

for Arkansans. You could tell by all of the things that bear his name—the White River National Wildlife Refuge, the Dale Bumpers National Rice Research Center. His impact on Arkansas agriculture was recognized by the University of Arkansas board of trustees, who renamed the college of agriculture the “Dale Bumpers College of Agriculture, Food and Life Sciences.” These are just a few of the many things in Arkansas that reflect his dedication and commitment to our State.

Senator Bumpers leaves behind a legacy of public service, civic responsibility, and accomplishments that has undoubtedly made Arkansas a better place to live.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, today I am proud to join my fellow Senator from Arkansas, JOHN BOOZMAN, in recognizing Senator Dale Bumpers’ service, as well as our majority leader and other Senators who are reminiscing about Senator Bumpers, who passed away earlier this month. Arkansas lost one of its most distinguished public servants when former Senator and Governor Dale Bumpers died at the age of 90. As both a Governor and Senator, Dale Bumpers’ tireless dedication to our State began before I was born and spanned many decades.

As someone who grew up with Dale Bumpers already in the Senate and who was unable to ever vote for him, I asked my mom Avis about her memories of Senator Bumpers. Like so many, she was quick to remember the oratory skills for which he was so famous—not only in Arkansas but also in Washington and in the Senate, which has had its share of famous orators over its history. But she also had fond memories of him on a personal scale as well from the Mount Nebo Chicken Fry, an annual event just outside my hometown of Dardanelle. In the early 1970s, as a young Governor, Senator Bumpers—then Governor Bumpers—always made it to our chicken fry. And if it weren’t for a few obvious clues—such as a State trooper or local photographers taking pictures—you wouldn’t have even known he was the top executive of our State, so humble and friendly was he to all the fairgoers. He spent time with each person there and made everyone feel like they had his full attention—the full attention of our Governor.

It is an honor to stand here today in the same institution from which he did so much great work for the State of Arkansas. Senator Bumpers was an Arkansas institution himself, and his legacy has outlived his tenure in office. We are grateful for his service and commitment to Arkansas. My thoughts and prayers are with the Bumpers family and with all Arkansans, whom he so faithfully served.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, western North Dakota is getting a lot of attention these days because of its vibrant energy economy. But people also need to know about the spectacular landscape and natural beauty that thrives side by side with energy development in my home State. So I want to speak today for a few minutes about a remarkable asset in my home State of North Dakota that was highlighted this past weekend in the New York Times.

The Times ranked Theodore Roosevelt National Park in western North Dakota as fifth on its list of 52 worldwide destinations to visit in 2016. Only Mexico City, Bordeaux in France, the Mediterranean island of Malta, and the Caribbean city of Coral Bay St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands ranked ahead of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Tim Neville for the New York Times wrote of the park:

Few presidents have done as much for conservation as Teddy Roosevelt. Fly into Dickinson in western North Dakota to visit the park named after him, where rolling grasslands dotted with bison collapse into the spectacular red, white and gold badlands of tumbling mud coulees.

The more than 70,000-square-acre park consists of three parts: The south unit, which is the largest of the two units, the north unit, and the site of Roosevelt’s Elkhorn Ranch, which lies between the north and south units. The Little Missouri River meanders through all three sections of the park.

Roosevelt captured a colorful picture of life on the Elkhorn Ranch in his 1885 book called “Hunting Trips of a Ranchman.”

My home ranch-house stands on the river brink. From the low, longer veranda, shaded by leafy cotton-woods, one looks across sand bars and shallows to a strip of meadowland, behind which rises a line of sheer cliffs and grassy plateaus. This veranda is a pleasant place in the summer evenings when a cool breeze stirs along the river and blows in the faces of the tired men, who loll back in their rocking-chairs (what true American does not enjoy a rocking-chair?), book in hand—though they do not often read the books, but rock gently to and fro, gazing sleepily out at the weird-looking buttes opposite, until their sharp outlines grow indistinct and purple in the after-glow of the sunset.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park has preserved what Roosevelt saw more than a century ago. For that reason, it gets half a million visitors a year, but more should come to see it, and I believe more will as a result of the New York Times list. Speaking of New

York, the Times was the right venue to highlight Teddy Roosevelt’s National Park because Teddy Roosevelt was a native son of New York, born in the heart of Manhattan at the dawn of the age of concrete canyons and bustling growth.

More than 135 years ago, he fled the hectic pace of New York for the solitude of North Dakota’s western Badlands on a hunting trip. During that trip—his first to what was then called the Dakota Territory—he was so taken with the land that he bought a ranch before he left for home.

Within a year, back at home in New York, however, tragedy struck in a cruel way. Both Roosevelt’s wife and his mother died in the same House on the same day. He was crushed, but being a man of action, he sought to redirect his grief by throwing himself into a new adventure—cattle ranching in North Dakota. He went west and built the Elkhorn Ranch on a plot of land that is now part of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Roosevelt long acknowledged his debt to North Dakota. He said: “I have always said I would not have been President had it not been for my experience in North Dakota. . . . It was here that the romance of my life began.”

That romance is still alive and well in western North Dakota. I invite travelers from around the world to visit us and see what the New York Times described as a “century of protecting America’s magnificence.”

#### CONGRATULATING THE NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY BISON FOOTBALL TEAM

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, while I have the floor, if I might, I wish to shift gears. I know the Presiding Officer is a sports fan and that in her State they have many wonderful sports teams—football, basketball, and certainly the University of Iowa had an outstanding year this year. I certainly wish to commend them, compliment them on their great team. As a matter of fact, the team I am going to talk about next is going to play that team. I think it is our first or second game of the year next year. I am looking forward to it. I know the Presiding Officer is looking forward to it very much as well, when the North Dakota State University Bison play the University of Iowa. I don’t know if the Presiding Officer is—I am sure she is a fan of the University of Iowa and Iowa State and Northern Iowa. They are all great sports programs. I don’t know which one is her favorite and may not want to say, but we played Iowa State a few years ago. We play Northern Iowa every year. We have a great rivalry with Northern Iowa. Northern Iowa has a wonderful program—football and basketball. We enjoy playing them every year. This year it looks like they have a very good basketball team and are to be commended on beating North Carolina, the Tar Heels. We will certainly

want to mention that to our colleagues. I am sure the Presiding Officer probably already has. North Dakota State plays Iowa every year and played Iowa State a few years back and we are very much looking forward to playing the University of Iowa.

I wish to take a minute to speak about a resolution I will submit. I am going to talk about it now. The resolution is on behalf of the North Dakota State University Bison, which won a historic fifth consecutive NCAA Division I FCS national football championship on Saturday. Led by coach Chris Klieman, quarterback Carson Wentz, and a solid defensive effort, the Bison clinched the title 37 to 10 over a very talented team from Jacksonville State. The Gamecocks were truly great opponents. They played a fine game, and we congratulate them on a tremendous season as well.

With Saturday's win, the Bison became the first football team in the modern era of college football to win five consecutive championships—five titles in a row. The championships aren't won in a single game but as a result of years of hard work. The Bison overcame injury and adversity to make it back to the title game, and we are tremendously proud of our team, our players, the program, and all of their accomplishments.

It was a thrill for my wife Mikey and me to join Bison Nation down in Frisco. The game was in Frisco, TX—a wonderful venue for the game. Having a dedicated fan base helped make their stadium feel a lot like one of our home games at the FARGODOME. It is an amazing experience.

The game started with a flyover of a B-52 bomber from the Minot North Dakota Air Force Base. In addition to the thousands of dedicated NDSU fans, Thundar, the Bison mascot, and Corso, an actual bison—an unofficial mascot of the team—made the 1,000-mile trek down to Texas. The Bison had a loyal crew cheering them on, and it helped make this “drive for five” season very memorable.

Five championships in a row is unprecedented. I want to congratulate the entire Bison community—NDSU's leaders, the coaches, the staff, and these tremendous student athletes, as well as Bison Nation, a wonderful loyal following wherever the Bison team goes.

In recognition, I will submit the following resolution in their honor:

Whereas the North Dakota State University (referred to in this preamble as “NDSU”) Bison won the 2015 National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as the “NCAA”) Division I Football Championship Subdivision title game in Frisco, Texas, on January 9, 2016, in a decisive victory over the Jacksonville State Gamecocks by a score of 37 to 10;

Whereas NDSU has won 13 NCAA football championships;

Whereas NDSU has now won five consecutive NCAA Football Championships since 2011, an extraordinary and record-setting achievement in modern collegiate football history;

Whereas the NDSU Bison have displayed tremendous resilience and skill over the past 5 seasons, with 71 wins to only 5 losses, including a streak of 33 consecutive winning games;

Whereas thousands of Bison fans attended the championship game, reflecting the tremendous spirit and dedication of Bison Nation that has helped propel the success of the team; and

Whereas the 2015 NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision title was a victory not only for the NDSU football team, but also for the entire State of North Dakota:

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the North Dakota State University Bison football team as the 2015 champion of the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Football Championship Subdivision;

(2) commends the North Dakota State University players, coaches, and staff for their hard work and dedication on a historic season and for fostering a continuing tradition of athletic and academic excellence; and

(3) recognizes the students, alumni, and the loyal fans who supported the Bison in their quest to capture a fifth consecutive Division I national championship trophy for North Dakota State University.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I understand that later today the House of Representatives will vote to pass a reform of the Freedom of Information Act, which is often referred to by its acronym, FOIA. I wish to say a few words about that legislation.

I applaud the effort of the House. I have long believed that it is really important to make sure that the people who actually pay the bills and whom we serve know what government is doing on their behalf. Thus the name of the legislation signed by President Johnson many years ago is the Freedom of Information Act. Too often here in Washington, DC, the people in charge of the information seem to view it as proprietary, as if it were theirs. In a political culture where information is power, they don't want to share that information with the people who actually own it and are the ones who hold the elected officials accountable. An open government is really one of the first prerequisites to a free society, and that is because an open and accessible government is absolutely necessary for Americans to hold their elected officials accountable.

Our Founding Fathers, of course, recognized that a truly democratic system depends on an informed citizenry, but Americans cannot do that without the information and transparency that these laws provide.

Former Justice William Brandeis famously said that “sunlight is the best disinfectant.” I must say, as a person who is conservative, that I believe that rather than passing a bunch of new laws, one of the things we can do to change the behavior here in Washington is to shine a light on the actions of elected officials and the government. When elected officials know that the public is informed and watching, it changes the way people behave, and it usually changes it for the better. Congress has passed numerous pieces of legislation that promote this accountability and transparency of government since President Johnson signed the Freedom of Information Act into law so that good leadership and good governance can flourish.

During my time in the Senate and previously when I was the attorney general of Texas, I made government transparency a priority. I pressed for more openness in the Federal Government through commonsense legislation. During the process, I found a partner in those efforts in the Senate. He is somebody who is my ideological opposite, and that is Senator PAT LEAHY of Vermont.

Senator LEAHY and I both embrace the fact that most of the time elected officials and government officials want to trumpet their successes and they want to hide their failures. But the American people deserve to know the good, the bad, and the ugly, and to apply the correctives that are within their power, either in changing those officials or holding those officials accountable.

So the legislation that is going to pass the House later today is similar to what we have already passed here in the Senate Judiciary Committee by voice vote in February. It requires Federal agencies to operate under a presumption of openness when considering the release of government information under the Freedom of Information Act. Texas law, for example, presumes that public information held by government is presumptively open. If there is some reason why it should not be disclosed—let's say classified materials or whatever—then it is incumbent upon the agency to raise those concerns and then to have those concerns decided in the process of administering those laws. But the idea is also to reduce the overuse of exemptions to withhold information from the public. I hope this Chamber will soon join our colleagues in the House to consider this important legislation.

There may be some things we need to do to fine-tune it. I certainly understand that on national security, for example, or things involving proprietary information—trademark protections and property protections—there may be some areas where we have to make some slight changes. But, essentially, this presumption of openness is important to the functioning of our democratic form of government, and I look forward to our passing the law that