

As I mentioned in Emmitsburg, Mrs. Gibbons is doing a terrific job in her position as a member of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation board—carrying on the good work for which we honored her husband—and we are extremely grateful for her continued contributions in this area.

I also made mention during the ceremony of the many accomplishments of the “Big Chief,” as Chief Gibbons was affectionately known by his many friends and associates. I wanted to make his legacy a part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD because throughout his life, I think he embodied the qualities which make our firefighters heroes, leaders, and role models.

Ever since I grew up, two blocks from the fire house in Salisbury, I have always held a deep and abiding respect for the men and women of the fire service. This is not simply because of the willingness of fire fighters to put their lives on the line every day, but also because they tend to do their jobs with kindness and an infallible commitment to serving the citizens of their communities. Indeed, there are few persons more deserving of our respect and admiration than those who serve as fire fighters and first responders.

I have long felt that Americans do not pause often enough to consider the critical importance of the work that firefighters do—to appreciate their sacrifice and the contribution which they make to our nation. Throughout his life, Chief Gibbons not only personified the best of what it means to be a firefighter and a public servant, but he also showed a strong commitment to ensuring that firefighters receive the recognition they richly deserve.

This past weekend’s dedication ceremony was indeed a fitting tribute to Chief Gibbons’ 42 years of lasting contributions to the fire service. I want to again touch on one of the contributions he made on a national level which is of particular interest to me. As most who are involved in the fire service know, it was Marvin Gibbons who helped ensure that the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial was located in Emmitsburg, Maryland on the beautiful campus of the National Fire Academy. And it was his vision which led to the unveiling of this monument and the first annual National Memorial Service held at Emmitsburg in 1982.

I was proud to introduce and push to enact the legislation that made the Emmitsburg site the official National Memorial to all firefighters. And in 1990, I spoke at the dedication marking the official recognition of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial where I recall quoting an editorial from the Carroll County Times entitled “Firefighters Memorial: An Important Reminder.” I want to again just quote briefly from it, because I think this editorial reflects what Chief Gibbons was striving to accomplish in establishing the memorial and an annual ceremony in honor of our nation’s fallen firefighters:

We take many aspects of life for granted. Not thinking about a service until we need it is an easy way to think . . . But how often do we consider that at a moment’s notice, our fire fighters will risk their lives for us? Until the tragedy of fire or some other emergency strikes, we hardly consider it at all.

Mr. President, behind each name engraved in Emmitsburg is a story—a story of courage, dedication and service to others—and I should mention that we are working to expand the National Memorial site there to ensure that it continues to serve as a lasting tribute to our firefighters.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation is responsible for the National Memorial Service each year so that as a nation we will never forget the sacrifice that these brave men and women make in protecting us every day. With the dedication of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel in his memory, we hope to ensure that the legacy of A. Marvin Gibbons and his commitment to the fire service will also never be forgotten.●

COMMENDING PAT SUMMITT ON MAKING THE COVER OF SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

● Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, today I wish to take note of a woman of character and accomplishment who has recently been recognized in a unique and public way for her outstanding talent and tireless work. University of Tennessee Lady Vols Basketball Coach Pat Summitt is on the cover of the March 2, 1998 issue of Sports Illustrated, and I can’t think of a better choice. On the caption of the cover, it asks what Coach Summitt’s place in basketball history might be, and suggests that she is perhaps the greatest college basketball coach of all time. Mr. President, I think that’s a pretty accurate assessment.

As I have pointed out with more than a little pride before to the Senate, the Lady Vols have taken home the national championship trophy the last two years in a row, and five years out of the last eleven. Every one of those victories was both hard-fought and well-deserved, and Coach Summitt was always at the helm. In Tennessee, we’re all very proud of what she’s done, and fans everywhere have come to appreciate just how much of the success of women’s basketball is owed to her efforts. She has helped to make women’s basketball a major interest of sports fans, and she has helped create a great deal of opportunity for young scholar-athletes.

Coach Summitt has never let “no” stand in the way of getting what she wanted. As the Sports Illustrated article tells it, Pat grew up on a farm where she learned to work hard and stick to a job until it was done—and done right. Later, after a potentially career-ending knee injury, she defied the odds and the predictions of her doctors not only to play again but to join the 1976 Women’s Olympic Basketball

team as the oldest player, and come home with a Silver Medal.

Her rise is impressive. She was made head coach at age 22 at the University of Tennessee while she was finishing a graduate degree. And she rose to the task, doing more than she had to do in all her jobs. Anybody else might have settled for second best under the workload. Not Pat. She wanted to succeed. Pat didn’t just show up for practice and blow the whistle while the players ran laps. She built the women’s program from nearly the ground up. She drove the team to and from games, she made sure everyone had uniforms and towels, she swept the floor and she looked after her players’ injuries. And she finished her degree. Pat did it all, and her dedication has paid off.

Pat has spoiled us in Tennessee. We’re more accustomed than most to winning the big games. But as long as Pat’s in charge, and as long as she keeps bringing in the best young players out there and bringing out their potential, I think we can look forward to a long run of great teams, first-rate competition and championship seasons. So I am pleased that Sports Illustrated has acknowledged what so many of us already know. She’s on the cover—for anyone involved in athletics, this is one of those moments that you never forget.

Mr. President, we are proud of Coach Pat Summitt in Tennessee. We’re honored to see her on the cover of Sports Illustrated. She deserves this recognition and I send along my best wishes to her.●

COMMENDING PRIDE ANTI-DRUG GROUP FOR REPRESENTING U.S. AT UN MEETING

● Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, the Atlanta-based National Parents’ Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE) recently represented the United States at the World Youth Consultation for a 21st Century Free of Drugs, sponsored by UNESCO and the United Nations Drug Control Program on February 9 in Paris.

Jody Cameron and Gary Lewis, members of the PRIDE staff, joined 21 young people from other nations in drafting a Youth Charter for a 21st Century Free of Drugs that will be presented to the United Nations General Assembly in June. The charter will establish a global network of youth programs for drug abuse prevention.

PRIDE was the only American youth-serving organization invited to attend the meeting at UNESCO headquarters. Cameron and Lewis will also take part in a subsequent meeting in Alberta, Canada in April and at the Special Session on Drugs of the UN General Assembly in New York this summer.

As one who has long worked with the PRIDE organization, I commend them for the recognition of their leadership in the drug use prevention arena that is signified by their participation in