

His number one hit, "Before the Next Tear-drop Falls," was his re-entry into popular culture. That album went multi-platinum, and Fender won best male artist of 1976. In the latter part of the century, he spread his wings, expanded upon his talent and worked with Robert Redford in the movie *The Milagro Beanfield War* and other non-traditional projects.

He found his stride, working in different parts of the entertainment industry. But he never strayed far from the bounds of music, working with *The Texas Tornados*.

Freddy and his family have been tested in the fires of a near-death experience. After a protracted illness, Freddy received a kidney from his daughter, cheating death, and still singing and writing his songs.

Freddy's Grammy Award-winning album in 2002 captured the yearning for a simple, romantic return to youth. The cover has a 4-year-old Baldemar Huerta dressed as a cowboy astride a painted pony. "La Musica de Baldemar Huerta" is 10 boleros with little accompaniment. Boleros are poignant ballads generally featuring sophisticated guitar picking and sensual rhythms.

The biggest thing for which Freddy is known in South Texas is his generosity of spirit in establishing a scholarship fund for average students. An average student himself, and an avowed troublemaker in his youth, he has a unique understanding of the challenges before a young person who has either made a mistake, made only average grades, or both.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me—and the Texas Folklife Resources—in honoring Freddy Fender, a great American treasure, a South Texan, a friend, and lifelong cultural icon in North American music.

HONORING MISSISSIPPI STATE'S
BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, it has been four decades since Mississippi State University stood atop the Southeastern Conference as the undisputed solitary men's basketball champion. The Bulldogs, under the leadership of Coach Rick Stansbury—the Associated Press SEC Coach of the Year—did so this year with a 25–2 regular season record and a 14–2 record in the SEC that propelled them into the top five ranking in the national AP poll.

It was the 1962–1963 season when MSU won a previous solitary SEC championship. Six head coaches and 41 years later, the Bulldogs did it again in a nail-biting come-from-behind victory over the Alabama Crimson Tide. The Bulldogs were down in the second half by 18 points against the University of Alabama, one of two teams to defeat MSU during the regular season. During the last second, under intense defensive pressure, senior All-SEC guard Timmy Bowers made a 14-foot jump shot to tie the game, sending it into overtime. Then again, in the final second of overtime, Bowers made another jumper to earn a Bulldog victory of 82–81.

MSU has had champion basketball teams in the past, some shared, all notable.

Season, Record, SEC, Notable:

1958–59, 24–1, 13–1, opened SEC play with only loss to Auburn.

1960–61, 19–8, 11–3, lost three games only by a combined 12 points.

1961–62, 24–1, 13–1, shared title with Kentucky, only loss to Vanderbilt.

1962–63, 22–5, 12–2, lost to Loyola (Chicago) in NCAA Mideast regional.

1990–91, 20–9, 13–5, shared title with LSU; lost to Eastern Michigan in NCAA East regional.

2003–04, 25–2, 14–2, became fourth SEC team to win all eight road league games; lost to Xavier in NCAA second round.

The future looks bold for the Maroon and White. Seniors Timmy Bowers and versatile Branden Vincent will be missed, and though the NBA is courting junior center Lawrence Roberts (the reigning SEC Player of the Year), MSU will field a solid team in 2005. Juniors Shane Power and Winsome Frazier, senior Marcus Campbell, and sophomore Gary Ervin all look to be explosive scorers next year on the court and across the conference. Added to these quality players are sophomore center Wesley Morgan and freshman guard Dietric Slater plus Ontario Harper, a medical red shirt, as well as three top signees: Charles Rhodes from Lanier High School in Jackson, Mississippi; Jerrell Houston from Memphis, Tennessee; and Jamall Edmondson from Meridian Community College.

This year, Mississippi State earned the second seed position in the NCAA Basketball Tournament Atlanta Regional. While they were eliminated by Xavier during the second round of play, the Bulldogs have played a terrific season. An SEC title, a final record of 26–4 and 14–2 in the SEC, undefeated during regular season on the road; these have stirred a fire among MSU fans that will continue to burn into next year.

The pride of the Bulldogs extends not just from Starkville, home of Mississippi State University, but across the state. I hope Congress will join me in congratulating this team and Coach Stansbury—wishing them all the best fortune in the future both personally, and as representatives of MSU.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATHERINE HARRIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, on March 31, 2004 during rollcall vote No. 104 on H. Res. 581, I was unavailable for the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

U.S.-CHINA MARITIME RELATIONS
AND THE EMERGENCY OF COSCO

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Federal Maritime Commission for its actions on March 31 in granting the petitions of three Chinese maritime carriers to provide relief from the 30-day waiting requirement for reduction of tariff rates of the Con-

trolled Carrier Act. These carriers will now be able to make rate changes within 24 hours, which is the current market standard for all shippers.

These recent FMC actions, along with the formal signing of the U.S.-China Maritime Agreement in February, signal that the commitment made by both nations to develop closer maritime and commercial relations and to open markets is closer to becoming a reality. The increased economic cooperation between the United States and China is becoming more tangible, as evidenced by the fact that a business in my district made its first ever shipment to China this year.

Mr. Speaker, one of the Chinese carriers whose petition was recently granted by the FMC is the China Ocean Shipping Company (COSCO), which played an important role in supporting the U.S.-China Maritime Agreement. COSCO will soon celebrate the 25th anniversary of the maiden voyage of its first ship in the United States in 1979, an event which marked the re-establishment of U.S.-China trade relations for the first time in 30 years. COSCO was a leader at that time and continues to lead today.

COSCO has transformed itself to become a leading global shipper that operates under market rules. Recently, COSCO's CEO, Captain Wei Jiafu, gave the keynote address at the Trans-Pacific Maritime Conference in Long Beach, California. Captain Wei and COSCO were profiled in a cover story by the *Journal of Commerce* that explained COSCO's goals to expand services and eventually to be publicly listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Mr. Speaker, in order to share more information with my colleagues about COSCO's role in supporting trade with the U.S. and globally, I would like to submit the March 22 *Journal of Commerce* cover story for the RECORD.

(From the *Journal of Commerce*, Mar. 22, 2004)

COSCO SETS ITS COURSE

(By Peter T. Leach)

Capt. Wei Jiafu is a man who knows where he's going. He should; he's a former deck officer who now is president and chief executive of China Ocean Shipping (Group), China's largest ocean carrier. Wei is what Gilbert and Sullivan might call the model of a modern capitalist, were it not for the fact that COSCO is owned by the avowedly communist state.

As chief executive since 1998, Wei is steering a capitalist course for COSCO that is designed to accomplish three long-term goals, which he discussed in an interview before *The Journal of Commerce's* 4th annual Trans-Pacific Maritime Conference this month in Long Beach, Calif. Wei said he aims to make COSCO one of the top five shipping companies in the world by doubling the size of its container fleet in the next four years; to expand COSCO's logistics business to provide more revenue balance; and to list the company's stock on the New York Stock Exchange.

Wei added a fourth goal last week that is raising questions in the industry. In his keynote address to the conference, he called for the establishment of "a long-term stable development mechanism" based on fair regulation, cooperation among carriers, and cooperation among carriers, shippers, terminal operators and service providers.

The fact that his remarks attracted questions from shippers and carriers such as, "What did he mean?" indicates the prominence that COSCO has attained in the six