

established a special reserve to be available to any committee funded by this resolution as provided in subsection (b) of which—

(1) an amount not to exceed \$4,375,000, shall be available for the period March 1, 2009, through September 30, 2009; and

(2) an amount not to exceed \$7,500,000, shall be available for the period October 1, 2009, through September 30, 2010; and

(3) an amount not to exceed \$3,125,000, shall be available for the period October 1, 2010, through February 28, 2011.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—The special reserve authorized in subsection (a) shall be available to any committee—

(1) on the basis of special need to meet unpaid obligations incurred by that committee during the periods referred to in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (a); and

(2) at the request of a Chairman and Ranking Member of that committee subject to the approval of the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Rules and Administration.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

SENATOR LEAHY JOINS THE 13,000 VOTE CLUB

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, in the entire history of the U.S. Senate, only eight Senators have cast 13,000 votes. Today, our honorable colleague, Senator LEAHY, has become the ninth Senator to do it.

Mr. President, I congratulate the distinguished senior Senator from Vermont upon achieving this monumental milestone in his life and career. As a 34-year veteran of the Senate, and as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee and chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator LEAHY has already provided invaluable service to his state and our country.

Now he has become a member of one of the most exclusive clubs in our country, "U.S. Senators who have cast 13,000 votes club."

As the charter member of this exclusive club, I welcome Senator LEAHY into it.

TRIBUTE TO KENTUCKY CHEERLEADING SQUADS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of the North Laurel Middle and High School cheerleading squads from the city of London in my home State of Kentucky. Recently, both teams won national championships in the Universal Cheerleaders Association, at competitions held in Orlando, FL.

Both teams overcame setbacks and injuries but still triumphed. Through

hard work and dedication, they were able to clinch the national titles for Kentucky. Recently, the Sentinel-Echo newspaper in London, KY, published an article detailing the victories of both teams.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the cheerleaders and coaches from North Laurel Middle and High Schools for their performances in the national competition. I further ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD, as well as the names of the participants and coaches.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Sentinel-Echo, Feb. 13, 2009]

LAURELS FOR NORTH LAUREL

(By Tara Kaprowy)

With full police and fire truck escort, marching band fanfare and thousands of students waiting to greet them, North Laurel middle and high school cheerleaders came home wreathed in victory Tuesday. The teams both clinched first place last weekend at the Universal Cheerleaders Association National High School Cheerleading Championship, the be-all end-all of cheerleading competitions.

North Laurel Middle School coach Christy Jones was thrilled.

"It's all the buzz down here," she said of the North Laurel wins. "They loved the girls, they loved the routine."

North Laurel High School coach Kim Wood was likewise pleased.

"We're celebrating like we've never celebrated before," she said.

Wood's team has had a heart-stopping couple of days. The team arrived in Orlando, Fla., a few days before the weekend competition to have time to practice their highly technical routine.

But on the first day, tragedy struck.

"We had one of our strongest bases get injured," Wood said. "She blew her knee out."

With Lindsey Lewis now forced to the sidelines, it was up to Laura Robinson—who had never even competed before—to step in.

"She was so nervous," Wood said.

To incorporate Robinson into the performance, the girls had to adjust their formations and rework the routine, practicing six hours a day to get things right.

"Each girl had to work even harder," Wood said.

By the end of the second round of competition, the girls were in seventh place; one of the girls had fallen, which cost the team points. Nevertheless, they advanced to finals. This time, their 2½-minute routine was flawless.

"It was perfect," Wood said. "They were awesome."

When the winners were being announced, the judges asked the girls to maintain their composure out of respect for the other teams. But Wood said when the runner-up was named—and it wasn't North Laurel—her girls were ecstatic.

"They were bawling and crying and jumping for joy," Wood said.

Over in the middle-school competition, the girls were up against the fearsome Mount Pisgah and Houston girls, cheerleaders from two middle schools who finish first and second year after year.

This year, Jones said she was ready for the Tennessee teams, with North Laurel's choreographer crafting a routine that was at the highest level of difficulty. The performance incorporates 13 full-ups, a move in which the

girls complete a 360-degree turn before they hit the top of their stunt.

"We do them to one leg, which is even more difficult," Jones said.

The girls pulled off the stunts, even though they were also plagued by injuries.

Dani Flannery, who tore the ligaments in her ankle last year, reinjured her leg while in Florida.

She chose to compete anyway.

"She battled back," Jones said. "And she did it with a smile on her face."

In the end, the NLMS girls pulled off their routine and, by 12 points, were named the champions.

Jones said the win was sweet.

"It's been very difficult to gain respect," she said. "It's kind of the (Tennessee team) club, but we broke into it this year. And they didn't like it."

Jones said she and her girls are thankful for the support they received throughout the year.

"We are just so appreciative of our principal (David Hensley)," she said. "He is so supportive of our program. And our parents, listen, our parents raised the money so every child could come to Florida for free. And the community. Every time they buy a T-shirt or a box of donuts, it lets these girls achieve their dream. I'm so thankful."

NORTH LAUREL MIDDLE SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS

Katie Mays, Caitlyn Adams, Sammantha Tolliver, Maddie Wood, Hannah Robinson, Ashley McCowan, Whitney McCowan, Ryvers Loomis, Meagan Stewart, Hannah McWhorter, McKayla Vaughn, Taylor Hubbard, Dani Flannery, Kristen King, Whitney Reams, Miranda Browning, Savannah Goozeman, Sydney Herrell, Farris Strong, Sherri Gray, Lane Mitchell, Breanna Binder, Morgan Bill, Sammantha Nalley, Kelsey Guidi, Amy Corum, Gabrielle Skript, Addison Woods, Taylor Eversole, Hayley Whitman, Tara McClure, Taylor Hamilton. Coaches: Jamie Winkfein, Sidney Hubbard, Christy Jones.

NORTH LAUREL HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS

Alex Blair, Bailie Camp, Taylor Forbes, Brittney Hodges, Ashley Hollin, Destiny Inman, Ally James, Kayla Johnson, Mercedes Lester, Whitney Lawson, Lindsey Lewis, Kelsey Maggard, Mackenzie Martin, Brittany Moore, Ashley Partin, Sarah Pennington, Laura Robinson, Jenny Tillery, Gabrielle Woods. Coaches: Kim Wood, Toni Blake Greer.

SENATOR PATRICK LEAHY'S 13,000TH VOTE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to honor Senator PATRICK LEAHY on the occasion of his 13,000th vote.

I have had the privilege of serving on the Senate Judiciary Committee under Senator LEAHY's leadership for more than 10 years. The Judiciary Committee is one of the original standing committees of the U.S. Senate and its role is unique. It is the Judiciary Committee's special charge to ensure that we remain faithful to our Founders' vision of America as a nation of laws.

As chairman of the Judiciary Committee, PATRICK LEAHY takes this responsibility very seriously and he has continually demonstrated his fidelity to the rule of law. Chairman LEAHY has repeatedly risen in defense of our fundamental constitutional rights, even when it is not politically popular.

He particularly distinguished himself in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist