

OH. Their head coach is Mark Ehlen. Their assistant coach came out of one of the great women's basketball programs in Ohio, Stephanie Stevens, a 2010 graduate of the University of Cincinnati. She went to Pickerington High School, which has been in the state finals and final four many times.

As we prepare our Nation to "win the future" and outcompete and outeducate the rest of the world, we must ensure that mission includes all Americans. The creation of Gallaudet, 140-plus years ago, helped establish a nationwide community for generations of deaf children.

Ohio's first school for the deaf was established in 1829 in a small house right near where the State House now is on Broad and Highway in Columbus. That school, the Columbus School for the Deaf for Ohio, will soon have a new campus on 200 acres on Morse Road in Columbus with convenient student housing and modern education technology and space for future expansion. Such progress demonstrates how far education for deaf and hard-of-hearing students has come, and how much farther it can go.

Last year I gave a speech on this floor honoring Gallaudet as the Senate passed a resolution commemorating the 145th anniversary of Gallaudet's charter that was authored by President Lincoln. And 141 years ago, the three members of Gallaudet's first graduating class received degrees signed by President Lincoln.

Last year, during Gallaudet's 140th commencement, 10 Ohio students graduated from Gallaudet with a degree signed by President Obama. I am concerned, though, that funding for Gallaudet may be compromised in the budget that is working its way through the House of Representatives. Gallaudet's budget has been frozen at \$118 million for, I believe, 3 straight years. They have gotten no increase in Federal funding. They raise private money. They obviously charge tuition, although a huge percentage of their students, as I said, are on scholarship. The Federal money they have has not increased over the last, I believe, 3 years.

My concern is as the budget makes its way through here, we do not just help those students who are going to Gallaudet but we do understand that Gallaudet is one of our Nation's gems, a national university unlike any other, not just in the United States of America but any other university anywhere in the world. The proud alumni of Gallaudet have enriched our communities and have taught all of us the meaning of the values President Lincoln laid before us, that we educate ourselves as part of a community, full of opportunity, free of, as Lincoln said, artificial weight that works toward the good of our society.

Gallaudet is a jewel for our country. It is an honor to be on their board. It is an honor, frankly, to me, as a mission for the United States of America, that we continue to assist this great

national university that is a credit to all of us.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume consideration of S. 223 on Tuesday, February 15, at 11 a.m.; further that at 11:40 a.m., the Senate proceed to the consideration of the Nelson of Nebraska amendment No. 58; that a Nelson second-degree amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to, there be up to 20 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to a vote in relation to the amendment, as amended; that no further amendments be in order to the Nelson of Nebraska amendment prior to the vote; and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table and there be no intervening action or debate.

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

Mr. REID. I further ask unanimous consent that at 2:15 p.m. there be 10 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled in the usual form prior to a vote on or in relation to Wicker amendment No. 14, as modified; that all amendments covered in this agreement be subject to a 60-vote threshold; that if an amendment does not achieve 60 affirmative votes, the amendment be withdrawn; that there be no second-degree amendments in order prior to the votes; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

TRIBUTE TO ELLEN MALDONADO

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, it is a somewhat poorly kept secret that many of the successes of government are attributable to those who work outside of the limelight. While Senators, Cabinet Secretaries, and even the generals in our military are the public face of the policies of the United States, behind every leader is a cadre of dedicated and knowledgeable civil servants.

Today I wish to call out one name in particular. Ellen Maldonado, a professional staff member on the Senate Ap-

propriations Committee, will soon be retiring after 30 years of government service. Ellen joined the Defense Subcommittee in 2006, brought onboard by my friend and former colleague, Senator Ted Stevens. The subcommittee, and in fact the Senate as a whole, was fortunate to find someone with such a wealth of talent and experience in the complex field of budgeting for our Armed Forces.

Ellen has worked at every level of the budgeting workforce for our military establishment. She began her career as a program analyst at the Naval Ship Research and Development Center in Carderock, MD, and rapidly progressed through the ranks in critical budgeting positions both inside and outside the beltway. Some of her most rewarding positions outside of Washington have included service at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA, Air Force Special Operations Command at Hurlburt Field, and even the U.S. Embassy in Lima, Peru.

Inside the Pentagon, Ellen worked on an impressive array of budgeting issues. From revising the Army's reprogramming process to programming for military health care, from reviewing defense research and development programs to developing emergency spending requests for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, she has earned the respect of all of those around her. She has won a reputation of being an expert on the most arcane points of the Financial Management Regulations, as well as understanding the details of highly complex weapons systems. Ellen has been recognized for her outstanding achievements by being awarded both the Secretary of Defense Medal for Meritorious Service and the Exceptional Civilian Service Award.

Ellen's career at the Pentagon culminated in her 2005 appointment as the Director for Investment for the Comptroller of the Department of Defense. In this position, she was responsible for overseeing the budget for every stage of developing, testing, and procuring equipment for all of the military services. This position brought her into regular contact with the highest levels of the Department of Defense, as well as Congress and the Office of Management and Budget.

It is extremely fortunate for the Committee on Appropriations that we managed to lure her away from this important position in 2006. While serving on the Defense Subcommittee, Ellen has excelled in reviewing the budget proposals on critical Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and intelligence programs. She has tackled some of the greatest national security challenges facing our country today, including an in-depth investigation into our government's cyber security efforts and exhaustive reviews of the Nation's most expensive military program in history, the Joint Strike Fighter. Her impressive track record made her a natural pick to join President Obama's transition team at the Department of Defense in 2008 and 2009.

While I could continue to list her professional successes, one cannot comment on her career without saying a few words on her outstanding character. Ellen combines a sunny disposition with a deep-rooted sense of fairness. She is a true master of her field, and always eager to share her knowledge and experience with her colleagues. While consistently a good steward of the taxpayer's money, her patriotism has insured that the welfare of the men and women serving in uniform has always been foremost in her mind. And finally, everyone who knows Ellen also knows of her remarkable and touching relationship with her husband, Rob. They are truly a magical couple, and I understand that they have plans to travel the world later this year.

Ellen Maldonado has had an outstanding career in three decades of service in the Department of Defense and the Senate. On behalf of the whole Committee on Appropriations, I wish to thank Ellen for her tireless and outstanding work on behalf of the members of the Armed Forces, her colleagues, and the people of the United States. I wish Ellen and Rob all the very best in their future plans.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT ANNA DIXON

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the impressive accomplishments of a remarkable woman and native of the Commonwealth, Lieutenant Anna Dixon of the U.S. Coast Guard. Lieutenant Dixon has always possessed an adventurous spirit and harbored a desire to expand her horizons and explore the possibilities of the world outside of her hometown of Barbourville, KY. So it came as no surprise to those who know her that upon graduating from Barbourville High School and attending the University of Kentucky to study architecture for a year, Lieutenant Dixon decided to take advantage of an exchange program and follow her dream of becoming a marine biologist at Coastal Carolina College in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Upon graduating with her degree in marine science and working at an environmental testing lab, Lieutenant Dixon decided to take another adventurous and courageous leap and enlist in the U.S. Coast Guard. Lieutenant Dixon not only completed her basic training at Camp May, NJ, in August of 2004, but also graduated at the top of her class and was assigned to the Coast Guard Station in Long Beach, CA, where she remained for 2 years.

In the years that followed, this bright and determined woman worked tirelessly to qualify for numerous positions within the U.S. Coast Guard, including Officer Candidate School where she graduated third in her class, as a patroller on the Coast Guard Cutter Spencer, and as Chief of Contingency Preparedness at the Coast Guard Sta-

tion in Key West, FL. Most recently, Lieutenant Dixon was assigned the duties of public information officer for the Florida Keys response to the Deepwater Horizon oilspill, and was hand-selected to be the lead advance officer and deputy press secretary for now-retired National Incident Commander Admiral Thad Allen of the U.S. Coast Guard.

During her time in the post from July to October of 2010, Lieutenant Dixon worked steadfastly to coordinate daily national press conferences for Admiral Allen and other high-ranking national leader, to make sure information on one of the Nation's most devastating offshore disasters was delivered in a timely and accurate manner. Because of her strong sense of leadership and her eye for detail, Lieutenant Dixon was selected by a board of Coast Guard officers to attend a fully funded graduate program to further her experience in communications and public relations, as well as to complete a follow-on tour as a public affairs officer for a multistate Coast Guard district.

It is unquestionable that Lieutenant Dixon's career successes, including her recent change in rank, have come with much sacrifice, but have been well-deserved. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of LT Anna Dixon, and in sending congratulations to her proud parents Katy Jones and Bill Matt Dixon, and step-parents Michael Jones and Kay Dixon. I wish Lieutenant Dixon continued success for the future.

The Mountain Advocate recently published a story about Lieutenant Dixon and her successful career. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Mountain Advocate, Jan. 6, 2011]

(By Eddie Arnold)

JUST CALL HER 'LIEUTENANT'

When Anna Dixon graduated from Barbourville High School in 1998, she had dreams of being a marine biologist. However, with the nearest ocean hundreds of miles away, pursuing such a career seemed even unlikely.

Little did she know that working in and around oceans is something that she would eventually do—not as a marine biologist but as a member of the United States Coast Guard.

Even more ironic is that she never even considered the military as a young girl. "I never even thought about it," she said.

After one year at the University of Kentucky as a student of architecture, she chose to take advantage of an exchange program and moved to South Carolina, where she graduated from the Coastal Carolina College in Myrtle Beach with a B.S. degree in marine science.

"There are very few jobs for marine biologists that don't have an advanced degree," she said. It was then that her best friend's husband, who was in the Army, suggested that she consider the Coast Guard. "I didn't even know what that was, I thought they were water cops."

However, the suggestion planted a seed in Dixon's mind. "At first it was a joke. But the

more I joked about it, the more I thought maybe it's not that bad of an idea," she said. After graduation and while living in Savannah, Dixon worked at an environmental testing lab. "It was like real chemistry, but I could tell that was what I would be doing forever if I didn't make a change and go out on a limb. So I went and talked with a recruiter," she said, adding that she made the decision to enlist. "It sounded like a really good idea."

Dixon graduated from basic training at Cape May, New Jersey at the top of her class in August 2004. After going on to Boatswain's Mate "A" School training, she was assigned to the Coast Guard Station Los Angeles/Long Beach where she remained from December 2004 to March 2006.

"I worked really hard and got qualified as quickly as I could and got recommended to go to Officer Candidate School, where she graduated third in her class.

From there, she went to a ship—the Coast Guard Cutter Spencer out of Boston, Massachusetts.

"I never wanted to do ship life," she said. "But I thought if I didn't do it then, I would never get the chance to do it."

During her two years aboard ship, they patrolled from the northeast coast off Canada all the way down to the Caribbean, including doing migrant patrols.

Even though Dixon said she learned a lot on that assignment, she longed to get her feet back on dry land. When she applied for a new assignment, she noticed that Key West was available. "I thought to myself there's no way I'm going to get that. There will be thirty other people in line for that. When I learned that I had got it, I was off the coast of Canada. It was like eight degrees," she said. "At three o'clock in the morning I got an email saying I was going to Key West."

Being a female presented its own set of challenges for Dixon. "During my whole time in the Coast Guard it has been a challenge no matter where I go. But within a month, they find out that I am for real. But I've never had any real problems," she said.

Since being assigned at Key West through the present, Dixon's job as Chief of Contingency Preparedness has posed challenges also.

In April of this year she was assigned the duties of public information officer for the Florida Keys response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

"Since I've been doing that it has been a full-time thing," she said. "But I am still the chief of planning."

Dixon was hand-selected to be the Lead Advance Officer and Deputy Press Secretary for National Incident Commander Admiral Thad Allen (USCG-Ret.), a job she held from July through October of this year.

During her time in the post, she coordinated daily national-level press conferences for Allen and other high-ranking national leaders including Dr. Lane Lubchenco, Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Although she has enjoyed her duty assignments so far, Dixon said she is looking forward to the next level in her career.

"I have been selected by a board of Coast Guard officers to attend a fully-funded graduate program to study communications and public relations, with a follow-on tour as a Public Affairs Officer for an entire multistate Coast Guard district," she said.

Dixon, who was recently promoted to the rank of lieutenant, said she has enjoyed her six plus years in the Coast Guard. "I didn't know what to expect when I went in but I definitely didn't expect to live in eight states and have all these different experiences. It has been unbelievable," she said, adding that her family and friends are really proud of me.