

Last month, over 49,000 fans attended the 75th Annual Brut Sun Bowl to watch the Oregon State Beavers defeat the Pittsburgh Panthers to become this year's Sun Bowl champion.

The television network, CBS, has been broadcasting the Sun Bowl since 1968, making it the longest continuous broadcast of a post-season football game. The crowd itself of this year's Sun Bowl game also has made history, not so much by the attendance, but for being the largest crowd, according to the Guinness Book of Record, to dance to the Village People's 1978 disco anthem, "YMCA." Here you have a picture of part of the crowd that captures some of the energy and excitement of the 75th Sun Bowl on that day.

To commemorate the 75th anniversary, the Sun Bowl Association added two more names to its "Legends of the Sun Bowl" list. The "Legends of the Sun Bowl" include coaches, players, broadcasters, and longtime volunteers of the Sun Bowl. This year's recipients were Priest Holmes, a 1994 player for the University of Texas, and Craig Silver, a CBS sports commentator from 1983 to 2005. Among other notable "Legends of the Sun Bowl" are the late Pat Tillman, Thurman Thomas, Pat Summerall, and Tony Dorsett, seen here in this final picture showing Tony Dorsett in action in the Sun Bowl Stadium.

□ 1930

Along with my remarks, I would like to submit a copy of the names of the previous legends of the Sun Bowl for inclusion in the RECORD.

LEGENDS OF THE SUN BOWL

2008—Priest Holmes—Player, Texas (1994), Craig Silver—CBS Sports (1983–2005)

2007—Cornelius Bennett—Player, Alabama (1983 & 1986), Don James—Coach, Washington (1979 & 1986)

2006—Tony Franklin—Player, Texas A&M (1977), Grant Teaff—Coach, Baylor (1992)

2005—Terry Donahue—Coach, UCLA (1991); CBS Sports (1995), Verne Lundquist—CBS Sports (1988, 1992, 2000–05)

2004—Pat Tillman (Posthumously)—Player, Arizona State (1997), Alex Van Pelt—Player, Pittsburgh (1989)

2003—Ken Heineman—Player, El Paso All-Stars (1935),

2002—Thurman Thomas—Player, Oklahoma State (1987)

2001—John H. Folmer—Administrator, Barry Switzer—Coach, Oklahoma (1981)

2000—Vince Dooley—Coach, Georgia (1964, 1969 & 1985), Derrick Thomas (Posthumously)—Player, Alabama (1986 & 1988)

1999—Hayden Fry—Coach, SMU (1963) and Iowa (1995 & 1997), Jimmy Rogers, Jr.—Administrator

1998—Jesse Whittenton—UTEP (1954 & 1955) 1997—Tom Brookshier—CBS Sports (1973, 1977–1981), Pat Summerall—CBS Sports (1971, 1977–80)

1996—Tony Dorsett—Player, Pittsburgh (1975),

1995—Johnny Majors—Coach, Iowa State (1971), Pittsburgh (1975) and Tennessee (1984)

1994—Harrison Kohl—Administrator, Bill Stevens—Player, UTEP (1965 & 1967), Charley Johnson—Player, New Mexico State (1959 & 1960)

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to highlight this very special event in El Paso, one

that is very important and very much a part of the city's history and folklore. The Sun Bowl is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the natural geographic beauty and the friendly atmosphere that make our community very special. The success of the Sun Bowl is a testament to the hard work of the Sun Bowl Association as well as the numerous community partners and sponsors, and I look forward to many more successful years of this wonderful tradition.

I want to congratulate all the Sun Bowl Association members and our great community for putting on a great show every year.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION FOR UNCLE SAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this time of year, we all hear about New Year's resolutions. Some of us make them, some of us make them and break them, and some of us don't even make them. But maybe Uncle Sam needs to make a few New Year's resolutions as we go into 2009. I have six suggestions for Uncle Sam.

The first thing Uncle Sam needs to do is get on a diet and trim down the excess spending and government waste. The government, us, we spend money on everything. There's a philosophy here in Washington, D.C. that the government is the solution to every problem from the time a person's born to the time they die and the government should control all the money and decide how that money should be spent. There's another philosophy that I believe in that government may be the problem and that problems are best solved by individuals. But in any event, we cannot continue to spend and waste the taxpayer money on so many different programs. Uncle Sam needs to go on a diet.

The second thing we need to do is practice what we preach and not be so hypocritical. Recently we had the Big Three auto boys down here in Washington D.C., and we raked them over the coals because they make so much money. We criticized the UAW because they make about \$74 an hour. But yet we get our automatic pay increase and we can't even get a vote on the House floor to rescind that pay increase. Somewhat hypocritical, Mr. Speaker. Uncle Sam needs to practice what it preaches.

The third thing that we need that do is quit spending somebody else's money. You see, the money that we spend, Congress, it's not our money. It belongs to the good folks who sent us up here. We've all seen the big motor homes going down the freeways that have a bumper sticker on the back that says "We are spending our children's inheritance." We kind of think that's funny, but that's what we're doing.

And for the inauguration, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that we get a big sign and put it out here on the Capitol grounds that says "Uncle Sam is spending your children and grandchildren's inheritance" because that's what we're doing. We're spending money that we do not have. And it's the philosophy that government knows better how to spend the taxpayers' money than the taxpayer. And I think that's wrong. We ought to quit spending somebody else's money because we certainly don't have the money and our kids, our grandkids, and our great grandkids now are going to have to pay for the things that we do. Uncle Sam needs to quit spending somebody else's money.

We need to quit rewarding the fat cats and those who live on government handouts. And that covers a lot of folks that they are up here trying to get money from the Federal Government. All the different special interest groups, all the Wall Street fat cats, all those people who live off the government and want something from the government but don't give much to society. The people punished, those are most Americans, the middle class. The middle class always has to pay, and they continue to pay. And it's unfortunate because they pay all the bills while those special interest groups are up here, and they'll be up here next week and the week after with their hand out wanting somebody else's money, wanting Uncle Sam to redistribute the wealth that belongs to the middle class to someone else. And that's just basically wrong.

We talk about stimulating the economy. We need stimulate the economy, but we cannot stimulate the economy by spending more money. That doesn't make sense. We need to spend less money. And one thing we can do, Congress has the power to do, is let those middle class people who pay taxes, who foot the bill for all of this that we do, give everybody that pays taxes a tax break and let them decide how to stimulate the economy instead of us and Uncle Sam trying to make that decision.

We need to reduce our debt. We hear about debt. It's a trillion dollars, give or take a few billion. How much is a trillion dollars? It's a one with twelve zeros behind it. That's how much a trillion is. I can't even write that down. It's a massive amount of money. But, you know, Uncle Sam, we live in a credit card government. We just borrow the money. That's the society that we live in, and the government does the same thing. We just borrow the money, probably from the Chinese, pay interest to the Chinese, let them own our country rather than the American taxpayer. We need to certainly reduce our debt. We cannot continue to spend, borrow, tax our way into prosperity. It just won't work.

And lastly, number six, we need to do what most Americans do when they budget. We have to have a budget. Most Americans figure out, well, I'm going

to get this amount of money, cutting out the taxes, and then I can spend it on this. We do just the opposite. We decide how to spend money, oh, and then we'll just get the money. We'll tax it or go into debt. Uncle Sam needs to budget like other Americans.

These are some considerations and some New Year's resolutions for Uncle Sam. I hope we impose a few of those. I think it's time we stop the credit card government.

And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL'S YEARS OF SERVICE IN SENATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. CHANDLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the now longest-serving Kentucky Senator in the history of the United States Senate. This is truly a historic milestone for both the Commonwealth of Kentucky and Senator MITCH MCCONNELL.

Recently, Senator MCCONNELL celebrated 25 years in the United States Senate, surpassing the great Senator Wendell Ford's previous record. By no means is this a small accomplishment, as our State has been the home to such noted Members of the Senate as Henry Clay, John J. Crittenden, Alben Barkley, and John Sherman Cooper, just to name a few.

The Senator did not become the influential man that he is today without hard work, dedication, and determination. He started his career as an intern on Capitol Hill, moved to legislative assistant, eventually deputy assistant attorney general under President Ford, to County Judge-Executive in Jefferson County, the largest county in our State, all before being elected by the people of Kentucky to serve in the United States Senate in 1984.

He led his classmates as student body president in college and then went on to be the president of the Student Bar Association in law school. He has garnered the respect of his peers for years; so it comes as no surprise that he has risen to be the leader of his party in the Senate, an accomplishment only one other Kentuckyan in history has ever achieved.

Parties aside, Senator MCCONNELL has fought for what he believes in with the same dedication and fervor as he did when fighting polio in his early childhood. He can point to a number of achievements, such as aiding struggling Kentucky tobacco farmers by orchestrating the tobacco buyout and providing significant aid to Kentucky's colleges and universities. His influence also extends outside the Congress and the Commonwealth with his work on the Appropriations, Agriculture, and Rules Committees, opposing dictators in Myanmar and fighting for human rights in Egypt and Cambodia among others. Like Senator Wendell Ford,

Senator MCCONNELL won his first statewide election by a small margin, but since that time he has become a mainstay in Kentucky.

Senator MCCONNELL and I are both students of history, and regardless of political differences, and we have a few of those, I believe it's important to recognize his truly outstanding achievements.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask the House to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of the distinguished gentleman from Kentucky, Senator MITCH MCCONNELL.

STATEMENT ON A PRESIDENTIAL COMMUTATION FOR FORMER U.S. BORDER PATROL AGENTS RAMOS AND COMPEAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, before President Bush leaves office next week, he has the power to correct a terrible injustice.

Over the past 2 years, Members of Congress have written to the President, as a group and individually, asking him to commute the sentences of imprisoned U.S. Border Patrol Agents Ramos and Compean.

It is well known that these border agents were convicted and sentenced to 11 and 12 years in prison for shooting and wounding a Mexican drug smuggler who brought \$1 million worth of marijuana across the U.S. border in 2005. This Saturday, January 17 of 2009, will mark the beginning of the agents' 3rd year in Federal prison.

On November 24, 2008, President Bush granted 14 pardons and two commutations. Clemency was granted to individuals convicted of crimes such as drug conspiracy, tax evasion, poisoning bald eagles, dumping hazardous waste, bank embezzlement, and theft of government property.

On December 22, 2008, the President issued 19 additional pardons and one commutation. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, Ramos and Compean have not made the list.

With the help of Lou Dobbs and countless other news outlets, Americans across this Nation have learned of the unjust prosecution of these two men who were doing their job to protect our border. Since the agents' convictions, the White House has received thousands of phone calls from outraged citizens and letters sent by Members of Congress on both sides of the political aisle.

On November 20 of 2008, I joined Congressman BILL DELAHUNT, DANA ROHRABACHER, and others in a letter to pardon Attorney Ronald Rodgers, which outlined the reasons for our request. And most recently on December 11, 2008, I wrote the President that he commute the agents' sentences before they have to spend another Christmas in Federal prison, and, Mr. Speaker, I submit the letter for the RECORD.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 11, 2008.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I am writing to express my deep disappointment that the 14 pardons and two commutations you granted on November 24, 2008, did not include commutations for imprisoned U.S. Border Patrol agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose Alonso Compean. Instead, clemency was granted to those convicted of crimes such as drug conspiracy, tax evasion, poisoning bald eagles, dumping hazardous waste, bank embezzlement and theft of government property.

Mr. President, this week I opened a Christmas card which pictured two beautiful families with three children each. I was deeply saddened when I realized these were photos of the Ramos and Compean families—who will face another Christmas with husbands and fathers locked away in federal prison if you fail to intervene on their behalf. Knowing that it has become customary during the final days of a president's term to grant pardons and commutations in criminal cases, I urge you to take the time to personally review the prosecution of agents Ramos and Compean. I am confident the facts of their case will lead you to the same conclusion countless American citizens have already reached: there are no individuals more worthy of presidential commutations than agents Ramos and Compean. The facts of the case will show—as Judge E. Grady Jolly stated on December 3, 2007, during the agents' appeal—"the government overreacted here * * * for some reason, this one got out of hand." By attempting to apprehend an illegal alien drug smuggler, agents Ramos and Compean were enforcing our laws—not breaking them. Simply put, the indictments against these men were unjustified.

As countless Americans and many in Congress have brought to your attention over the past two years, agents Ramos and Compean were convicted and sentenced to 11 and 12 years respectively for shooting and wounding a Mexican drug smuggler who brought 743 pounds of marijuana across the U.S. border in 2005. Both men entered prison on January 17, 2007, and have served nearly two years of their sentences. Since the agents' convictions, your office has received thousands of phone calls from concerned citizens and numerous letters from members of Congress on both sides of the aisle. Most recently, on November 13, 2008, I wrote a letter urging you to commute the agents' sentences to time served. On November 20, 2008, I also joined Congressmen Bill Delahunt, Dana Rohrabacher and others in a letter to Pardon Attorney Ronald Rodgers which outlined the rationale for this request.

Many disturbing details of the Ramos and Compean case have garnered national attention and raised serious concerns over the lack of fairness in the proceedings against these two men—including the prosecution's efforts to seek out and offer immunity to a habitual Mexican drug smuggler, a sealed indictment of the smuggler's subsequent drug offenses and insufficient proof of whether or not the smuggler was unarmed, as he claimed at trial. All of these factors strongly call into question whether justice was served.

Among the most serious matters warranting your consideration is the U.S. Attorney's decision to charge Ramos and Compean with violations of 18 U.S.C. §924(c)—which pertains to the use of a firearm during and in relation to the commission of a crime of violence and carries a mandatory 10-year sentence. Any failure by the agents to report