

University on its accomplishments over the past 150 years. As the alma mater song says, it is truly "a spot that I love full well." Every man a Wildcat.

I yield to my distinguished friend and colleague, Senator MORAN.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Kansas.

There is no K State alumni, no individual from our home State who bleeds the color purple more fervently than the senior Senator from Kansas. It is an honor to join him here today to recognize the significant accomplishments on the 150th anniversary of the first land grant university college in the Nation.

Senator ROBERTS comes to the Kansas State University through his family—his father as well as his son.

I have become acquainted with Kansas State University as a citizen of our State in which we see each and every day the benefits that accrue to the citizens of our State because of the academic research, the education, the extension of education across our State that benefits each and every citizen. So it is with great pleasure that we honor the accomplishments today of this university. It has had tremendous leadership.

In my early days in Congress, President Wefald in many ways created a great opportunity for Kansas State University to excel, to become something different than it had been, to move forward into the future. Now, under the leadership of president Kirk Schulz, his leadership only accelerates the opportunity for Kansas State University to provide new and beneficial services, education, and benefits to the people of our State, to our country, and to students around the globe.

Kansas State University is known for its agricultural background, for its support for that significant industry in our State—farmers and ranchers look to Kansas State University for education and for technical support, and we know of their importance in that No. 1 industry in our State—but, as Senator ROBERTS said, engineering and aerospace; now a campus at Salina, KS, dealing with aviation and avionics, with UAVs moving into the future; a campus in Johnson County, the suburbs of Kansas City, in which additional research in bioscience is being accelerated. So in each and every circumstance, Kansas State University contributes to the economy and well-being of our State and our country.

As a parent, I know Kansas State University. Both our daughters attended Kansas State University, and one remains a student there. I remember the first day I wandered with my 17-, 18-year-old daughter onto campus for a campus tour, and at the end of the day—I will admit we had visited other universities as well, but at the end of the day Kelsey said: Dad, there is no place more welcoming, no place more like home, no place where I feel like a part of a family more than Kansas State University.

That is something I think K State exhibits so well and causes Kansas to be so proud of the Wildcat tradition, which is a sense of family; that we are in it together and people are friends. It is a very comfortable and enjoyable learning environment for students, and we have seen it in our family.

Our youngest daughter followed her older sister to Kansas State University and is now a beginning student at the College of Veterinary Medicine. Another area in which Kansas State University is highly regarded is the study of animal science. K State in Manhattan, KS, is the western border of the animal science corridor, the eastern border being that place that all Kansans, regardless of alma mater, despise—the University of Missouri. So from west to east, the animal science corridor is bounded by the research scientists and educators and the schools that increase the likelihood that Americans are going to have nutrition, be well fed, and have a safe and abundant food supply.

It is an honor to be here to pay tribute to the many leaders at Kansas State University, those who have come before and those who will follow President Wefald and President Schulz to make sure Kansas State University remains that place of higher education and learning in our State but also to make certain Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS, is always that place called home where students from across our State and around the globe feel as though they have found family and a place to learn to improve their lives and to make certain they contribute to the betterment of our world.

It is an honor to be here with one of the most distinguished alumni of Kansas State University, my colleague and friend Senator ROBERTS, to wish Kansas State University many more years of success in providing education to our students and moving our State forward in ways that will benefit not only this generation but those that follow us.

So congratulations, Kansas State University, and happy 150th birthday.

Mr. President, I yield back to the Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I thank my dear friend and colleague more especially for highlighting what K State is all about, and that is family. If one chooses to attend Kansas State, as many do—many come from small town America, and many come from big cities, but I think they are all struck by the family atmosphere.

The thing I think is rather remarkable, even in having the privilege of talking to some of K State's football team and some of the athletes, both basketball and football—all sports at K State—I am always able to tell the thousands and thousands of fans from K State who know their history, know where they are coming from, and always support them regardless of the outcome. So K State is a family.

K State's legendary coach Bill Snyder, who has achieved miracles on the

football field with team after team, always stresses family and togetherness and the proper role of athletics in education.

My son David went to K State, and he fell in love with K State. He didn't have much of a choice as far as I was concerned, but he did really enjoy himself at K State. Basically, I am struck by the fact that many of his friends who are graduates—when that day comes when you graduate or when you leave K State, those generations really stick together, and they are friends for life. It is in that vein that I think the Senator's remarks are certainly right on target.

Mr. MORAN. If the Senator would yield.

Mr. ROBERTS. I would be happy to yield.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, Senator ROBERTS raises something that I wish to make clear, which is that Kansas State University has been so kind and so beneficial to our two daughters. While they found it to be home and like family, they have excelled and learned, advanced their lives both personally and professionally in ways that are so important to us as parents. We have nothing but commendation to offer to Kansas State University for the kindness and opportunities they have created for our own daughters as they pursue their goals in life.

So it is a very personal opportunity for me to express this gratitude to Kansas State University for making it so good for the things a mom and dad care so much about. For our two daughters Kelsey and Alex, K State is an important component of their lives, and we are so appreciative of the role that university has played in educating our children.

I yield back to the Senator from Kansas.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, we have a double privilege here today in that we obviously are celebrating Kansas State University being 150, representing 150 years of outstanding academic service to our people, but also Emporia State University is 150 years old at the same time—a rather remarkable achievement. I know we would like to congratulate Emporia State on its 150th anniversary.

Emporia State University is in the beautiful Flint Hills of Kansas, and it is also very dear to my family. My mother attended Emporia State and studied education. She went on to become a teacher. Emporia State is a teacher's university, second to none. But she, in her day and time, spent a lot of time educating Kansas children up in Atchison, KS, and was very much like the other proud and accomplished alumni from Emporia State.

If a person wants to know about education, all they would have to do—as

well as teacher involvement and teacher progress and some of the very serious challenges we face today in education—is stop by Emporia State. They have many fine programs and nothing but the best in terms of graduates who do such a great job.

Throughout the past 150 years, Emporia State has grown to accommodate the needs of the State and the 6,500 students it currently serves. What was once the Kansas State Teaching College, Emporia State has now expanded greatly, offering a wide range of academic programs.

In true Kansas fashion, the university has faced challenges head-on from its earliest days. Adversity is not uncommon. In fact, our State motto is “to the stars through difficulty.” But the outstanding faculty and staff have persevered on behalf of their students to provide a quality education, and that continues today with teachers who also provide a quality education. We can’t do any better than that. It is with great pride as a Kansan and as a son of an Emporia State graduate that I recognize and congratulate Emporia State University on its 150th anniversary.

I am more than happy to yield to my friend and colleague, Senator MORAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator for yielding, and I appreciate being recognized.

It is true that our State places a high priority on education—certainly K–12 but also universities, including public, private, community colleges, technical colleges, and today we honor one of those universities in this milestone in its history, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS, on its 150th anniversary.

Benjamin Franklin said, “Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I may remember. Involve me and I learn.” Through learning, students’ lives have been changed for the better for more than a century at Emporia State University. This is a historic occasion, their 150th anniversary, and I wish to recognize the significant impact Emporia State has had on our State and on our Nation.

In 1863 Emporia State was founded as a school for training teachers. Back then it was known as Kansas Normal School, and in its first year the President and only teacher, Lyman Kellogg, taught 18 students on the second floor of the district schoolhouse. At the university’s first commencement on June 28, 1867, President Kellogg presented diplomas to its two graduates, Mary Jane Watson and Ellen Plumb.

In the years that followed, Emporia State was faced with many challenges, including tornadoes, fires, and a lack of funding, but the university survived and continued each and every year to change the lives of the students.

Today 6,500 students from 45 States and 55 countries are enrolled at Emporia State University. Consistently ranked as a tier 1 regional university

by U.S. News and World Report, ESU offers students a wide range of academic programs to choose from and the opportunity to participate in more than 130 student organizations.

Emporia State also remains fully committed to its original mission of training teachers through a nationally acclaimed teacher education program. If a person has somebody who made a difference in their life, nobody ever says: It was my Senator. It is not mom and dad. It is a teacher.

Educating teachers is a noble calling. In fact, the Teachers College holds the International Reading Association Award and Certificate of Distinction for the Reading Preparation of Elementary and Secondary Teachers—one of only five programs honored internationally in 2009. In a national study of teacher education programs, Emporia State was named one of only four postsecondary institutions in the Nation to be identified as an exemplary model teacher education program.

I congratulate Emporia State for their success in equipping our Nation’s educators. As we know, the work of a teacher impacts the lives of every American now and in the future.

Given Emporia State’s long history and dedication to training teachers, the university, as one might expect, now hosts the National Teachers Hall of Fame. Each year five of the Nation’s most outstanding educators are recognized and honored for the jobs they do. By recognizing the difference one teacher can make, the National Teachers Hall of Fame works to promote education and inspire a new generation of teachers.

Whether ESU students pursue a career in education or another field, many students who continue their studies will return to ESU for graduate work. Among the Kansas Regents universities, ESU students earn the highest percentage of graduate degrees. On average, one-third of the degrees earned annually are graduate degrees. So whether students leave Emporia with an undergraduate or graduate degree, they are well prepared in the field they have chosen.

Students today are involved in community service, and Emporia State exemplifies that. Students at Emporia State spend much time giving back to the local communities. Students have cared for the elderly, provided food to the hungry, and built homes for the homeless. They have also spent their free time mentoring young students through a program called YouthFriends. Currently, about 50 Emporia State students are involved in volunteer work once a week with children.

One of the teachers at a local elementary school said this about that program:

It is great for children to have a young adult role model to look up to. I have two kids in my class who have YouthFriends, and they both have benefited greatly. Their attitudes about school and life have changed for the better.

What a great way to make a difference in the development of lifelong compassion for others.

The alumni of Emporia State University now number more than 75,000 from 50 States and 80 countries, and they are all proud to be called Emporia State Hornets. Alumni from Emporia State have gone on to accomplish great things. Among the many distinguished alumni are Minnie Grinstead, who was the first woman elected to the Kansas State Legislature in 1918, and Robert Mott, a World War II veteran who later helped create National Public Radio.

For the past 150 years, Emporia State has been changing lives. One alumni said this about the impact on her life:

I was told by a high school guidance counselor that I would never make it in college. ESU gave me an opportunity to “try.” Not only did I earn a bachelor’s degree, I earned a masters, and Ph.D. Thank you ESU, you changed my life in a positive way!

On this historic anniversary, it is with great pleasure that I join my colleague from Kansas in submitting a resolution to congratulate the students, faculty, alumni, and the new president of Emporia State University for 150 years of excellence in higher education. May the next 150 years be even brighter than the last.

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

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

FISCAL CHALLENGES

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about the fiscal challenges facing this country, and particularly the spending problem we have and how it impacts not only the economy but also the lives of the American people.

Last week, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office released the latest Budget and Economic Outlook, which confirmed the threat that long-term fiscal imbalances pose to the Nation’s economy. The Congressional Budget Office found that the national debt will climb by \$10 trillion, to \$26 trillion, over the next 10 years if Federal spending continues on its current trajectory.

Spending on mandatory programs will remain on auto pilot, resulting in high annual deficits. To kind of put things in perspective, if you go back to 2007 and you look at what the Federal Government spent, it was about \$2.7 trillion annually. If you look at what the Federal Government spent in fiscal year 2012, which ended September 30 of last year, it was \$3.5 trillion, an increase of nearly 30 percent.

Inflation during that same time period was 10.8 percent, meaning that government grew at almost three times