

the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement does not meet this standard.

Given the importance of getting this relationship right I would encourage President Bush to invite President Lee to the White House as early as possible after his inauguration as a signal of the commitment of the United States to the alliance, and to reaffirm the importance of the alliance to the United States. In the process, we need to work with South Korea on a common vision for the alliance to meet the challenges of the 21st century, not only those on the Korean Peninsula but in the region and beyond.

An alliance that once was built solely on defense against common threats must today be built also on our shared values and strong mutual interests. I congratulate President-elect Lee on his election, pass on my good wishes for him and the Korean people for his inauguration, and honor the Korean people for their vibrant democracy. I look forward to the opportunity to work with him in the years ahead to replenish and revitalize this crucial relationship.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CARROLL COLLEGE FIGHTING SAINTS

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, the December 24, 2007, "Year in Pictures" edition of Sports Illustrated featured a mud-soaked and elated Brandon Day on the cover. Day is a junior linebacker for the Fighting Saints of Carroll College in my hometown of Helena, MT. This amazing image was captured by photographer John Russell following the Fighting Saints fifth National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics football title in the past six seasons on December 15, 2007, in Savannah, TN.

The story of this team and the cover photo on Sports Illustrated has really moved me. With all the negative stories recently in the sports world, it was both heartening and appropriate for the magazine to honor the spirit of intercollegiate athletics by shining the spotlight on such a hard-working and deserving group of student athletes. The young men that make up Carroll's football squad truly embody the best of these ideals and Montana values. They have worked hard both on and off the field and have achieved not only athletic glory, but also success in the classroom and have given much back to the Helena community and their hometowns. Coming from small towns across Montana and the West, these student athletes certainly don't demand or expect this kind of recognition for their achievements, but they certainly are worthy of the praise. This group of young men are great ambassadors for the college they so proudly represent and are terrific role models for their fellow students and the many younger kids who look up to them.

This strength of character is certainly a tribute to their fine and caring

coach, Mike Van Diest, who has taught his players that devotion to school, family, and faith come before football. He demands excellence from his players both on and off the field, as does the president of the school, Dr. Thomas Trebon. Dr. Trebon recently wrote a letter to Sports Illustrated that tells the story of the Fighting Saints. I thank Dr. Trebon for all of his hard work and leadership at Carroll College, and I look forward to cheering on the Saints again in 2008. I know that they will continue to make Montana proud.

Mr. President, I ask to have the letter from Dr. Trebon printed in the RECORD.

The material follows.

DEAR SPORTS ILLUSTRATED: All of Montana is thrilled by the SI "2007 Pictures of the Year" front cover featuring Carroll College junior linebacker Brandon Day's euphoric reaction to the Fighting Saints' fifth NAIA National Football Championship win.

The untold story about the Saints found honest reflection in the SI cover photo, with Day and his victorious teammates soaked in mud while overcome with joy. It's a story about humble happiness through hard work, where every standout member of the Saints who receives recognition promptly points to his teammates as the real reason for their success. It's the story of Fighting Saint Luke DenHerder, who returned to the gridiron after beating a lethal cancer, while his fellow student-athletes cheered him and even shaved their heads in solidarity during his chemotherapy. It's the story of a team comprised of men hailing primarily from rural Western towns, ranches and farms, from struggling middle-class families, who know the meaning of hard work and who haven't seen much glory in return. Until now.

Carroll's story is about two-time NAIA National Coach of the Year (2003 and 2005) Mike Van Diest, who led the Saints to all five national championship wins, all while demanding that our athletes' priorities must be God first, family second, school third and football last. Indeed, the press corps following our team to Tennessee took more photos of our players studying for their final exams and volunteer reading to school children in Savannah, Tenn., than engaged in pre-game practice. This fall, seven Fighting Saints were named national Daktronics-NAIA Football Scholar-Athletes, the team maintains a grade point average over 3.2, and nearly half of our football squad is selected yearly as All-Academic honorees in the Frontier Conference. Yet, the true story about the Saints was told before the clock ran out during the championship game. After each play, our Carroll student-athletes showed their commitment to sportsmanship by helping their opponents up from tackles and shaking hands with the University of Sioux Falls players.

In these days when more of us long for a return to civility and yearn to see our star athletes and athletic programs meet the high standards of role models, SI's cover photo was distinctly gratifying. In one shot, photographer John Russell captured both a moment of athletic triumph and distilled our dream of bringing back the values of simpler times, when good men from humble beginnings win out in the end and become heroes.

THOMAS TREBON,
President, Carroll College.●

UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME 2008

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I am proud to be involved for a second year

in the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme, an exchange program in which outstanding college students from Australia's top universities compete to serve as interns for the U.S. Congress. The program is in its ninth year of bringing the Washington experience to our friends from Australia, firsthand. In addition to working in congressional offices, the program provides students with a number of other opportunities and activities, including visits to historic sites, visits to government agencies, meetings with government leaders, and educational events.

This year, Suzi Allan, a student from the University of Canberra, Australia, is taking a 2-month hiatus from her communications degree to help me serve Idaho constituents. Of the program, Suzi says, "The UCWIP has given me the unique opportunity to gain firsthand insight into the world's most influential government. I have had incredible experiences while working in Senator Crapo's office and have enjoyed learning more about the U.S. Congress. Working in the heart of America's political establishment is a fantastic experience that I will always remember."

This year, I would again like to thank Director Eric Federing and his wife, Daphne, for their continued commitment to enlarging the educational experience of students in their home country of Australia. Free nations have a responsibility to work together to promote the liberty that have provided social, cultural, and economic success. Bringing young people together in their formative educational years promotes these partnerships for prosperity across national lines and highlights our Nations' shared goals and interests. I am pleased to be able to participate in this well-crafted and successful program.●

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND WEBSTER TWO HAWK

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to speak today to recognize an outstanding lifelong resident of South Dakota, Rev. Webster Two Hawk.

Recently, Reverend Two Hawk marked 50 years of service to his church and his faith. His congregation is the St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Fort Pierre, SD, where he has been a volunteer priest for the last 27 years. Reverend Two Hawk, now retired, has a long list of accomplishments throughout his lifetime.

Reverend Two Hawk was born and lived near White River, SD, until going to schools in Todd County. Upon completion of high school in Mission, SD, now Todd County High School, he attended the University of South Dakota, my alma mater, where he graduated in 1952 with a degree in business administration. Upon leaving college, Two Hawk enlisted in the U.S. Army to serve in the Korean war. Upon his return from service, he attended Kenyon College in Ohio where he graduated

with a master's degree in divinity and was ordained at St. Peter's Church in Lake Andes on the Yankton Sioux Reservation. He served there 6 years as priest before moving to the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation for another 6 years and ultimately returning home to the Rosebud Sioux Reservation.

His return home led him down a different path of service he was elected chairman of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. He had many accomplishments during his tenure as leader of the tribe; most notably was the opening of Sinte Gleska University in 1971. His desire to serve also led him to work for the Aberdeen Area Indian Health Service and was also appointed by former Gov Bill Janklow as the commissioner for the South Dakota Tribal Government Relations Office from 1996 until 2003. As well, he serves on the board of directors for the Wakpa Sica Reconciliation Place.

Currently, Reverend Two Hawk is working to rebuild the congregation in his hometown of White River, SD. I take this opportunity to commend Rev. Webster Two Hawk for his lifetime of service to his congregation and to his tribe. Both are certainly thankful for his efforts.●

TRIBUTE TO KEN HARPER

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, today I wish honor Ken Harper, a fellow Arkansan who has embraced the spirit of patriotism. Not only has he served our country in the military, but he has created inspirational poetry and a special commemorative gift to veterans. Ken Harper has a unique talent for writing poetry of a "military significance" and "significance of character" that gives inspiration to those who read it.

Ken Harper proudly served in the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army. He served a tour of duty with the U.S. Navy beginning in 1979. In 1985, he chose to continue his military career by serving in the U.S. Army. After his military service was completed, Ken still had the desire to serve.

Inspired by the fallen sailors and marines of Pearl Harbor, Ken requested a few American flags to be flown from military memorials and ships on behalf of some retired veterans he knew. The success of this motivated him to have more flags flown in dedication of other veterans. Later, he would have two special flags he claims as his own raised on several naval ships and even on board a NASA space ship.

Because Ken Harper has selflessly honored so many, today we honor him for his efforts, talents, and service to our country.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT DATED FEBRUARY 2008 WITH THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS FOR 2008—PM 37

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Joint Economic Committee:

To the Congress of the United States:

Over the past 6 years of economic expansion, the American economy has proven its strength and resilience. Job creation grew uninterrupted for a record period of time, inflation remains moderate, unemployment is low, and productivity continues to grow. The economy is built upon a strong foundation, with deep and sophisticated capital markets, flexible labor markets, low taxes, and open trade and investment policies.

Americans should be confident about the long-term strength of our economy, but our economy is undergoing a period of uncertainty, and there are heightened risks to our near-term economic growth. To insure against these risks, I called upon the Congress to enact a growth package that is simple, temporary, and effective in keeping our economy growing and our people working.

There is more we should do to strengthen our economy. First, we must keep taxes low. Unless the Congress acts, most of the tax relief that we have delivered over the past 7 years will be taken away and 116 million American taxpayers will see their taxes rise by an average of \$1,800. The tax relief of the past few years has been a key factor in promoting economic growth and job creation and it should be made permanent. We must also work together to tackle unfunded obligations in entitlement programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. I have laid out a detailed plan in my Budget to restrain spending, cut earmarks, and balance the budget by 2012 without raising taxes.

Second, we must trust Americans with the responsibility of homeownership and empower them to weather turbulent times in the market. My Administration has acted aggressively to help credit-worthy homeowners avoid foreclosure. We launched a new initiative called FHASecure to help families refinance their homes. I signed legislation to protect families from higher taxes when lenders forgive a portion of their

home mortgage debt. We have also brought together the HOPE NOW alliance, which is helping many struggling homeowners avoid foreclosure by facilitating the refinancing and modification of mortgages. The Congress can do more to help American families keep their homes by passing legislation to reform Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, modernize the Federal Housing Administration, and allow State housing agencies to issue tax-free bonds to help homeowners refinance their mortgages.

Third, we must continue opening new markets for trade and investment. We have an unprecedented opportunity to reduce barriers to global trade and investment through a successful Doha round. The Congress should also approve our pending free trade agreements. I thank the Congress for its approval of a good agreement with Peru, and ask for the approval of agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. These agreements will benefit our economy by providing greater access for our exports and supporting good jobs for American workers, and they will promote America's strategic interests. I have asked the Congress to reauthorize and reform trade adjustment assistance so that we can help those workers who are displaced by trade to learn new skills and find new jobs.

Fourth, we must make health care more affordable and accessible for all Americans. I have proposed changes in the tax code that would end the bias against those who do not receive health insurance through their employer and would make it easier for many uninsured Americans to obtain insurance. This reform would put private health care coverage within reach for millions. My Budget also improves access to health care by increasing the power of small employers, civic groups, and community organizations to negotiate lower-priced health premiums. These policies would encourage competition among health plans across State lines, help reduce frivolous lawsuits that increase patients' costs, and promote the use of health savings accounts.

Fifth, we must increase our energy security and confront climate change. Last year, I proposed an ambitious plan to reduce U.S. dependence on oil and help cut the growth of greenhouse gas emissions. I am pleased that the Congress responded, and I was able to sign into law a bill that will increase fuel economy and the use of alternative fuels, as well as set new efficiency mandates on appliances, light bulbs, and Federal Government operations. In my State of the Union Message, I proposed that we take the next steps to accelerate technological breakthroughs by funding new technologies to generate coal power that captures carbon emissions, advance emissions-free nuclear power; and invest in advanced battery technology and renewable energy. I am also committing \$2