

property, which increased both academic and athletic space for the university.

Among his other accomplishments, he worked to advance UNT as a public research institution. He fulfilled a long held desire at UNT for an engineering school by establishing the College of Engineering and creating a permanent home for engineering at the UNT Research Park.

After leaving UNT, he joined the faculty at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Prescott campus and was named chief academic officer in January of this year.

Dr. Pohl spent the better part of his career in higher education serving as both an administrator and a professor at several universities across the southwest. Dr. Norval Pohl was a great asset to the academic communities he served and he will be missed at the universities he leaves behind. I would like to express my condolences to Dr. Pohl's family and friends and my admiration for his devotion to higher education.●

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL JOHN HENRY TOWERS

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to honor and commemorate in the RECORD of the Senate ADM John Henry Towers, pioneer naval aviator, on the 90th anniversary of the first crossing of the Atlantic Ocean in an airplane on May 8, 2009.

Admiral Towers was born and raised in Rome, GA, and graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy with the class of 1906. As one of the earliest of all naval aviators, he participated in the development of new aviation technology and the application of air power as a part of the surface fleet. By the time World War II was over, Admiral Towers was the senior surviving aviator of the Navy.

In every chapter of the early development of naval aviation, John Towers made his mark. He organized the Navy's entry into aviation in 1911. Admiral Towers worked very closely with Glenn Curtiss in designing the first naval aircraft and due to his efforts became known to his peers as the "Crown Prince of Aviation."

Towers held aviation records for endurance, altitude, and speed. He survived a fall out of an airplane in 1913 by hanging onto the aircraft strut as it crashed into the Severn River from 1,300 feet. Unfortunately, his pilot-in-training, ENS, William Billingsly, was killed and became the first naval aviation fatality. As a result, Towers mandated seat belts and harnesses in all naval aircraft after the crash. He also took the Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin Delano Roosevelt, future President of the United States, for his first airplane ride, which secured a special friendship that lasted their whole careers.

Admiral Towers was the first to use naval aircraft in combat in the Mexican War in 1914. Then, in 1919, he conceived, organized, and commanded the

first flight of three Navy NC-flying boats to fly across the Atlantic Ocean, fulfilling his early vision to be the first flight across the Atlantic Ocean. The flights began at Rockaway Beach, NY, on May 8, 1919, and one of the planes made it to Plymouth, England, on May 31, 1919. It was Towers' vision that inspired others and changed the world forever. The flight actually lasted 52 hours 31 minutes, for a distance of 3,936 nautical miles.

Towers and his group became international celebrities. During their Atlantic crossing, the Nation was on pins and needles reading about the happenings each day, particularly when they received the news that Towers' float boat NC-3 went down and was lost at sea for 5 days. After he sailed the seaplane 200 miles to the Azores, his became a household name around the world.

The significance of this epic flight affected the psyche of the American public because until that time, we were largely protected from invasion by having two oceans on either side of us. When the airplane made that first Atlantic crossing, Americans became aware that we were not immune from future wars on our soil. In addition, Britain, France, and Germany were more advanced in aviation than the United States. When the United States beat them across the Atlantic, we were immediately thrust into a "super power" status. The U.S. Navy beat the world in crossing the Atlantic.

Admiral Towers' career was a stubborn, determined battle to gain acceptance for aviation on a Navy that was dominated by battleship admirals. He was the first to integrate women into the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marines by creating the W.A.V.E.S. in 1942. The W.A.V.E.S. eventually grew to 12,000 women officers and 75,000 enlisted women. He was also the first to obtain four stars in any branch of service in the State of Georgia and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

Apollo 17 honored the admiral and his contribution to aviation by naming a crater on the Moon in his name. In addition, he was honored by Time magazine and placed on the front cover for his efforts during World War II. Towers began in naval aviation at its inception in 1911 and remained dedicated to the field through his retirement in 1947. He is a member of five Aviation Halls of Fame.

It is a privilege to pay tribute to the remarkable life of ADM John Henry Towers.●

REMEMBERING CECIL E. HARRIS

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I recognize and congratulate the outstanding career of Cecil Harris, decorated Navy pilot. For his heroic actions in World War II, Cecil received the Navy Cross, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Air Medal. His bravery is again being honored in with the dedication of the Cecil E. Harris Highway in northeast South Dakota.

This Cresbard native was enrolled in the Northern State Teachers College

when he enlisted in the Navy in March 1941 and was sent to northern Africa. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor nine months later, Cecil's remarkable flying abilities were noted and he was moved to the Pacific to combat the Kamikaze attacks. Cecil shot down 24 enemy warplanes in 81 days while never taking a single bullet on his own plane, making him the second-ranking World War II Naval Ace.

After the war, Cecil returned home to become a teacher and coach. In 1951, he was called to Tennessee to train pilots for the Korean war. He was then promoted to captain and sent to the Pentagon. He retired in June 1967 after serving 27 years in the Navy. He passed away in 1981 and is buried in Arlington Cemetery.

This stretch of Highway 20 will bear the name of a dedicated and decorated war hero. Cecil Harris exemplified South Dakota values in his unwavering commitment to his country, and I commend the South Dakota Department of Transportation for honoring this outstanding individual.●

RECOGNIZING ROSEPINE CONCERT BAND

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize 72 young musicians from Rosepine High School. On April 29, 2009, these students travelled from the heart of Vernon Parish in Louisiana to compete against 28 bands at the Music in the Parks Festival in Williamsburg, VA. Although Rosepine was the smallest school to compete in their class, hailing from a town of approximately 1,300 people, they received a superior rating and were ranked "Top of All Bands."

As a reward for this outstanding accomplishment, the entire band received an educational tour of both historic Williamsburg and Washington, DC. I trust that they were inspired and motivated by their trip to our Nation's Capital.

These bright young stars are proof that with hard work, determination, and the right amount of support and encouragement, anything is possible. I believe that constant support and supervision from families and instructors can guide students to a path of success and achievement. In addition, I would like to congratulate Rosepine's band director, Tra Lantham, and thank him for his dedication and commitment to the students as well as the school's music department.

I ask that these names be printed in the Record. I thank these young people and their parents for coming to our Nation's Capitol to learn about the workings of the U.S. Senate:

Mandi Alford, Samantha Allardyce, Jason Allardyce, Kelvin Ayala, Lindsey Aycock, Mark Bailes, Matt Blount, Brandon Boggs, Chloe Brausch, Haley Brown, Hannah Cardy, Zachary Cardy, Jeffery Cox, Ann Cox, Brittany Darrah, Jacob Dearmon, Taylor