

recommitted to the Judiciary Committee.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Minnesota.

RECOGNITION OF THE GOLDEN GOPHERS

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I am proud to stand here with my distinguished colleague, the senior Senator from Minnesota, MARK DAYTON, to offer congratulations to a group of young men of great accomplishment. In these difficult and troubled times, it is wonderful to recognize the accomplishment of young people. This accomplishment is something that is very close to the hearts of Minnesotans and folks in other parts of the country. It is about hockey.

Hockey is a sport in which it is not about individual team stars. It is about folks working as a team and toughing it out and showing courage and determination. Hockey is a family sport. Moms and dads, hockey moms and dads are folks who get up at 4, 5 o'clock in the morning to find ice time for their kids. And if it is not in the formal rink, it is a little rink outside where you kind of dust away the snow so your kids can skate. It represents so much of the best of America.

I am proud to announce I will be introducing, with my colleague Senator DAYTON, a resolution later today commending the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers men's hockey team for winning the NCAA Division I National Championship. And again, I am pleased to be joined by my colleague.

Hockey is not a partisan sport. I don't know whether hockey players are Democrats or Republicans. They are good Americans, and they are good young people.

I understand that upon this resolution's introduction, the Senate will take up and pass this fitting tribute to the Golden Gophers.

During their championship game against New Hampshire, a Gophers fan in attendance held up a sign that said, "The Dynasty Begins." With this as their second straight championship, the first team to accomplish this in 31 years, I would have to agree. At last year's Frozen Four, they defeated Maine in overtime 4 to 3, and this year's championship win came by a score of 5 to 1. Their first and second round games were also big wins, leading them to face Michigan in the semifinals, where they defeated the Wolverines in overtime.

With their achievements on the ice, it is clear this hockey team has exceptional athletic abilities. But they should also be recognized for their academic excellence; they maintained a grade point average above the university-wide average.

On a side note, allow me the opportunity to mention that the Minnesota-New Hampshire match in the final led

to a similar competition here in the Senate between my good friend and colleague, Senator GREGG. As to that outcome, let me just say I am looking forward to my lobster and maple syrup. I will be presenting this very stylish Minnesota necktie with the Golden Gopher colors to my good friend, the senior Senator from New Hampshire, for him to wear proudly as a sign of the great triumph for the people of Minnesota over the folks from New Hampshire. On behalf of all Minnesotans, I am pleased to make this addition to his wardrobe and, again, I look forward to his wearing this good-looking gopher tie on one of his many high profile days in the Senate.

I am proud to stand today to commend the Golden Gophers hockey team for winning the national championship and to recognize the outstanding achievements of all the team players, their coach Don Lucia and his staff.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. DAYTON. I rise with my colleague on the morning after a difficult night for Minnesota sports fans with both of our teams, the Timberwolves and the Wild, losing playoff games at home. This is a way to remind ourselves of days of former glory, and certainly with my distinguished colleague, Senator COLEMAN, who was instrumental and probably deserves more credit than any other person in Minnesota for bringing professional hockey back to St. Paul and Minnesota. The Minnesota Wild, which is now in its third year, is performing so well, it is fitting that we can rise together here for the second time this year to pay tribute to a Minnesota team, its collegiate hockey team; in this case, the Golden Gophers of the University of Minnesota, who have repeated now as national champions for the second time, the first time in 31 years that a college team has repeated for the men's championship.

They join the University of Minnesota women's team, the Duluth Bulldogs women's team, who earlier this year won their third consecutive national collegiate hockey championship.

As they were playing the Golden Gophers for the national title, I happened to be flying across the Pacific Ocean on a codel headed by Majority Leader BILL FRIST, and it turns out that his press secretary was a graduate of the University of New Hampshire. So we had a friendly wager on the outcome. I am delighted to soon be the recipient of a quart of maple syrup, which makes it as sweet a victory for me as for the team, and certainly for all the hockey fans throughout Minnesota.

This was supposed to be a rebuilding year for this team. Nobody thought they would make the playoffs, much less win the national championship. They had a new goalie and were the defending national champions. That made them everyone's target. They kept getting better and better as the

year went on. When they reached the playoffs, they were unbeatable. They won four straight victories to win the WCHA championship and then four straight victories, over stiff competition—the best in the Nation—in order to win the national championship for the second straight year. Once again, they accomplished this with almost entirely Minnesota talent.

Some people ask why it took 23 years—from 1979 to 1992—for Minnesota, which is the hockey capital of the Nation, to repeat as the national collegiate champion. In 1979, when they won, there were only two Division I college teams in Minnesota. Presently there are five. There is that increase in competition among the Minnesota colleges themselves and for our Minnesota hockey talent. In addition, the other programs—in the West, WCHA, and in the east, the CCHA—recruited extensively in Minnesota, and even eastern hockey spent heavily on Canadian talent. In my days of playing, in the 1960s, for example, in Division I hockey, it used to be said that Canadian boys dreamed of playing in the National Hockey League, and if those hopes and dreams were dashed, they went on to college in the United States.

Despite all that fierce competition for the talent and the pressures on that team, Coach Don Lucia has built, in just 5 years, an extraordinary program, a world class program in Minnesota that has restored collegiate hockey to its rightful place, at the very top in Minnesota. It is a real tribute to Coach Lucia and his entire team, all the players who performed extraordinarily well under the circumstances, and who are now, once again, the national collegiate champions.

It is Senator COLEMAN's and my hope that the President will be gracious enough to invite our two teams, the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers men's team and the University of Minnesota Duluth women's team, to the White House for recognition, as he had in the previous year with both teams, and before that with the women's team.

I went to college with the President. He was a year ahead of me, and he was not a hockey player. He was a rugby player. He was a sports fan. He roomed in college with a college All-American from Minnesota, Jack Morrison. He was a frequent attendee at our hockey games at Yale University. Two years ago, when the UMD women won the first championship, the President was gracious and responded instantaneously and invited the women's team, as he had previously invited the men's championship team from Boston College, to be feted at the White House. It could not have been a more exciting moment for the players, their families, friends, and the coaches at the University of Minnesota Duluth. Last year, we had the good fortune of having both championship teams, and the President was gracious enough to invite them both, along with the families, friends, and coaches, to the White House.

Senator COLEMAN and I have put in our request and soon expect that the President will be gracious enough to once again invite the teams and commend all those who play sports throughout the Nation, such as hockey, as they should be played—with all the enthusiasm and the best of their talent and ability, learning the values of sportsmanship, teamwork, competition. Sometimes they don't come out as well as they would like, but every once in a while they may reach the pinnacle of success of a national championship. I am sure the President would concur with that.

Again, I salute my favorite teams in Minnesota.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

(The remarks of Mr. ENZI, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. DORGAN pertaining to the introduction of S. 950 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

BIPARTISAN SENATORIAL TRIP TO JAPAN, TAIWAN, SOUTH KOREA, AND CHINA

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I want to share some of my experiences over the last 2 weeks as part of a bipartisan delegation of Senators who traveled to Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, and China. Upon my return to Minnesota last week, directly from Beijing, I never had so many inquiries from people meeting with me as to my health and well-being. Fortunately, I assured them I was not carrying SARS, which is something to be taken obviously very seriously.

The trip was led by our Senate majority leader BILL FRIST, and was led extraordinarily well by him. I cannot say enough to reflect my respect and admiration for his demeanor, his leadership, his poise, and his presence when facing the heads of state when we had these meetings in China, South Korea, and Taiwan.

We may be Republicans and Democrats, but occasionally we need to be reminded that at our core all of us are Americans. Ultimately, we all succeed or we do not succeed together, and that was certainly the spirit of this bipartisan delegation of five Republican Senators and three Democratic Senators. We got along very well. I do not think there was a cross word among us. We enjoyed very much the privilege of representing the United States of America as we did, and I believe under Senator FRIST's leadership we did so responsibly and hopefully honorably.

After careful consideration, at the end of our trip, the principal reason we decided to go through with our plans to go to China was the opportunity it presented to meet with the new Chinese leadership and particularly to discuss the situation concerning North Korea's nuclear weapons program. We certainly carefully considered and Senator

FRIST, of course, being a doctor, was in the forefront of considering very carefully the exposure we would have, the risks that would be entailed in regard to SARS. We took every possible precaution. I washed my hands and face more in 2 and a half days in Beijing than I usually do in about 2 weeks in Minnesota. So far, knock on wood, it seems to have been effective.

As I said, we believed the opportunity to converse directly with the new President of China, President Hu Jintao, as well as the other new Chinese leadership, and to press upon them the urgency we felt about resolving the nuclear situation in North Korea was worth that trip, and it proved to be. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that, in fact, China shares our goal, as their leadership expressed several times, to bring about a nuclear-free Korean peninsula, and that position which was stated by them was corroborated by our Ambassador, Clark T. Randt, Jr., who apparently was a classmate of the President who appointed him, President Bush. Both of them, it turns out, were fraternity brothers of mine back in college.

I had a chance to reminisce with him. He reassured all of us that the Chinese Government had been very influential in bringing North Korea to the negotiating table last week, the trilateral talks that commenced in Beijing. They could have been more timely but at least they are underway. Hopefully, they will continue actively with the top-level attention they certainly need.

It was a signal of a great opportunity to work in partnership with the new Chinese Government to reach the shared objective of ridding North Korea of its nuclear weapons and to create a nuclear-free Korean peninsula. What a great way to build a partnership for the next 10, 20 years, which is what this Government in China now professes it wants with the United States. President Hu said himself their primary objective for the next two decades is to increase and expand the economic progress that has been made in their country, to raise the standard of living of more and more of their citizens through the United States and other foreign investment through additional trade and economic growth there which has been staggering in the last 10 to 15 years. As they pointed out, especially in the middle and western parts of the country, so much more needs to be done to bring those areas up to the eastern seaboard, mainland of China.

That, hopefully, will be their priority and one that will serve to increase the likelihood of peace and economic and international security throughout the world. There would be nothing we could do that would be any more beneficial to our national interests than to encourage their economic progress and to build a relationship that is economic, that is cultural and social after they have resolved their current health crisis, and also provide the strong influence of both countries for peaceful

resolution of the situation in North Korea and others that will arise inevitably in that part of the world.

They also stressed, as did the South Korean and Taiwanese Governments, the importance of peacefully resolving the situation in North Korea. Anyone who believes a military resolution would be advisable should go over and meet with the leaders of those three respective countries—South Korea, China, and Taiwan, and even in Japan, as well. From the leadership with whom we met there, there is no one in that part of the world in responsible positions who wants to see a military threat or military action initiated there.

There has been a great deal of economic progress in the areas of South Korea and Taiwan. While claiming to suffer from the worldwide economic slowdown, the rates of economic growth they are realizing in those countries, from 3.5- to 5-percent growth annually, is something that certainly this country and other nations in the world would be delighted to achieve. For them, that is a slowdown, creating unemployment they have not had heretofore and economic and social problems and welfare and safety net problems they have not had to deal with for the last decade.

They also have a vital stake in having North Korea's nuclear program eliminated, as the President has said properly so, but continued so in a way that does not threaten the security and the stability of that region of the world.

We also had the opportunity to travel to the demilitarized zone between North Korea and South Korea and had dinner with the 2nd Army Division—"second to none" is one of their mottos, and appropriately so. They are second to none in their dedication and courage and commitment for being there. We stood right there on the DMZ and looked, as they do night after night, across the border. Another motto of theirs is "fight tonight." They are in a constant State of readiness and alert, and all Americans should be mindful and respectful and enormously grateful to those brave men and women who put their lives on the line day and night, one after the other, without the kind of recognition their compatriots get in other parts of the globe—just as well trained, just as well prepared, every bit as willing to stand and defend the beacon of freedom in Korea as our forces have done so outstandingly in Iraq and previously in Afghanistan and anywhere else in the world.

That is a reminder, once again, that freedom is priceless, but it is not free. It has to be won and preserved through dedication of the brave men and women in the 2nd Army Division. And to all of them, and their leader, GEN Leon LaPorte, commander of the United States forces in Korea, we all have the utmost respect and admiration.

It reminded me why I introduced, along with Senator SESSIONS last year,