin, Grand Valley State won their fourth Division II Championship in the last 5 years. During this time, the Lakers have become a powerhouse in Division II football and have a .709 winning percentage. Since 1999, they have an extraordinary 86-9 record, which is the second highest in all of college football. Moreover, quarterback Cullen Finnerty became the most prolific offensive player in college football history this year. In his 4-year career, Finnerty amassed a 51-4 record and led the Lakers to three national championships. As quarterback of the Lakers, Finnerty finished his career with over 10,000 total yards, including over 2,000 yards rushing.

The championship game provided its share of excitement. The thousands of GVSU fans and supporters who made the trip from the campus in Allendale to the stadium in Florence, AL, were not disappointed with the result. It proved to be a hard fought contest between two great teams. Grand Valley State eventually forced three crucial turnovers in the game, which included a NW Missouri St. fumble in the Grand Valley end zone late in the fourth quarter. Junior cornerback Bill Brenchin

made significant contributions on all three plays. Brenchin ended the game with two interceptions and recovered the fumble in the end zone as NW Missouri St. attempted to tie or win the game. Overall, the Grand Valley defense was too much for NW Missouri St. to overcome, and, the Laker offense, under Finnerty's direction had more than enough weapons to stifle the opposing defense.

I am proud to recognize the Grand Valley State football team for their remarkable achievements on the field this year. They have proven that hard work, dedication and commitment can produce great results. The members of the team should be proud of their efforts and should savor their recent success. They have been a tremendous source of inspiration for both the Grand Valley State community and the entire State of Michigan.

Each member of the Grand Valley State team, including Anthony Adams, Sam Allen, Matt Bakker, Lyle Banks, Brandon Barnes, Ryan Bass, Matt Beaty, Nate Beebe, P.J. Beuke, Chad Biggar, Scott Blasko, Cameron Bradfield, Bill Brechin, Drew Burton, Tory Buter, Samad Cain, Robert Carlisle, Brandon Carr, Tony Carr, Tony Carreri, Kirk Carruth, Todd Carter, Mark Catlin, Carlos Clark, Aaron Conti, Greg Copeland, Mendelson Covington, Anthony Crump, Joe Davis, Corey Edwards, Jeremy Ehinger, Billy Eisenhardt, Ian Evans, Eric Ewing, Gary Fant, Chris Favors, Cullen Finnerty, Matt Flutur, Dan Foster, Eric Fowler, Preston Garriss, Ryan Gaydosch, Alex Gilde, Brennen Blass, John Godush, Maurice Gore, Mike Graham, D.D. Hardy, James Hardy, Brett Harris, Jacob Henige, Brett Hines, Drew Hinkle, Tyler Holtz, Nick Hopkins, Brad Hull, Brad Iciek, Jay Jandasek, Nate John, Blake Johncock, Derrick Jones, Sam Jones, Zach Jones, Lamar Keith, Mike Koster, Buster Larkins, Mike Leiffers, Astin Martin, John Matthews, Nick McDonald, Mike McFadden, Jacob McGuckin, Byron Miles, David Misiewicz, Terry Mitchell, Jaquon Morrison, Mike Mukuna, Frank Mulder, Jordan Munson, Doug Neumeyer, Courtney Partee, Denny Pittman, Justin Pollock, Danny Richard, Chad Richardson, Sean Roland, Matt Russell, Brandon Ryan, Mike Scherpenberg, Felix Sharpe, Dan Skuta, Blake Smolen, Chad Somerville, Derek Stansbery, Bretty Stengele, Sean Stevens, Alex Szarenski, Joey Teague, Bryan Thomas, Tony Thompson, Jacob Topp, Lance Travis, Antoine Trent, Justin Trumble, Justin Ulberg, Justin Victor, Matt Wade, John Wasmund, Collin Williams, Justin Winsor, Joe Wohlscheid, and James Wojciechowski, made meaningful contributions to the success of the football team and proved once again the strength of teamwork and commitment.

I know my colleagues in the Senate join me in congratulating Coach Martin and the 2006 Grand Valley State

Lakers on their Division II National Championship.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM T. "BILL" McLAUGHLIN

• Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Mayor William T. McLaughlin. Bill, as he is affectionately called by his friends—and Bill has a lot of friends—celebrated his 90th birthday on December 22, 2006. During the 90 years that the world has been blessed with Bill's presence, he and his late wife Mary have touched many lives and helped countless people. His contributions have ranged from serving his country during World War II, serving the city of Wilmington for two terms as the city's mayor and for 12 years on the city council before that, and offering continued service with numerous community projects both before and after his tenure in elected office.

William T. McLaughlin was born on December 22, 1916, on Wilmington's east side. One of 12 children, Bill often joked that the Great Depression helped to raise his family's standard of living. When Bill was 16 years old, his father lost his job. Bill's devotion to his family led to his dropping out of high school in order to accept a job cleaning the Boy's Club in Wilmington's Browntown neighborhood. He then went to work at a linoleum plant where, after being turned down for a two-cent raise, he helped organize a union for the plant employees. This type of initiative would be a hallmark of Bill's life.

At the age of 22, Bill signed up for the National Youth Administration, a Federal program he hoped would send him to California. Instead, he was assigned to a swamp drainage program in southern Delaware.

After helping to reduce Delaware's mosquito population, Bill decided to seek more adventurous endeavors and joined the Army Air Force during World War II. He trained as an electrical technician and saw action as a radio operator and tail gunner. He was shot down over the skies of New Guinea but managed to survive and went on to complete 50 missions before returning home to Wilmington.

Upon his return, Bill attended night school on the GI bill. During this time, Bill went to work for DuPont, where he would work for 30 years, mostly as a supervisor in the company's business machines section.

It was during this time that Bill would meet the woman who would become the love of his life. Mary's enthusiasm and outgoing personality were a good counterpoint to Bill's soft-spoken manner and she would have a huge influence on both his future and the future of Wilmington. Together, they raised two sons, William and Donald.

Unlike many elected officials, Bill did not enter politics until the later

years of his life. In 1964, Mary encouraged him to run for Wilmington's 9th ward city council seat. Bill won the election and continued to serve on the city council for 12 years. During this time, he became the council's finance chairman. In 1976, he agreed to seek election as Wilmington's mayor after then-Mayor Tom Maloney decided to run for the U.S. Senate.

Bill was elected as Wilmington's mayor and served two terms in that capacity, serving from 1977 until 1984. During this time, his openness and compassion helped him cultivate a renaissance for the city. He held weekly "open door" sessions where any citizen could come by his office and voice their concerns or simply chat about local issues.

As mayor, he worked with Governor Pete DuPont and other State leaders to develop the Financial Center Development Act, which laid the foundation for Delaware's rebirth as a financial services center. He also helped lead the efforts to recruit dozens of out-of-State banks to set up shop in Delaware, creating more than 30,000 jobs for the First State.

During his time in office, Mayor McLaughlin helped implement the desegregation of Delaware's public school system in northern Delaware. Bill never forgot the obstacles that he had to overcome during his lifetime and sought to level the playing field for all Delawareans, regardless of the color of their skin. He also increased housing opportunities for people with low incomes, and he worked tirelessly to create new jobs by recruiting potential employers to settle in Wilmington and the surrounding areas.

Bill also played a pivotal role in promoting the Delaware arts community, helping to create the Delaware Theatre Company and the Delaware Center for Contemporary Arts.

What stands out most to me—and for a generation of Delaware's political leaders—is Bill's willingness to mentor young people seeking elected office. When I first ran for State treasurer in 1976, Bill was among the first public officials I reached out to. His support and kindness were instrumental in my first campaign and continue to be a source of inspiration for many of Delaware's elected officials.

After leaving office in 1984, Bill continued to play a vital role in the lives of countless Delawareans. He championed the disadvantaged through his involvement with numerous community service efforts. In 1996, he and Mary founded the William T. and Mary McLaughlin Education Fund, which continues to provide academic support for deserving students in Wilmington and New Castle County. After Mary's passing in 2002, Bill continued their work to help better the lives of their fellow Delawareans.

Bill's hard work and devotion to service have led to countless community service awards. In 1985, on his last day as Wilmington's mayor, Bill was

awarded the Josiah Marvel Cup for public service, the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce's most prestigious award. Many people would have seen that award as a capstone, but Bill seemed to view it as a foundation upon which he continues to build his legacy.

Bill is a true friend of Delaware. His compassion, integrity, warm sense of humor and vitality of spirit are a true inspiration for us all. I rise today to commend his hard work, to applaud his devotion to community service and to wish him many more happy birthdays in the years to come. •

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:21 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, 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. 188. An act to provide a new effective date for the applicability of certain provisions of law to Public Law 105-331.

H.R. 391. An act to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to continue to insure, and to enter into commitments to insure, home equity conversion mortgages under section 255 of the National Housing Act.

At 5:55 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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reduce interest rates for student borrowers.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 5. An act to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reduce interest rates for student borrowers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 188. An act to provide a new effective date for the applicability of certain provisions of law to Public Law 105-331; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 391. An act to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to continue to insure, and to enter into commitments to insure, home equity conversion mortgages under section 255 of the National Housing Act.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-358. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office