

My remarks are very simple. There are unintended consequences to regulation, and we need to start looking at the cause and effect. Where we can find opportunities for banks to work out, for mark to market to be suspended, for appraisals to be based on cost to replace rather than comparable sales, we will begin to give the flexibility to the banking system to begin to recover, to stop the losses, stop the failures and, over time, recover our economy.

I yield the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

(The remarks of Mr. CASEY pertaining to the introduction of S. 2973 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. CASEY. I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING THE CAMPBELLSVILLE LADY TIGERS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Campbellsville University Lady Tigers volleyball team, winners of the first national title for a team sport in that university's history. On December 5, 2009, the Lady Tigers swept the top-seeded Mount Vernon Nazarene University Cougars in three sets to win the National Christian College Athletic Association, NCCAA, Division I Women's Volleyball National Championship.

The Lady Tigers' winning championship game capped an eight-match win streak through the NCCAA Mid-East Regional Tournament and the NCCAA National Tournament. Every player on the team contributed to this victory. The members of this championship team are Shannon Cahill, Lillian Da Silva, Caitlin Dresing, Whitney Haynes, Samantha James, Jovana Koprivicia, Brooke Marcum, Caroline Martin, Renee Netherton, Lillian Odek, and Christiana Sindelar.

Two players also notched career highs on the way to this national

championship. Senior Jovana Koprivicia of Serbia passed the 1,000 dig mark early this season, proving her a crucial part of this team's defense.

Senior Renee Netherton of Louisville, KY, passed the 1,000 kill mark for her career in the final national championship match. Each one of those kills represents a point for the Lady Tigers that kept them on their march to victory.

Winning the NCCAA national championship is obviously one of the greatest thrills of these girls' lifetimes. "I'm a little nervous to take my uniform off, because once I do it's over," senior Renee Netherton said. "I'm excited we went out so strong. It's such a great feeling to be able to picture that last hit in my head. That's going to stay with me forever."

Success came often to the Lady Tigers this season. They finished second in the Mid-South Conference, won the NCCAA Mid-East Region, and received votes in both the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, NAIA, and NCCAA national polls all season.

Head coach Randy LeBleu not only saw his team win the championship, he also was named the NCCAA Division I Coach of the Year. He coached the Lady Tigers to 38-13 overall, a program record for wins in a season. This was his fifth and final season as the Lady Tigers' head coach; he finishes with a 172-52 career record. Assistant coach Amy Eckenfels, who played a key role in bringing this team to the championship, will take over as head coach next season.

Founded in 1906, Campbellsville University has a tradition of teaching academic excellence, instilling a love of life-long learning, and nurturing an environment of Christian fellowship. Attracting students from 97 Kentucky counties, 30 States and 37 foreign nations, they have a student body of 3,000 and enrollment is increasing. Kentucky is grateful for the presence and the rewards of Campbellsville University.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Campbellsville Lady Tigers for their impressive season and for being the NCCAA Division I Women's Volleyball National Champions. Surely much success lies ahead for the members of this winning team.

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today in the Senate to pay tribute to the Campbellsville University Lady Tigers of Campbellsville, KY. On December 5, 2009, the Lady Tigers Volleyball team won the National Christian College Athletic Association Division I Women's Volleyball National Championship in Kissimmee, FL.

For the coaches and young women on this team, this is not just a trophy; it is an affirmation that anything is possible with hard work and determination. These young women defeated the top-seeded Mount Vernon Nazarene University to complete an eight-match win streak. Furthermore, this national title is the first national team title for Campbellsville University. Every sin-

gle player on the team contributed to this remarkable feat and several individual records were set. The Lady Tigers finished the season with a 38-13 overall record.

Not only are these young women excellent athletes, they also exemplify the great academic tradition of Campbellsville University. To earn this national title while measuring up to the high academic standards of Campbellsville University shows the dedication and work ethic these women possess.

I am very proud of the accomplishments these young women have made. I now ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the members and coaching staff of the Lady Tigers for their success. Campbellsville University and the Commonwealth of Kentucky are fortunate to have such distinguished representation. These young women are role models for all student athletes.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I rise to acknowledge the great contributions of Colorado's African-American community in celebration of Black History Month.

Colorado's African-American community has a long history in our State. From the days of its settlement to modern times, Colorado has benefited from the Black community's hard work and dedication to making Colorado a better place to live.

In contemporary times, we often forget about the diversity of settlers that moved West during the expansion of the United States. But, Black settlers played an active and productive role in the formation of the American West. Many of these settlers found their freedom by moving West and became entrepreneurs, traders, and leaders that helped in the formation of Colorado as a territory and State. Names of early African-American westerners, such as James Beckwourth and "Aunt" Clara Brown, echo through Colorado history.

James Beckwourth was a true frontiersman, leading expeditions into Colorado's Rocky Mountains in the 1820s and returning later in the 1830s to serve at Fort Vasquez near Denver. In the 1840s, he cofounded a fort and settlement named Pueblo so he could enter the lucrative trade business along the Santa Fe Trail. This settlement eventually became the city of Pueblo and still serves as a commercial hub for southeast Colorado.

"Aunt" Clara Brown is another strong African-American figure who fled slavery to establish an independent life in the West. When she reached Colorado in the 1860s, she found a place that rewarded hard work. She earned her living laundering the clothes of miners in Central City and served her community by helping others in need regardless of their race. She was a woman who valued a commitment to her community and to providing opportunity to those who lacked the resources to access it.

These individuals—and countless others—are real examples of the early contributions of African Americans in Colorado and throughout the American West. Yet I do not speak of these individuals so their stories remain in history books or museums, but instead to highlight the continuing efforts and contributions of Colorado's Black community to our State. From the time that James Beckwourth and "Aunt" Clara Brown made their way to Colorado along with other Black men, women and children until present day, there have been many other community leaders, public officials, and entrepreneurs who have overcome the struggles of progress. They rose above the challenges of frontier life and those hard times of the great depression. They joined many others to mine Colorado's mineral wealth and forge the steel of Colorado's railways to contribute to Colorado's burgeoning economy. They have fought in every major American war to protect a collective freedom that for so many years they were denied. And they have risen in solidarity to defend the civil rights of every American citizen regardless of the color of their skin.

Today, I am proud to see Colorado's African-American community continue as a vibrant force in our State, just as they can be found in our history.

As I marched recently in Denver's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. "marade," I was reminded of Dr. King's dream of a nation where people are not judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. We have made much progress in working to fulfill Dr. King's dream; and it was evident to me, that his message is still being heard.

Mr. President, I hope all Coloradans and Americans can reflect on the contributions of African Americans of our State and throughout our great Nation not only during the Black History Month but in every month of the year.

RECOGNIZING THE CUTTER OAK CREW

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate the crewmembers of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Oak*, a 225-foot sea-going Buoy Tender homeported in Charleston, SC, for their bravery, stamina, and fortitude in their response to the tragic aftermath of the earthquake in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

One day after the earthquake, with just a few hours' notice, the *Oak's* crewmembers departed from Charleston stocked with medical supplies, food provisions, and 62,880 bottles of water. Their engineers and food service specialists worked around the clock to ensure the ship had all the supplies they needed for the humanitarian rescue mission, and on January 18, 2010, the Coast Guard Cutter *Oak* arrived in Haiti.

The crew faced a tremendous challenge both physically and mentally as

they sought to open the port in Port-au-Prince and provide humanitarian assistance and evacuation for the critically injured. Working under the joint task force and partnering with the Haitian port officials and maritime community, the *Oak's* crew surveyed the port and placed out buoys to improve the conditions. Having spent time in Haiti on previous missions training the Haitian Coast Guard members in CPR and first aid, small arms maintenance, and boat maintenance, the *Oak's* crewmembers were able to quickly improve the situation. I am especially proud of the crew's accomplishment in reopening the port to traffic on January 21, 2010. Because of their efforts, life-saving relief aid reached the Haitian people.

In addition to opening the port, the *Oak's* crew distributed food, water, and medical supplies and aided in evacuating hundreds of American citizens and critically injured Haitians to the United States. Their quick response to a terrifying situation saved the lives of many people, and these impressive achievements bring great credit upon the *Oak*.

It is with great pride that I thank Commander Mike Glander, the commanding officer of the *Oak*, and the men and women under his command.

These crewmembers have upheld the best traditions of the Coast Guard and have represented the city of Charleston, the State of South Carolina, and this Nation with honor and distinction. They have worked diligently to support the values that make this Nation great. I know the Coast Guard is especially proud of the heroic actions of the *Oak's* crewmembers, but on behalf of the people of the State of South Carolina and our great country, I salute the outstanding work of the crewmembers of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Oak*. This January, the men and women of the *Oak* were a living expression to the world of the *Oak's* motto—Decora Fides Robur—Honor, Faithfulness, Strength.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, 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 appropriate committees.

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

BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011—PM 43

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 jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975 as modified by the order of April 11, 1986; to the Committees on the Budget; and Appropriations:

To the Congress of the United States:

We begin a new year at a moment of continuing challenge for the American people. Even as we recover from crisis, millions of families are still feeling the pain of lost jobs and savings. Businesses are still struggling to find affordable loans to expand and hire workers. Our Nation is still experiencing the consequences of a deep and lasting recession, even as we have seen encouraging signs that the turmoil of the past 2 years is waning. Moving from recession to recovery, and ultimately to prosperity, remains at the heart of my Administration's efforts. This Budget provides a blueprint for the work ahead.

But in order to understand where we are going in the coming year, it is important to remember where we started just 1 year ago. Last January, the United States faced an economic crisis unlike any we had known in generations. Irresponsible risk-taking and debt-fueled speculation—unchecked by sound oversight—led to the near-collapse of our financial system. Our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was falling at the fastest rate in a quarter-century. Five trillion dollars of Americans' household wealth had evaporated in just 12 weeks as stocks, pensions, and home values plummeted. We were losing an average of 700,000 jobs each month, equivalent to the population of the State of Vermont. The capital and credit markets, integral to the normal functioning of our economy, were virtually frozen. The fear among economists—from across the political spectrum—was that we risked sinking into a second Great Depression.

Immediately, we undertook a series of difficult steps to prevent that outcome. We acted to get lending flowing again so that businesses could get loans to buy equipment and ordinary Americans could get financing to buy homes and cars, go to college, and start or run businesses. We enacted measures to foster greater stability in the housing market, help responsible homeowners stay in their homes, and help to stop the broader decline in home values. To achieve this, and to prevent an economic collapse that would have affected millions of additional families, we had no choice but to use authority enacted under the previous Administration to extend assistance to some of the very banks and financial institutions whose actions had helped precipitate the turmoil. We also took steps to prevent the rapid dissolution of the American auto industry—which faced a crisis partly of its own making—to prevent the loss of hundreds of thousands of additional jobs during an already fragile time. Many of these decisions were not popular, but we deemed them