

were no oil spills. I think they have gotten a lot safer, but don't come up here and say there are no oil spills. Let's be realistic about it. Let's use the most modern techniques where we are going to drill in those 32 million acres out in the gulf that are leased but not drilled.

After Katrina, 7.5 million gallons of oil were spilled. This satellite image was taken by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 4 days after Katrina.

If you do not believe me because I am saying it, let me point you to the report that was produced by the Bush administration after Katrina. This is from "The Federal Response to Hurricane Katrina, Lessons Learned." It has the seal of the U.S. Government, written in February 2006. I want to give you the quote on page 8 of this report:

In fact, Hurricane Katrina caused at least ten oil spills, releasing the same quantity of oil as some of the worst oil spills in U.S. history.

Louisiana reported at least six major oil spills of over 100,000 gallons and four medium spills of over 10,000 gallons. All told, more than 7.4 million gallons poured into the Gulf Coast region's waterways, over two-thirds of the amount that spilled during America's worst oil disaster, the rupturing of the Exxon Valdez tanker off the Alaska coast in 1989.

That is the administration's own report.

In the next hurricane that came a few weeks later, Hurricane Rita, a large vessel struck a submerged oil platform that sank during the storm. Up to 3 million gallons of oil spilled in the gulf because of that, and only half of that oil was recovered.

There have been plenty of technological advances on safety. But it has not ensured the safety of all that oil infrastructure that Senator LANDRIEU showed you an aerial photo of in the Gulf of Mexico.

Listen to what the Bush administration's Minerals Management Service predicts. They predict there will be one oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico of 1,000 barrels of oil each year, and one spill of at least 10,000 barrels of oil every 3 to 4 years in the future. That is their prediction.

And, of course, if we have another Katrina—and remember, Katrina was only a Category 3 storm, which is up to 135 miles per hour. Guess what would happen if you get to a Category 5, which are winds in excess of 146 miles per hour, and the destructive forces of each mile per hour, when you get into that category, go up exponentially.

Well, I think I made my point. More intense hurricanes could mean more big spills and more damage to our fragile coastline and wetlands, our military mission, our gulf coast beaches, and the tourism industry they support, and the ecosystem. It could be devastating and decimated by a huge oil spill.

Now, we have to have balance because we are behind the eight ball since we import two-thirds of our daily consumption of oil. What this Senator

wants is for us to balance the approach to this: R&D, alternative fuels, conservation, stretch the envelope, develop new engines, drill for oil, and do it in a responsible way where we have already provided the leases.

#### COMMEMORATING THE ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INCORPORATED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I welcome the women of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., to Capitol Hill in celebration of its centennial anniversary.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. is our Nation's first African-American sorority, and was founded on January 15, 1908. Since then, the sorority has always exemplified its motto of "being of service to all mankind."

Over the course of ten decades, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., has grown its membership to include over 200,000 members throughout the United States, Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Caribbean. Through the years, the sorority has remained committed to improving the lives of countless Americans through its involvement in programs including the Mississippi Health Project, the Job Corps, and the African Village Development Program.

In my home State of Nevada alone, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.'s Theta Theta Omega Chapter has provided over \$100,000 in scholarships to deserving African-American female Clark County high school students, while its Kappa Xi Chapter has a distinguished record of service both on the University of Nevada Las Vegas campus and throughout the community.

In the coming century, I am certain that this illustrious organization will continue to empower communities and respond to the increasingly complex issues facing the world. I commend the women of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., for their 100 years of distinguished service to our great Nation.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, this year we are celebrating Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc. sorority's 100th birthday. This week, more than 20,000 members from all over the country have come to Washington, DC, to participate in a week-long program of forums and seminars with a focus on leadership, sisterhood and service, known as the Centennial Boulé. The theme of this week's celebration is the "Centennial Commitment to Leadership."

The week's events will culminate in today's Unity March where members from the nine African-American Greek fraternities and sororities marched to the Capitol.

AKA's International President, Barbara McKinzie, who has lived in Shreveport, LA, says the qualities that have sustained AKA for a century are "sisterhood and service." Her administration is committed to ESP: Economics, Service and Partnership.

AKA is the first Greek-letter sorority established by African-American

women for African-American, college-educated women. It was founded by nine enterprising Howard University women, led by Ethel Hedgeman Lyle, on January 15, 1908.

Now the membership has grown to 975 chapters worldwide and is 200,000-strong. Among the famous AKAs are Maya Angelou, Gladys Knight and Alicia Keys; and Members of the House of Representatives include Eddie Bernice Johnson and Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas, and Diane Watson of California. Powerful women across America both in the private sector and government represent the AKA sisterhood. Three members of my staff are proud to be a part of this sisterhood: my office manager Alicia Williams, acting State director Tari Bradford, and my New Orleans constituent services representative Sheraé Hunter.

The AKA sorority, founded before women had the right to vote by women one generation away from slavery, has been an instrumental group in raising the profile of African-American women and has worked tirelessly to knock down barriers to advancement in our society. The sisterhood has consistently encouraged academic achievement, leadership and service.

Members remain active for their whole lives and are encouraged to contribute to their communities. Each chapter has its own community service focus. The Gamma Eta Omega Alumnae Chapter in Baton Rouge, for instance, raises money through an annual fashion show for scholarships for high school seniors and sorority undergraduates and also sponsors the Leadership Fellows Institute each year to promote leadership among high school students.

The Delta Lambda Omega Chapter in Shreveport gathers for "A Day On and Not a Day Off," where sisters take off work to volunteer in the community. Chapters all over Louisiana are similarly committed to their communities. In the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, AKAs from all over the country came to the aid of hurricane survivors along the gulf coast and helped with our recovery effort.

It is with great pride that we welcome all AKAs to the birthplace of the sisterhood, Washington, DC, as they embark on another groundbreaking century.

#### 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today is the 40th anniversary of Special Olympics, an organization that has touched the lives of people with intellectual disabilities in Nevada and throughout the country. This spring, I had the chance to meet with one such Special Olympics athlete: Cari Davis, a resident of Henderson, NV, who has been winning medals since beginning her athletic career in 1988. It is my privilege today to recognize the achievements of all Special Olympics athletes, as well as the

broader impact of their participation in sports.

Forty years ago, Eunice Kennedy Shriver founded Special Olympics with the belief that everyone, regardless of ability or disability, deserves opportunities to participate in sports. What began as Camp Shriver on the lawn of her Maryland home has now grown into an international organization reaching over 180 countries. Through these programs, people with intellectual disabilities can do more than just develop skills in a particular sport or improve their physical fitness. They also get opportunities to form friendships, build self-confidence, learn teamwork, and enjoy the sheer joy of the athletic experience. That is why I was pleased to help enact the Healthy Special Olympics Sport and Empowerment Act of 2004, which enabled Special Olympics to expand its programs and increase the number of athletes served.

In my home State, Special Olympics Nevada provides year-round training and competition opportunities in a variety of sports, including alpine skiing, basketball, swimming, and gymnastics. In addition to providing these activities and sponsoring competitive trials, Special Olympics offers services that promote good health, such as screenings through the Healthy Athletes Program. Larger events are also held, like the Special Olympics Nevada Summer Games that took place this June in Reno.

These events highlight more than the athletes' determination, talents, and spirit. Their participation in sports is also serving to dispel myths and change attitudes, contributing to the greater inclusion, understanding, and acceptance of people with disabilities. In fact, there are Special Olympics initiatives, like its collaboration with the school district in Clark County, NV, that give students with intellectual disabilities and other students the chance to participate in sports together. Perhaps it is these young athletes who best embody this remark by Mrs. Shriver: "May you overturn ignorance; may you challenge indifference at every turn; and may you find great joy in the new daylight of the great athletes of the Special Olympics."

Mr. President, I wish Special Olympics all the best as we celebrate its 40th anniversary and look forward to many more years to come.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Special Olympics, an organization that has done an extraordinary job of improving the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities. This remarkable organization was born in Eunice Kennedy Shriver's backyard, where she used to host a day camp for children with intellectual disabilities. Under her founding leadership—and for the last decade, under the leadership of her son, Tim Shriver—the Special Olympics has grown into a truly amazing enterprise, serving some 2.5 million people in more than 180 countries. It

gives individuals with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to improve their health, well-being, social skills, and other skills through competitive sports—and the opportunity to have fun, just like everyone else.

I have been a long-time advocate for people with disabilities. But it was not until the 1980s, when Eunice Kennedy Shriver came to see me and asked me to get involved as an advocate for individuals with intellectual disabilities, that I learned about the unique challenges faced by individuals with intellectual disabilities in our society. Of course, when Eunice Kennedy Shriver asked, I couldn't say no. She invited me to a Special Olympics competition here in Washington, and I immediately became a fan. It was extraordinary to see the athletes' talents, enthusiasm, and courage.

Over the years, thanks largely to Special Olympics, I have developed a better appreciation of the needs of people with intellectual disabilities. They have health problems that many physicians do not know how to address. For example, by and large, individuals with intellectual disabilities have little opportunity for exercise and other physical activity. Too often, they are relegated to the fringes of our society.

The brilliance of the Special Olympics is that it uses sports to help integrate people with intellectual disabilities into our broader society. Special Olympics provides a kind of ideal world for individuals with intellectual disabilities. The accent is on abilities, not disabilities. Athletes have the opportunity to compete and achieve on a level playing field. Special Olympics gives its athletes, like Kyler Prunty, one of my constituents from Marshalltown, IA, the opportunity to compete in swimming and other sports, as all children and young adults want the opportunity to do. Kyler knows that his success is determined by his own hard work, talent, determination, and courage.

Special Olympics helps people overcome their fear and ignorance of individuals with intellectual disabilities. It transforms athletes by empowering them as competitors and leaders. It transforms communities by changing attitudes about people with intellectual disabilities.

Special Olympics includes a number of associated programs. The Unified Sports program provides inclusive sports experiences with individuals with and without intellectual disabilities playing together on the same team.

Special Olympics also improves the lives of individuals with disabilities by looking at health issues. I am a proud supporter of the Healthy Athletes program, which allows athletes to receive a variety of important health screenings and services in conjunction with local, State/Provincial, National, and World Games.

Special Olympics has come a long way since it began 40 years ago. When

Special Olympics held its first event in Illinois, my home State of Iowa sent fewer than 100 athletes to the games. Today, more than 13,000 Special Olympics Athletes, and 2,000 certified coaches, from all 99 Iowa counties in Iowa, participate in Special Olympics programs.

I am proud that, in 2006, the first-ever Special Olympics USA National Games were held in Ames, IA. In conjunction with those games, I held a field hearing of my Senate Appropriations Subcommittee focusing on the status of people with intellectual disabilities in the U.S. That hearing taught us a great deal about the health and education needs of individuals with intellectual disabilities.

As a result of the hearing, I introduced S. 1050, the Health and Wellness for Individuals with Disabilities Act. This bill would promote the training of medical and dental professionals to care for individuals with intellectual disabilities. In addition, it would create model wellness programs, and standards for accessibility of medical equipment to further level the playing field for the care of Special Olympics athletes and other individuals with disabilities.

Special Olympics and its emphasis on inclusion of individuals with intellectual disabilities through athletics is now a worldwide movement. It shows what can be achieved when one individual, in the person of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, pursues a cause with passion. Her vision is making a difference in the fabric of our society, where individuals with intellectual disabilities can now participate in sports competitions in Iowa, across the country, and around the world.

I salute the Special Olympics for a brilliant 40 years of service, and I wish the organization even greater success in the decades ahead.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF DOROTHY PHILLIPS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today in remembrance of Dorothy Phillips, who passed away yesterday at the age of 84.

Born in Utah in 1923, Dorothy was a dedicated mother of 7, grandmother of 15, and great-grandmother of 14. She lived in the small southeastern Nevada town of Caliente for over 70 years and was known to its residents for her active leadership in the community. She was an enthusiastic participant in local, county, and State politics, and her prominence in local Democratic Party matters led many to seek out her support and advice, and one of my best ever campaign volunteers.

Dorothy was also passionate about the needs of Nevada's senior citizens. For her 26 years of service as the director of the Caliente Senior Citizen Center, a senior housing development was named the "Dorothy Phillips Manor" in her honor. She was even selected to