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degree at the University of Oregon. He founded the Campbell Group, a very successful firm, pioneering work establishing timber investment funds. He soon became recognized as an innovator and an industry leader, but his real story is his lifelong commitment to children.

Shaped by his own difficult early experiences, Duncan has focused on ways that he can use his success financially and intellectually to advance the cause of disadvantaged children. He's done this in numerous ways, but I think his greatest achievement is the establishment of an organization known as Friends of the Children. He put part of the proceeds of the sale of his company to establish the program in 1993. Starting small, it was built around the principle that troubled young people need a constant adult presence supporting, guiding, and not just mentoring but really becoming a part of their lives. Over the years, it has proven to be spectacularly successful.

Currently, there are 90 friends who are paid, full-time mentors, each serving as a caring adult—a constant presence for a handful of children. These friends are not just in Portland, Oregon, but in rural Oregon, in Sisters and Klamath Falls, and now in projects in Boston, New York, and Seattle.

Duncan's vision is to focus on the children with the very highest risk factors. These children statistically would undoubtedly fail to complete school. Most would have problems with drugs or alcohol, early unplanned out-of-wedlock pregnancy, and almost all would fall into the criminal justice system.

The results of his handiwork are overwhelming and compelling:

Eighty-five percent of these children, who most experts agree would otherwise fall through the cracks or worse, graduate from high school;

Ninety percent avoid involvement with the criminal justice system, even though 60 percent of these at-risk children are part of a program that have a parent who's been incarcerated;

Despite the fact that 60 percent of these children were born to a teen parent, 95 percent avoid early parenting themselves;

According to a report by the Harvard Business School Association of Oregon, every dollar invested in the organization results in more than \$7 in reduced social costs for the community and untold richness for the children involved.

This is an amazing program with compelling results. It was willed into existence by my friend, Duncan Campbell. Portland honors him this evening, but all Americans should honor not just the example but the specifics.

Friends of the Children is a program that works and should be replicated. I will do all I can to help the Federal Government find a way for it to be a partner in this unparalleled success story. This is the best way to honor Duncan, his vision, and his commitment.

#### HONORING COACH PAT SUMMITT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, last night I had the privilege of sitting with University of Tennessee Coach Pat Head Summitt as she received the top award presented by the National Alzheimer's Association. This is the Sargent and Eunice Shriver Profiles in Dignity Award, and it was presented by their well-known daughter, Maria.

No one could have been more deserving of this award than Coach Summitt. As the Nation knows, she was diagnosed with early onset dementia, or Alzheimer's, almost a year ago. She made the decision to both go public with this diagnosis and continue coaching her beloved Lady Vols. Now she has decided to give up her coaching job after 38 years to help lead the fight against Alzheimer's. She and her son, Tyler, have established the Pat Head Summitt Foundation to carry on this battle that is and will be so very, very important to millions of people.

Pat Head Summitt is certainly the most admired and respected woman in Tennessee. She is my most famous constituent and a longtime friend. I have been honored on two occasions to be her honorary assistant coach. The first time was on her 25th anniversary as a coach, and the second time was a few years later against Vanderbilt on the last home game of the season. Before that game, we were given a scouting report, and Tennessee had beaten Vanderbilt in Nashville by 30 points. So it was accurate to say that the team was fairly confident about this game. However, at halftime, the game was almost tied, and the Lady Vols came into the locker room with their heads hanging down.

That is when I saw Coach Summitt go into action. She got into each young woman's face like a baseball manager arguing with an umpire. She started with Lady Vol Teresa Geter, and told her in a drill sergeant's voice that she was going through a pity party out there and Coach Summitt was having no part of it and was giving her 2 minutes to make her presence known on that court or she was going to yank her out of there so fast it would make her head swim. When we went back out for the second half, the first thing that happened was that Teresa Geter stole the ball, took it down court, and scored her first 2 points of the game. The Lady Vols went on a 20-0 run, and Vanderbilt called a timeout.

A spectator in the stands, whom I had not seen because there were 20,000 people there, sent his card down to me on the bench, and it said, "Jimmy, great halftime coaching, come again." But it was not me; it was Coach Summitt. In fact, when she was staring each one of her players in the face at halftime in an intensely angry, very

loud voice, I was just glad I was not one of those players.

Coach Summitt is the winningest coach in basketball history with 1,098 victories. Her teams have won 16 Southeastern Conference Championships and eight national championships. She has coached in 18 Final Fours. She has an 84 percentage winning record as a head coach. But to me, her most impressive statistic is a 100 percent graduation rate, and she did not allow her players to take easy courses. Let me repeat that. Every player who has ever played for Coach Summitt in her 38 years has graduated. She made sure they were prepared for life after basketball, and almost all of her players have been successful after leaving the University of Tennessee. On top of all this, she has never had a question raised about her recruiting or any NCAA violation. She has shown through the years that you do not have to cheat in sports to win and be very successful.

She has succeeded at her most important job—being a mother and raising her fine son, Tyler, who is following in his mother's footsteps and will soon start his first job as an assistant coach for the Marquette women's basketball team.

Coach Summitt is a member of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame and was NCAA Coach of the Year an unprecedented seven times. In 2008 she was named the Naismith Coach of the Year. Pat Head Summitt is a woman of honor and integrity. She has been a great, great success because of her very hard work, dedication, determination, and discipline. Most of her success she credits to hardworking parents and lessons learned on her family's Tennessee farm. This Nation is a better place today because of her work with young people and the inspiring example that she has set for all of us.

Coach Pat Head Summitt is truly a great American, and I'm proud to call her one of my constituents and, as I said, one of my very, very close friends.

#### THE STUDENT LOAN AFFORDABILITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. RICHARDSON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, the higher education system in the United States has for many years been the envy of the world. The universities here are a part of America's backbone, providing young people with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in today's changing global economy.

However, Mr. Speaker, right now, the cost of tuition at universities has risen so dramatically all across this country that attendance is tough to achieve. Nowhere is this truer than in public universities in the State of California that I represent, where budget cuts, furlough days, and tuition increases have become a new normal—at the expense of higher learning. Average in-

State tuition and fees at public 4-year institutions have risen 8.3 percent in 2010 and now in the classes in 2011.

As a result of these increases, tuition at public and private universities now has caused student loan debt to exceed credit card debt, totaling \$870 billion, and it's expected to reach \$1 trillion this year. Students graduating from college between 2006 and 2010 had a median student loan debt of over \$20,000. Not only are young adults in debt, but recent graduates are also facing one of the toughest job markets in recent memory.

In 2007, when I started here in Congress, we worked to pass the College Cost Reduction and Access Act which, among many other things, lowered the interest rate of subsidized Stafford loans from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent. As a result of these lower interest rates on federally subsidized student loans, more students were able to afford to go to college. In order to keep college affordable, Democrats in Congress and President Obama are urging the House GOP leadership to bring forward the legislation that would prevent these interest rates on student loans from doubling this July.

I'm a proud cosponsor of H.R. 3826, the Student Loan Affordability Act, which will prevent the interest rate on subsidized Stafford loans from doubling in July. By extending the current interest rate, we are making an investment in our country's future. Our economy depends upon the educated workforce to out-compete and to out-innovate the rest of the world, which is something we've been known to do for quite some time.

Statistics tell us that it also makes a difference if you're able to go to college. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for those 25 years and older who've got their bachelor's degree is only 4.2 percent, but for those, unfortunately, who were not able to attend and graduate, the unemployment rate exceeds over 10 percent.

Unlike Pell grants, which provide a vital benefit to low-income families and students, Stafford student loans also benefit middle-income families who need financial assistance as well. Congress should not wait and allow this increase to take place. It would, for all intents and purposes, be a tax increase on middle- and low-income families and students during this very fragile economic recovery.

I urge the Republican majority and Speaker BOEHNER to take action now to prevent this increase. We are seeing right now the impact on the American economy when Congress waits too long to act on issues of national importance such as our Nation's debt. Students and families cannot wait any longer to know how much they will have to pay and owe coming out of college. Why? Because that might impact whether they can even go at all.

#### HONORING COACH PAT SUMMITT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FINCHER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FINCHER. Today, I rise in order to honor Coach Pat Summitt. Pat Summitt is most well known for her coaching career with the Lady Volunteers at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, but her basketball legacy at UT began long before she won her first national championship as a coach.

I am proud to represent Weakly County, which is home to the University of Tennessee at Martin where Coach Summitt played on the women's basketball team from 1970 to 1974. While there, Coach Summitt was named an All-American player, led her team to the first women's national championship basketball tournament in 1972, and graduated as UT-Martin's all-time leading scorer with 1,045 points. Today, UT-Martin's basketball court is named the "Pat Head Summitt Court," honoring Coach Summitt's leadership and achievements on the university's women's basketball team.

Her love of basketball, enthusiasm, and competitive spirit have defined her career and inspired young women across the State of Tennessee and throughout our Nation.

It's no secret that Coach Summitt has an incredible record as the head coach for the Lady Volunteers and has been a driving force behind the development of women's college basketball over the last 38 years. Her legacy as one of the greatest basketball coaches ever is solidified by her achievements, but more importantly, because she has been a friend and mentor to her players and staff. During her tenure as head coach, every Lady Vol that completed her eligibility at UT earned a college degree or is in the process of completing her degree requirements.

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I saw a video recently about how former players and managers presented Coach Summitt with a book of personal letters, sharing their memories and putting down in writing what Coach Summitt has meant to them. This video mentions that the letters not only speak of her influence as a coach, but how she has helped players, past and present, through some of the most difficult times they faced in life. The effort to organize this book is incredible, and it speaks volumes about who Coach Summitt is to her players and her passion for helping student athletes discover what they want in life.

I am confident that Coach Summitt will continue to approach each of life's new opportunities and challenges with as much intensity, determination, and integrity as she did during her career as head coach of the Lady Vols. In fact, Coach Summitt is in D.C. this week to receive an award recognizing her efforts to promote greater understanding of Alzheimer's disease and its effects on diagnosed individuals, families, and

caregivers. She is already proving she's a force to reckon with as she faces this disease head-on.

I'm proud to call her a fellow Tennessean and wish her the best as she transitions into a new role with the Lady Vols. God bless you, Coach Summitt. And thank you for all you've done and will continue to do for the great State of Tennessee, women's basketball, and for the fight to find a cure for Alzheimer's.

#### REMEMBERING LEVON HELM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and achievement of my dear friend, Levon Helm, who passed away last week surrounded by close friends and family members.

Levon will be remembered by many as the acclaimed vocalist and drummer for the Levon Helm Sextet, which then became Levon and the Hawks, and later what we all know now simply as The Band, which gained international critical acclaim.

The Band was given its name by Bob Dylan in 1967 when he lived with the band members in a house known as "Big Pink" near where I grew up in West Saugerties. That's where the famed "Basement Tapes," which featured Dylan, were recorded. When the album was later released in 1975, it rose to be number seven on the Billboard 200 list.

We all remember Levon's unique drumming style and soulful country voice from songs like "The Weight" and "Up on Cripple Creek." These songs and others have stood the test of time and will be remembered for how they helped shape a generation of rock music and everything that came thereafter.

Without a doubt, Levon's contributions to American music cannot be overstated. But beyond the music, we cannot forget Levon, the man. I knew him well. He was a beacon of our Hudson Valley community. He was always willing to open his doors to help raise money for important local causes. He was a tremendous supporter of local agriculture. He worked to bring music into our schools and communities. He was a great person and a great friend.

After the release of his "Dirt Farmer" album, Levon put on free concerts for the community at Gill's Farm in Ulster County, New York. Once, he attracted so many fans that State Route 209 was effectively closed down.

He would host Midnight Rambles at his barn in Woodstock, inviting some of the world's premier musicians and artists to perform well into the night. Also, his amazing dog named Bear, everyone loved that dog. People traveled from hundreds of miles away to attend. I lived just a few miles down the road and had the privilege of attending many of those events, and they were really something else—wonderful and amazing.