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VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I was unavoidably absent on the afternoon of May 19, 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on rollcall vote 194, in favor of final passage of H.R. 627, the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act of 2009.

CONFIRMATION OF LARRY ECHO HAWK

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. I rise today to support the nomination of a man I am proud to call my friend—Larry Echo Hawk. He is President Obama's nominee to be Assistance Secretary of Indian Affairs. He was approved unanimously by this body last night. And he is a wonderful choice.

Before I talk about why Larry is so qualified for this position, I want to say a few quick words about how committed he is to this job.

Larry was a law professor. And as many of you know, that is a pretty nice job.

More importantly, as a former BYU quarterback, Larry was named to be the faculty member who oversees the BYU Athletics Department.

What I am saying is, rather than spending his days being worshipped by law students, publishing groundbreaking articles, and watching college football games from the 50-yard line, Larry has chosen to serve his country in the Interior Department. If that is not commitment, I don't know what is.

We are very lucky that Larry is so committed to this position because I can think of nobody who is better suited for it.

Larry's resume speaks for itself. He has the kind of depth and breadth of experience that would make him equal to any job. Over the course of his career, he has been an advocate and an academic—an elected official, a private attorney and a marine. He has worked to put criminals behind bars and to keep children in school. He has fought drug use, domestic violence, and bigotry. And throughout this broad and varied career, he has retained a passionate commitment to his people—the first Americans. As he moved from job to job and even State to State, he never stopped working to improve the lives of our country's Native Americans.

Larry's work has won him awards and acclaim from around the country and across the political spectrum. Just recently, a respected law professor suggested that Larry replace Justice Souter on the Supreme Court. This is a man who really could do anything.

And Larry is more than a very accomplished lawyer and public servant. He is a deep and innovative thinker.

Larry grew up in Farmington, NM, but I first got to know him when we were both elected state attorneys gen-

eral in 1990. At the time, Larry was the first Native American to be elected to a statewide constitutional office anywhere in the United States.

And Larry's path breaking did not stop there. Shortly after his election, he began to spread what, at the time, was a very new idea—conflicts with tribes should not be settled in court.

Back then, state AGs were in court with the tribes all the time. Nobody won those cases because the bad blood on both sides turned any outcome into a defeat.

Larry was the first to say, "We can do better." And he was right.

I followed Larry's advice, and as a result New Mexico's relationship with our tribes was more productive for everybody involved.

The author Dov Seidman has written that, "Laws tell you what you can do. Values inspire in you what you should do."

Larry knows the law well enough to understand what is possible. But, more importantly, he has the values to know when it is time to expand the realm of the possible—to break old habits and try new ideas. He is a leader who can bring change to a Bureau that desperately needs it.

At BIA, we need somebody who can work with tribal governments and tribal members with an attitude of respect. We need somebody who combines a deep knowledge of Indian issues with the compassion that comes from common experience and common culture. We need a great mind connected to a great heart.

In short, we need Larry Echo Hawk. I thank you all for supporting his nomination.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CELEBRATING THE 100 YEAR BIRTHDAY OF POWELL, WYOMING

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, on May 25, 2009, we will celebrate the centennial of Powell, WY. Located in the valley of the Shoshone River, Powell is surrounded by the Absaroka and Big Horn mountain ranges, and is east of Yellowstone National Park.

One hundred years ago, the U.S. Reclamation Service offered for sale lots in a tract of land designated as the Powell Townsite. The sale began the last week in May 1909 and by June 30 of that year all lots in the square mile tract were purchased. The sale totaled \$16,750. While a thriving community was officially born May 25, 2009, the area had been occasionally populated for tens of thousands of years. Stone circles provide the archaeological and ethnohistorical evidence to show that the Shoshone and Crow had active family organizations, camp activities, and domestic life in the area.

Perhaps the first White man to view what would become Powell was Lewis and Clark's colleague, John Colter. During the winter of 1807, Colter made

the solitary trek from Fort Manuel Lisa to inform the Native Americans living near the Clark Fork River that a new trading post had been established. On his way back, he viewed the sagebrush flats along the Stinking Water River. Just a century later, the town of Powell would be born—and the river renamed Shoshone.

In 1906, the U.S. Reclamation Service established an engineering camp on the sagebrush flats and called it Camp Colter. Yet when the townsite was offered for sale, a new name was necessary since another location in the Big Horn Basin was also named for the Lewis and Clark explorer. The town's forefathers chose to honor Major John Wesley Powell, an early explorer, conservationist and reclamationist—and the former head of the U.S. Reclamation Service Geodetic Survey.

Powell is a terrific community. On the town's centennial blog, Cathy Howard Miller writes, "Powell—a small town where everyone knows you and you know them, a place to raise children, where you can feel safe." Cathy's words sum up the reason why Powell was elected as one of 10 All-America Cities in 1994. With a population of 5,381, its economy is based upon oil, irrigated farming, ranching, tourism, and agricultural support services. Home of the Powell High School Panthers and the Northwest College Trappers, Powell is a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. President, I encourage my colleagues to join me in wishing Powell, WY, a happy birthday.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. MYLES BRAND

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, today I recognize a constituent and a dear friend, Dr. Myles David Brand, a man of uncommon integrity and vision whose leadership has restored an ethos of scholastic achievement to collegiate athletics in America.

Dr. Brand took over as the fourth chief executive officer of the National Collegiate Athletics Association, NCAA, in January 2003, and the intervening years have been marked by an unyielding focus on reorienting the NCAA's priorities in ways aimed to nurture and support the student athlete.

Dr. Brand delivered a watershed speech in 2001 at the National Press Club, in which he enunciated the mission statement that would come to define his tenure leading the NCAA: "Academics must come first."

Dr. Brand warned against the "bleeding of the entertainment industry with intercollegiate athletics" and cautioned that falling academic performance "risks undermine the integrity of a system of higher education that is without question right now leading the world."

"Athletic success," he said, "cannot substitute for academic success. Universities must be seen, and understood, and judged by their achievements as

academic institutions, not sports franchises."

As NCAA president, Dr. Brand spearheaded the most comprehensive package of academic reforms governing college athletics in our lifetime. Under his leadership, the NCAA raised eligibility standards for freshmen and toughened requirements that its 400,000 scholarship athletes make annual progress toward a degree to maintain their eligibility. Dr. Brand's reforms subjected teams with poor overall academic performance to unprecedented penalties, including bans on bowl games and postseason play.

The result: Today, NCAA graduation rates exceed those of the general student population in every demographic category. Last year, the NCAA's overall graduation rate for its student athletes stood at 79 percent. The graduation rate of female student athletes outpaced nonathletes by 8 percent, while the graduation rate for African-American male student athletes was 10 percent higher than their nonathletic peers.

For redefining what is scholastically possible in such a short time span, Dr. Brand will forever be known as the NCAA's "Education President."

It should be noted that despite Dr. Brand's unrelenting focus on helping students make the grade, he has never lost sight of the joy of making the shot. "Anyone who thinks that college is only about the library, the lecture hall, and the laboratory really doesn't understand what happens in college," he once told a journalist.

I can personally attest that Myles Brand harbors an unsurpassed love for the game played on the field and a belief in the power of the NCAA to be a dreammaker for young people.

Yet he has remained true to his pledge that "academics must come first." In 2003, Dr. Brand became the first university president ever chosen to lead the NCAA. A philosopher by training and inclination, Dr. Brand has earned admiration as a level-headed leader interested in critical examination and reform. USA Today called him "the strongest, most vocal and influential leader college sports has had in . . . decades."

Prior to taking over the NCAA, the people of the great State of Indiana enjoyed a front-row seat to his many accomplishments in academia. From 1994 to 2002, he served as the 16th president of my alma mater, Indiana University. Dr. Brand led IU through a period of remarkable growth, attracting record enrollments, doubling research funding, and establishing the university as a national leader in the life sciences and information technology. He increased the school's endowment by a factor of four and tripled the number of endowed chairs. Under Dr. Brand's leadership, IU created a nationally renowned School of Informatics and developed the Central Indiana Life Sciences Initiatives. His trailblazing leadership was recognized in 2001 when Time Mag-

azine named Indiana University its "College of the Year."

When Dr. Brand left IU to assume the NCAA presidency, he did not have to go far—traveling 40 miles up State Road 37 from Bloomington to Indianapolis, where the NCAA is headquartered.

The NCAA has been a model corporate constituent under Dr. Brand's management, employing more than 410 Hoosiers with well-paying jobs while maintaining a strong community presence. It has helped hundreds of charities, schools and local organizations throughout Indiana, such as United Way and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. After Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast, the NCAA dispatched teams of student athletes and considerable financial resources to the region to rebuild family homes.

Dr. Myles David Brand is a loving and devoted husband to his wife, Peg; a wonderful father and grandfather; and a special leader who I am proud to recognize today for his contributions to college sports, the State of Indiana, and the country as a whole. ●

REMEMBERING PEGGY BURGIN

● Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the life of a very special resident of my home State of Alaska, Peggy Burgin.

Mrs. Burgin was the embodiment of a true Alaskan. While living in Alaska, she witnessed such historical events as the 1964 earthquake and the construction of the Trans-Alaska pipeline. Mrs. Burgin devoted much of her life to volunteering for many community groups. She leaves behind many friends who are grateful to have known this remarkable woman.

On behalf of her family and her many friends, I ask today we honor Peggy Burgin's memory. I ask that her obituary, published May 12, 2009, in the Anchorage Daily News, be printed in the RECORD.

The information follows:

[From the Anchorage Daily News, May 12, 2009]

Peggy Arlene Burgin, 89, died peacefully May 5, 2009, at Alaska Regional Hospital, where she received exceptional loving care from the entire staff. A celebration of life is being planned for June. Born Aug. 16, 1919, in Bellingham, Wash., to Michael and Minnie Burns, she worked from an early age to help her widowed mother and younger brother. She went to business college, was president of the Alpha Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi sorority and was a lifelong Democrat. She moved to Anchorage in July 1947 to marry Lee Morrow, a veteran Air Force pilot with postwar Alaska dreams. Ten months later the small plane he was co-piloting disappeared in the Susitna Valley and was never recovered. Shaken, she returned briefly to Washington, but her love for Alaska drew her right back. Working for an air cargo firm and later First National Bank of Anchorage, she made an impact as a single determined woman in a rough young town. She met and married another Alaska enthusiast, Fred Burgin, and together with their children, Salli, Jim and Judi, they experi-

enced many adventures including the 1964 earthquake, pipeline construction and homesteading in Point MacKenzie. There she homeschooled the kids, shot a bear that tried to join them in the cabin and ran the homestead while Fred was away at construction jobs.

As a Teamster, Peggy was hired to start the Teamster Credit Union (now Denali Alaskan Federal Credit Union), where she achieved her goal of helping members start businesses and buy homes. Politically involved, both Peggy and Fred received their territorial voter registrations from Senator E.L. "Bob" Bartlett and often canceled each other's vote. Peggy was one of the founding members of the Bartlett Democratic Club, rarely missing the weekly meetings. She chaired and worked on many campaigns and was a delegate for Alaska at Clinton's presidential caucus.

Although busy with career and family, she was the ultimate volunteer and contributor with this partial list of organizations that benefited from her enthusiasm: Inlet View PTA, Alaska Regional Hospital Auxilliary, Alaska Native Hospital gift shop, Anchorage Senior Activity Center, Anchorage Unitarian Fellowship, Teamster 959 Retirees, Alaskan Commission on Aging, Pioneers of Alaska, STAR, Victims for Justice, Blood Bank of Alaska, women's equality groups and several credit unions. Peggy was a devoted friend to people of all ages and walks of life, always willing to give kids a hand up or a haven. She valued education, writing and courtesy and was described by one friend as one of the last true pioneer ladies—elegant, gracious, generous and as tough as nails. She loved traveling to Hawaii, Washington and New York and even toured China. She enjoyed staying connected to her myriad friends, watching Alaska politics on cable and getting her hair "fluffed" (her word) at Trendsetters.

Peggy was predeceased by her daughter Judi, and her husbands, Lee and Fred. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Jim Burgin and Janice Ray, daughter, Salli Burgin; grandchildren, Erin Malone (Jason Dallman), Devin Malone, Dante Modaffari, and Bryant Burgin; great-granddaughters, Ava and Lena Malone-Dallman, all of Alaska and Washington; and by her brother, Robert Burns and family of Idaho. The family wishes to thank Peggy's doctors, Kathleen Case and Vernon Cates, for her many years of energetic health. ●

REMEMBERING NORVAL POHL

● Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Dr. Norval Pohl, former president of the University of North Texas, who passed away last week after a courageous battle against pancreatic cancer.

Dr. Pohl joined the UNT community in 1999 as the executive vice president and provost and became the university's 13th president in October 2000.

Under Dr. Pohl's leadership at UNT, enrollment grew from 27,000 to over 32,000 students. During the same period, the university's Latino enrollment increased by 48 percent and African-American enrollment increased by 43 percent. Financial aid awards increased from \$57.8 million to \$172.2 million, and annual giving to UNT increased from \$4.7 million to \$13.4 million. Dr. Pohl is also recognized for addressing title IX issues with the acquisition of the Liberty Christian School