

than it is in any of the prisons they are familiar with.

Abu Ghraib was a different situation. Yes, some of our troops were involved in that. Most people wouldn't call it torture. It is more humiliation than anything else. But nonetheless, they did that. But the interesting thing about Abu Ghraib is, prior to the time that the public was aware that was going on, the Army had already come in and started their discipline, and it stopped that type of thing from taking place. But even if it weren't, for people to think just because there was something in their minds that was torture that was going on in Abu Ghraib, to even suggest that was going on in Guantanamo Bay is totally fictitious.

I have been privileged to take several Members down with me to see this firsthand. I think every Member of the Senate should have to go down and see for himself or herself what is really going on down there.

We can't afford to take a chance on turning terrorists loose in the United States. The polling that came out just this morning showed that by a margin of 3 to 1, people do not want to close Guantanamo Bay. We have to keep Gitmo open.

I was in a state of shock when I found out that one of the worst terrorists incarcerated down there was brought back to face justice in our court system in New York.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

COMMENDING NICKY HAYDEN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Nicky Hayden, a native of Owensboro, KY., who has followed his passion and is an inspiration for all Kentuckians.

Hayden is among the world's elite in Grand Prix motorcycle racing. Driving at speeds of up to 200 miles per hour, with his knees sometimes only inches off of the ground, Hayden has won countless races all over the world.

Nicky's racing career has led him to win the Moto Grand Prix Championship in 2006, the AMA Superbike Championship in 2002, and the AMA Supersport 600 Championship in 1999.

Nicky's parents, Earl and Rose Hayden, could not be more proud of what

their son has already accomplished since he began racing at a very young age.

An article in the June 2009 edition of Kentucky Living magazine chronicled Nicky's career, highlighting his exciting and successful career, his extensive travel schedule, and his love of his home State and town. I ask unanimous consent to have the full article printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. President, I further ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of Nicky Hayden and I wish him continued success throughout his career.

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

[From Kentucky Living, June 2009]

NICKY HAYDEN, THE KENTUCKY KID

(By Gary P. West)

When fans call you The Kentucky Kid and you race throughout the world on a motorcycle at speeds in excess of 200 miles per hour, you better believe you have to be good, real good.

That's what 28-year-old Nicky Hayden from Owensboro does, and as a professional motorcycle racer, who started out in the sport long before he was big enough for his feet to touch the ground while seated, he has become one of the biggest names in the sport.

Nicky was back home in Owensboro, or OWB as he calls it, taking the name from the local airport, on a summer break from an 18-race schedule that begins in March and ends in November.

"I travel 11 months a year," he says. "But I love coming home to my family. Family's important to me. Growing up here with my two brothers and two sisters, I have everything I want. My mom was from a big farm family, 11 brothers and sisters, so my family has always been close. I don't want to live in Monaco or anywhere else like that."

Nicky's parents, Earl and Rose, once upon a time, enjoyed the thrill of going fast on motorcycles themselves. Earl raced often and won on dirt tracks, while Rose competed successfully in "powder puff" leagues, but when their family began to expand, they turned to introducing their three sons to the sport.

While older brother Tommy and younger brother Roger have had successful professional riding stints, it's Nicky who has risen to world-class status winning the MotoGP or Grand Prix, the sport's most elite level of motorcycle racing. As the World Champion in 2006, he has picked up several other accolades that might be expected for a handsome bachelor who hangs out with jetsetters throughout Europe and the United States.

Nicky often finds himself far removed from his Owensboro home in order to race against riders from Italy, Spain, Portugal, Australia, and other countries throughout the world. But it's his return visits to Kentucky and his family and friends that help him keep his Daviess County values.

Swerving through curves, routinely leaning his motorcycle so far on its sides that the friction from the asphalt eats into his knee pucks, Hayden and his cycle appear to defy the law of gravity. Riding on the edge of traction, the slightest loss of concentration and his race is over.

Motorcycle racing, considered by many to be a daredevil sport, has gained its popularity on dirt tracks throughout America over the years. But with the strong influence of his parents, one question begs to be asked.

Considering Owensboro's reputation as a hotbed for stock car racing how did the Hayden family stay focused on motorcycles?

With Owensboro names like Waltrip, Green, and Mayfield, all established NASCAR stars, it seems like it would have been easier to catch on with automobile racing.

But Hayden's star was growing at a much earlier age than it takes to get a ride in a car at Daytona.

By the age of 17, and still in high school at Owensboro Catholic, he was racing factory Honda RC45 superbikes and winning. In 2002, at the age of 21, he won the Daytona 200 while becoming the youngest ever to win an AMA Superbike Championship. He was years removed from the days when his parents would hold his bike in place for the start of a race because he was too small to touch the ground.

Soon after, Honda tapped The Kentucky Kid to join what many in the business consider the elite team in MotoGP racing, Repsol Honda. Earning rookie-of-the-year honors on the circuit his first year, his racing togs began to take on more sponsors than an Indy car. A jewelry line, clothing, sunglasses, tires, energy drink, watches, and, of course, Repsol, an oil and gas company operating in more than 30 countries, cover almost every inch of his protective racing ware.

With his boyish good looks and success as an international motorcycle racer, it was of little surprise when Hayden was listed among People magazine's 50 Hottest Bachelors in 2005.

That was followed by appearances on the Today Show, Jay Leno's Tonight Show, and a two-hour documentary on MTV appropriately called The Kentucky Kid, which chronicled his 2006 championship season. "It gave us good exposure in a market we hadn't been in," says Nicky.

Rubbing elbows and shaking hands with the likes of Michael Jordan, Brad Pitt, and Tom Cruise, and seeing your picture on a full-page Honda ad and in USA Today, further points out the two worlds Nicky lives in.

It did not come, however, without some difficulties and second-guessing. Family closeness made Nicky's travels throughout the world difficult at times, especially that first year in MotoGP competition.

"It was another world to me," recalls Nicky. "I was learning the bike, my team, the hectic travel schedule, and everything that went with it. My two brothers and I always trained, practiced, and rode together and then the next year I was out there by myself."

With Nicky and his family growing up on Rose's home-cooked meals, the sudden change in culinary choices as he traveled presented some problems.

"Oh, yeah, food was definitely an issue," his voice rising to emphasize the point. "It's not much fun being on an airplane with food poisoning. There have been several nights I have gone to bed hungry, and when I was in China I lived on watermelon for a while." "At the races I stay in a motor home at the track," he says.

One of the perks of racing at this level is that a motor home is delivered to each of his European races. It also includes an English-speaking satellite television that he says helped to overcome his loneliness.

The entire setting is thousands of miles removed from his Daviess County home, and thousands of thoughts about those days when he couldn't wait to finish high school and race motorcycles. It was his only thought.

"I did just enough in school to get by" to keep my grades up so my parents would let