

very best wishes to all those gathered at the 50th Anniversary celebration of the University of Maryland University College (UMUC) serving the United States military in Europe. I am pleased to take part in recognizing the long-standing tradition that this institution continues to uphold in ensuring quality higher education for our servicemembers overseas.

It has always been my firm belief that a democracy cannot prosper and grow without an educated populace, and therefore the education of the individual is one of the most important tasks in our society. The success and growth of UMUC is a critical testament to the importance of educational opportunities for our military personnel in Europe. From its inception, this institution has viewed higher education from a global perspective, an approach which has put UMUC at the forefront of the larger higher education community.

Following World War II, when the United States military invited American universities to provide higher educational programs to servicemembers at military installations throughout Europe, UMUC was the only institution to respond. This began a historic 50 year partnership with the military in Europe and starting in 1956, in Asia as well. The noted British scholar Arnold Toynbee wrote that the UMUC program in Europe is "an American achievement from which the rest of the world has much to learn."

Since the first year, UMUC has offered educational opportunities to hundreds of thousands of our men and women overseas. Even now, it is wonderful to hear that this tradition continues in many locations at long established military installations in Germany, Britain, Italy, and Spain including temporary facilities in Kosovo and Bosnia.

I commend the University of Maryland University College for its 50 year history of unparalleled service and success in the field of education and I look forward to a continued close association with this exemplary institution.●

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES ORAN LITTLE

● Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor my good friend and fellow Kentuckian Oran Little on the occasion of his retirement as dean of the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture.

Oran taught at UK for 25 years, and served as a highly-respected and well-liked leader for UK's students and faculty for 12 years as Dean of the College of Agriculture. Under his tenure, new facilities were built, old facilities were renovated, and innovative educational programs were launched. An Agricultural Engineering Building, Regulatory Services Building, Animal Research Center, and Plant Science Building all took root during Oran's 12 years as dean. He also facilitated the creation

of international exchange programs, faculty and student councils, and numerous agricultural development programs. Oran may be leaving UK in body, but the school will benefit from his enterprising spirit and the tangible improvements he made as the College of Agriculture's dean for years to come.

Oran's long list of awards is as impressive as his lengthy list of accomplishments. His knowledge and experience have not gone unnoticed by other Kentucky agricultural institutions. Oran has received awards from the Kentucky Seed Improvement Association, Bowling Green/Warren County Chamber of Commerce, Greater Lexington Convention & Visitors Bureau, Soil and Water Conservation Society, UK Alumni Association, Kentucky 4-H, Kentucky Pork Producers Association, and the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association.

Oran has a long history with UK, serving as assistant professor, associate professor, professor, coordinator of animal nutrition research and teaching, associate dean for research, director of the Kentucky agricultural experiment station, coordinator of graduate programs in agriculture, and finally as dean of the College of Agriculture. Oran earned respect the old-fashioned way, through years of hard-work and a sincere concern for students, teachers and faculty at the University of Kentucky.

Over the years, Oran and I have worked together on many projects at UK. With Oran's wealth of knowledge about the University, he has been an essential resource in targeting the needs of UK and communicating how Congress can help meet those needs. It has always been a pleasure to work with Oran and I will miss him a great deal. I have no doubt, however, that he will stay involved with UK's College of Agriculture and that we will continue to hear from him in the future.

Oran, on behalf of myself and my colleagues, I wish you all the best as you enter retirement and I thank you for your many successful efforts to make UK a better place to work and learn.●

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, it has been more than a year since the Columbine tragedy, and still this Republican Congress refuses to act on sensible gun legislation.

Since Columbine, thousands of Americans have been killed by gunfire. Until we act, Democrats in the Senate will read some of the names of those who lost their lives to gun violence in the past year, and we will continue to do so every day that the Senate is in session.

In the name of those who died, we will continue this fight.

Following are the names of just some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago on May 19, 20, and 21.

May 19, 1999:

Clarence Arnold, 32, Knoxville, TN

Troy Blando, 39, Houston, TX
Don T. Huey, 32, Houston, TX
David Johnson, 31, Houston, TX
Booker Miles, 27, Louisville, KY
James Nash, 40, Atlanta, GA
Leon Pickett, Detroit, MI
Mark Thompson, 31, Baltimore, MD
Willie D. Watts, 39, Gary, IN
Cedric White, 19, Atlanta, GA

May 20, 1999:

Eric Michael Allen, 30, Detroit, MI
Roderick R. Brown, 27, Memphis, TN
John Cosgrove, 71, Miami-Dade County, FL

Paul Davis, 28, Chicago, IL
Stephen Entsminger, 49, Davenport, IA

Maria Josefina Eslava, 23, Houston, TX

Curtis O. Green, 17, Chicago, IL
Travis Johnson, 20, Rockford, IL
Demarcus Kelly, 26, Atlanta, GA
Aaron Murphy, Jr., 40, Macon, GA
Kevin Stokes, 27, Atlanta, GA
Male, 56, Honolulu, HI

May 21, 1999:

James Alberts, 35, Bridgeport, CT
Quan Bell, 28, Detroit, MI
Edward Belton, 18, St. Louis, MO
Richard Daniels, 27, Fort Worth, TX
Anthony Houston, 21, Detroit, MI
Michelle Jackson, 21, St. Louis, MO
Steven Jupiter, 19, Baltimore MD
Werner Muense, 81, Minneapolis, MN
John Minaya, 19, Providence, RI
Karl Paul Pitts, 22, Detroit, MI
Michael Marion Raymond, 22, Washington, DC

Oswaldo Rodriquez, 23, Houston, TX
Sheri Thielen, 40, Minneapolis, MN
May 19, 1999 (Houston, Texas):

Police Officer Troy Blando was fatally shot while attempting to arrest an auto theft suspect. Jeffery Demond Williams pulled into a parking lot in a stolen Lexus, and the 39-year-old Blando, working on the auto theft task force, was undercover in an unmarked vehicle. Blando approached Williams after he had run a check on the license plate and discovered the vehicle had been stolen.

A struggle ensued, and Blando put away his gun as he tried to handcuff the suspect's wrists. At that point, Williams pulled out a gun and shot the police officer, who was pronounced dead later that evening after doctors were unable to save him.

Police Officer Troy Blando is survived by his widow who suffers from multiple sclerosis, and his 14-year-old son. Williams has been convicted and sentenced to die.

May 20, 1999 (Conyers, Georgia):

As students mingled before class at Heritage High School in Conyers, Georgia, on May 20, 1999, fifteen-year-old Thomas Solomon pulled out a rifle and a handgun and began to open fire. Six students were injured and an assistant principal had to talk Solomon out of killing himself after he put a gun in his mouth. This incident took place exactly one month after Littleton, Colorado.

May 21, 1999 (Providence, Rhode Island):