

educational style at WildCare. Her vision, her passion and her spirit will remain in the countless lives she touched.●

TRIBUTE TO BETH McWHIRT

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute to Beth McWhirt teacher of social studies at Fulton County Schools on being named Teacher of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce in Hickman County, Ky.

Beth has exhibited a great commitment to her students at Fulton Middle and Senior High Schools. As a teacher of social studies, Beth is tasked to mold our Nation's young citizens to understand the history of our great Nation and the world. Being honored with this award, Beth sets an example of excellence for the rest of the faculty at Fulton County Schools.

Mr. President, I now ask my fellow colleagues join me in thanking Beth for her dedication and commitment to the education of America's future. In order for our society to continue to advance in the right direction, we must have teachers like Beth McWhirt in our public schools.●

RECOGNIZING THE BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY BRONCOS

● Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, Today on the first day of the 110th Congress, I wish to recognize the accomplishment of the Boise State University Broncos football team this past Monday, January 1, 2007.

College sports have a way of putting schools, and cities, on the map. For instance, George Mason University was virtually unknown until their basketball team catapulted into the national spotlight through March Madness last year. However, no sport is more adept at this than the all-American sport of football.

On New Year's Day, Boise State University battled Oklahoma in the Fiesta Bowl. One announcer commented that, until today, many of the Oklahoma football players didn't even know where Boise is. Well, Mr. President, they do now.

In what is being described as one of the most thrilling games in the history of college bowl games, the Broncos defeated Oklahoma 43 to 42. I can't begin to describe to you the enthusiasm of the Bronco fans before, during, and especially after the game. It was contagious. And that is coming from a proud Idaho Vandal.

Idaho is a small State. We haven't had nationally known sports teams. It wasn't too long ago that Boise State was only known in football circles for its blue football field. On the first day of 2007, that all changed.

I am proud of what our Broncos did proving to the Nation that Idaho knows how to play football.

With this new notoriety, of course, comes an opportunity for us to tell the country that Idaho's State-run univer-

sities have a lot to offer besides great football. Between Boise State, the University of Idaho, and Idaho State University, Idaho offers tremendous education with a quality of life that can't be beat.

Boise, Idaho is now on the map of millions of college football fans thanks to our Broncos. To them I say congratulations and thank you.●

HONORING 2007 BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY BRONCOS

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, if a football victory on New Year's Day is a harbinger of things to come, 2007 looks to be a thrilling year marked by success and celebration. Most of my colleagues here know that Boise State University won the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl on New Year's Day. This bowl victory completes an undefeated football season, 13 to 0, thanks to the hard work, dedication, and love of the game by the Boise State football players, fans, coach Chris Petersen, his staff, the athletic department, and the university administration. They all worked very hard to reach this remarkable achievement, and they have not only my congratulations, but the congratulations, of Idahoans and Americans everywhere.

Idaho is home to just over a million people and has some surprising secrets, not the least of which has been the five-time defending Western Athletic Conference Champion Boise State Broncos football team. It is a source of tremendous pride to see the team make national headlines, once again, for Idaho in this incredibly positive manner. The victory that barely eluded them in last year's MPC Computers Bowl came riding home and riding home hard. The Fiesta Bowl game against traditional football powerhouse the University of Oklahoma was college football at its best, and the BSU players and coaches came through with some stunning plays. While Boise dominated the first three-quarters of the game, the Sooners came roaring back. The last 2 minutes of the game were as good as college football gets. When the game went into overtime, the Sooners didn't waste a play they immediately scored a touchdown to temporarily take the lead. With the game on the line, the Boise State players came through and scored a touchdown along with a thrilling two-point conversion to bring the final score to 43 to 42, Boise State. Earlier in 2006, Boise was named the eighth most inventive city in the Nation. That creativity and innovation was certainly the Spirit of Idaho at its best on the field of play at crunch time and made this dreamed Bronco victory a reality.

The BSU Broncos are committed to excellence both on and off the field. The players take the energy they generate on the field and spread it throughout the community and State. The extraordinary progress and development of the BSU football program

and the entire university stand as a testament to what can be accomplished with leadership, commitment, determination, and, most importantly, teamwork.

As the Nation marvels at the "hook and lateral" and "Statue of Liberty" plays that sealed the victory, I congratulate Coach Petersen, President Bob Kustra, Athletic Director Gene Bleymaier, the entire team, loyal students, alumni, and fans on their collective victory which all Idahoans enthusiastically share. I offer a friendly condolence to my colleagues from Oklahoma, and I am confident that their fine program will continue its tradition of excellence. And I offer this statement as a friendly notice to my colleagues from States that are home to traditional college football powerhouses: that thunder you hear is from our charging Broncos. I look forward to another great season this fall when the Broncos will run again.●

TRIBUTE TO MARVIN VAN HAAFTEN

● Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my congratulations and gratitude to an extraordinary Iowan. Marvin Van Haaften is stepping down from his distinguished position as director of the State of Iowa's Office of Drug Control Policy. He assumed this position after being named by Governor Tom Vilsack in 2002 and has served the State with honor and distinction since accepting the appointment.

I would like to take this opportunity to show Marvin Van Haaften the appreciation that the country, the State of Iowa, and myself personally have for his extensive commitment as a public servant. With more than 32 years of law enforcement experience, Marvin has taught extensively in the field of rural law enforcement, particularly death investigation and domestic violence crimes. He has provided local and national leadership on the role of law enforcement in strategic victim safety and offender apprehension, and is presently on the board of directors of the National Center for Rural Law Enforcement. Marvin also served on many local and State committees such as the Iowa Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Advisory Council, the board of the Mid-Iowa Narcotics Enforcement Task Force, the board of the 18-county South Central Iowa Clandestine Laboratory Task Force, and was the third vice president on the board of directors of the Iowa Association of Counties. Marvin was named Sheriff of the year in 1991 by the Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association and served as its president in 1996. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy and has attended the National Sheriffs' Association's National Sheriffs' Institute and the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Institute. In 1997 he became a licensed Iowa medical examiner investigator.