

hockey history. That is an impressive feat, one of which he, his family and the MSU community are proud. Ron spent 36 years as a college hockey head coach, 23 of which were behind the bench at Michigan State University. During his stellar career, he amassed 924 total wins and a record of 635-270-69 as head coach of the Spartans. Ron guided the Spartans to 17 CCHA regular season and playoff titles, and 23 appearances in the NCAA tournament, which stands as an all-time record. In 1986, he led the Spartans to their second NCAA Hockey National Championship in the school's history, and in 1972, he won a NAIA Championship as head coach of Lake Superior State University.

After retiring as head coach of the Spartans, Ron accepted the job of athletic director at Michigan State, where he would continue to make important contributions to the success of the 25-sport athletic department. Under his watch, the university won 11 conference championships and one national championship. Fittingly, the national championship was won by the ice hockey team, the program's third NCAA national championship. Ron's legacy as athletic director also includes the many contributions he has made in the lives of student-athletes at MSU off the field. These efforts include the PACT initiative which has enabled more than 300 student-athletes to participate in community outreach efforts, the establishment of the Student-Athlete Multicultural Center which provides leadership training to student-athletes, and his highly successful fundraising efforts for the athletic department.

One of the great privileges of coaching and working on the collegiate level is the impact an individual can have in shaping the lives of young men and women. Ron Mason accepted this responsibility and flourished. In the process, he has become an important figure in MSU's rich athletic tradition.

Ron's retirement will be aptly marked by a celebration on Thursday, June 12 at MSU. We know our Senate colleagues join us in paying tribute to Ron Mason on his many accomplishments over the years and wish him and his family the very best in their future endeavors.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ALFRED WAGONER LOVELESS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Alfred Wagoner Loveless, a tireless and dedicated community leader. Alfred was committed to serving the needs of his community and served in various positions throughout his adult life in Saginaw. His contributions were many, and he will be missed by those whose lives he touched.

Alfred Wagoner Loveless was born in Detroit, MI, on March 9, 1931, to Claude and Jesse Starr Loveless and moved shortly thereafter to Saginaw. He is a

graduate of Saginaw High School. During his years at Saginaw High, he excelled athletically and would ultimately set several school records in track and field. After his high school years, Alfred attended Bay City Junior College and Bishop College.

Alfred Wagoner Loveless was a man of great faith who was devoted to his family and to his community, and he received numerous awards and recognitions throughout his life as a result of his work. His community efforts focused on eradicating poverty, sickle cell prevention, along with promoting self-determination and self-sufficiency. Alfred is mourned by his family, the members of Zion Baptist Church, and many in the greater Saginaw community. Alfred is survived by his wife Gloria Hill Loveless and his son, Wagoner T. Loveless, in addition to a large extended family.

This is, indeed, a great loss to all who knew him or for those who have benefited from his work. I know my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to the life and work of Alfred Wagoner Loveless. I am sure his family takes comfort in knowing that his legacy will be remembered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING WILLIAM T. "BILL" McLAUGHLIN

• Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I wish today to honor Bill McLaughlin, a man as renowned for his vision and leadership as for his soft touch and utter humanity. Bill passed away on May 30, 2008, but his legacy will live on for generations. Many remember Bill as a man who turned the city of Wilmington into one of the financial capitals of the world—I prefer to honor him as the truly decent, caring, and visionary gentleman whom I have admired for my entire career.

To summarize Bill McLaughlin's life in a few words is beyond my capabilities. It is impossible for me to speak of this brother, father, and grandfather in terms of his well-documented public accomplishments. To me, Bill McLaughlin was a friend, and a man.

As Shakespeare wrote, "His life was gentle, and the elements / So mixed in him that Nature might stand up / And say to all the world, / This was a man!"

Bill McLaughlin was a man. As we Irish say when we want to pay the highest compliment: Bill McLaughlin was a good man.

Bill was, at his core, a family man. He viewed everything through the prism of family. And he was a great city leader because he loved the city of Wilmington. On any given Sunday, you were as likely to see him at an African-American church as you were at Catholic mass.

Of all Bill's wonderful qualities, perhaps the most unique—and most useful—was his style of leadership. He had the insight to know what had to be

done and the wisdom to make other people think it was their idea.

He was one of the last men and women of the "greatest generation," recognizing that the values he was raised with—honor, decency, humility and sacrifice—were universal values that defined who we are as a nation. He used those ideals as his guidance, which is why Bill's courageous decisions as an elected official were both profound and simple for him. They were not difficult for him because they were obvious to him; Bill always knew his true north.

Bill McLaughlin was a model for all of us, not just elected officials. He lived his life, from beginning to end, by the same guiding principles upon which our Nation is built. Bill will be sorely missed, but as long as we remember his lessons, the world will be better off. As Yeats wrote in "The Lake Isle of Innisfree:"

I will arise and go now, for always night and day

I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;

While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,

I hear it in the deep heart's core.●

HONORING DR. DONALD F. AVERILL

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Donald F. Averill as he retires after almost 50 years of service in education.

This month, Dr. Donald Averill will retire as chancellor of the San Bernardino Community College District, SBCCD. Prior to joining SBCCD, Dr. Averill served as the CEO of Palo Verde College. Dr. Averill more than doubled the enrollment of full-time students to provide increased educational opportunities throughout the region. His leadership enabled physical and economic growth of academic infrastructure and enabled Palo Verde College to earn accreditation. During his tenure as the CEO for the San Bernardino Community College District, he greatly improved the economic capacities of the district and increased cooperation between colleges and secondary institutions, increasing enrollment in the region by 45 percent.

Throughout his 47 years of service and commitment to improvements in education, Dr. Donald Averill provided leadership both in California higher education and in the San Bernardino community. He served as chairman of the Economic and Workforce Development Advisory Committee to the California Community College Board of Governors for 2 years and chaired the Human Resources Commission of the Association of California Community College Administrators for 5 years. He served the city of La Habra, CA, as a planning commissioner for 12 years. Dr. Averill has also served as president of the American Heart Association in Glendale, CA.

As he retires from providing leadership and guidance to the faculty, students, and staff of numerous institutions of higher education and to countless communities in California, I am pleased to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a true leader in education and community development.●

HONORING NELL SOTO

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring California Assembly member Nell Soto on a lifetime of achievement and advocacy for the people of California. Throughout her tenure in both the California Assembly and the California State senate, Nell Soto has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for the people of California and our Nation. Despite recent health challenges, this June she will celebrate her 82nd birthday and can look back on a proud career in public service.

A sixth-generation resident of the City of Pomona, Nell Soto has been a lifelong member of the southern California community and has been a strong advocate for its communities throughout her life. Before coming to the California Legislature, Nell Soto served 12 years on the city council in Pomona. Her late husband Philip Soto served two terms in the state legislature from 1962 to 1966. Nell was the first woman from the San Gabriel Valley to serve on the South Coast Air Quality Management Board. She served 10 years as a public affairs representative with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. In 1998 she was elected to the California Assembly and in March of 2000 won a special election to secure a seat in the California State senate, a seat that she held until 2006. She now serves once again in the California Assembly.

Throughout her tenure in the California Legislature, Nell has been an impassioned advocate for stronger communities and an improved quality of life and has worked to make improvements throughout the California educational system. She has been a strong advocate of improvements in infrastructure and transportation and worked hard to secure the development of the Alameda Corridor East, an important rail transportation project in inland southern California. She has been an equally impassioned advocate for crime prevention, public safety, and the environment, and recently served as chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Perchlorate Contamination and has worked to secure funding for improvements in drinking water safety from perchlorate contamination.

A lifelong resident of southern California, mother of 6, grandmother of 11, great-grandmother of 3, and spirited supporter of community advocacy and selfless service, Nell Soto is a wonderful public servant. As she looks back on decades of leadership and celebrates her 82nd birthday, I am pleased to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing her good work.●

TRIBUTE TO ELTON "MICK" RINGSAK

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an outstanding advocate of small and rural business, Elton "Mick" Ringsak, who will be concluding his time as Small Business Administration Region VIII Administrator in July of 2008.

For nearly 8 years he has been a champion for small business in rural America. He has recognized the important role they play in strengthening the local and national economies of our country and I have appreciated the excellent work he has done for the State of North Dakota. Mick has worked hard to provide Federal assistance to small businesses so they can be productive and grow.

Not only is Mick Ringsak an advocate for small and rural businesses in America, he is also an outstanding person. He has never lost the values he gained growing up in Grafton, ND. During my years as Tax Commissioner for the State of ND, I had the opportunity to work closely with his father, a legislator in the State Senate from the Grafton area.

Mick and his wife Claire are parents of three sons, Quint, Justin and Zach. He is trustworthy, honest, and dedicated to making the economic environment friendlier to small and rural businesses. Prior to his appointment appointed as the SBA Region VIII Administrator in 2001, Mick, a Vietnam veteran, owned and managed Miller's Boots and Shoes along with his brother-in-law in Butte, MT.

I appreciate his work as SBA Region VIII Administrator, and I wish Mick well in his future endeavors. I have enjoyed working with him in developing North Dakota's small and rural businesses and he has also been a good friend. I wish him all the best in his upcoming retirement and look forward to his continuing leadership for small business for many years to come.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF AYR, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased to honor a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 125th anniversary. On June 21 and 22, the residents of Ayr will come together to celebrate their community and its historic founding.

Ayr is located in Cass County. Although its population is small, Ayr holds an important place in our State's history. Originally founded in October 1883 as Dunlop, the town was officially renamed Ayr by postmaster Frank Dickinson. He chose to name the community Ayr in recognition of Ayrshire, Scotland, the ancestral home of many of Ayr's citizens at the time. Later, some residents tried to change the name of the town again, but the territorial legislature took action to put an end to the renaming effort.

Ayr is a community dedicated to service, with many citizens serving

both in the government and military. Many in the community have also played a role in defining the preservation of North Dakotan history, with community members such as Keith Johnson who was responsible for much of the restoration of historic buildings in the Cass County 'Pioneer Village' project.

Mr. President, I ask the United States Senate to join me in congratulating Ayr, ND, and its residents on their 125th anniversary and in wishing them well for the future. By honoring Ayr and all other towns of North Dakota, we keep the pioneering, frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Ayr that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Ayr has a proud past and a bright future.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HAGUE, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased to honor a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 100th anniversary. On July 4 and 5, the residents of Hague will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

In 1882, a rural post office was established to serve the Grandin Brothers Bonanza Farm. In 1882, the Bonanza farm was 40,000 acres, which made it the largest wheat farm in the world. This Bonanza farm was managed by a man named John A. Hague, and he eventually lent his name to the town of Hague.

Today, Hague is a small but vibrant community in south, central North Dakota. Residents of the community are truly proud of the St. Mary's Catholic Church, a Gothic-style, brick building built in 1929 that is on the National Register of Historic Places. St. Mary's Church possesses an iron cross cemetery that is a German-Russian tradition, which makes it a unique cultural gem.

To celebrate its 100th anniversary, the town of Hague will be having a wide range of events. To start off the festivities, the residents will be participating in a Tractor Trek. The town will also have a rodeo, parade, concerts, a magician, cloggers, and fireworks. Kristi Goblade, a local resident of Hague, will be performing cowgirl yodeling at the opening ceremony. A performance by Mylo Hatzenbuehler, a country humorist, is also expected.

Mr. President, I ask the United States Senate to join me in congratulating Hague, ND, and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well in the future. I believe that by honoring Hague and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places like Hague that have helped to shape this country into what it is today. I believe that Hague is deserving of our recognition.