

the founding of Ottawa University in Ottawa, KS.

Ottawa University has grown from a single building in 1865 to a comprehensive, global institution of higher learning dedicated to preparing and educating students to have a lifetime of enlightened faith, exemplary service, inspired leadership, and personal growth and significance.

The university traces its roots to a strong partnership between Baptist missionaries and the Ottawa Indian tribe. In 1865, the partnership between members of the Baptist church and the Ottawa Indian tribe, under the leadership of Tauny Jones, led to the founding of a school for the benefit of children of the Ottawa Indian tribe. Originally chartered as a boarding school, OU's leaders also recognized the importance of offering a college-level education and having a college to serve as an economic growth engine for the community emerging around the Marais des Cygnes River.

Ottawa University's partnership with the Ottawa Indian tribe remains strong. In 2008, Kevin C. Eichner, president of Ottawa University, and Chief John Ballard of the Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, entered into an agreement to grant, in perpetuity, free tuition and room and board to all certified members of the Ottawa tribe who wish to attend the residential college in Ottawa, KS, or any of OU's adult on-ground or online programs. This 2008 agreement has been widely embraced and celebrated by members of the tribe and the faculty, alumni, board members, and friends of OU as emblematic of the institution's core mission and principles and its enduring commitment to maintaining a strong partnership with the Ottawa Indian tribe.

Throughout its history, Ottawa University has pursued an innovative approach to higher education. In the 1970s, OU was among the first universities to embrace a growing demand for programs of higher education specifically tailored to the needs of adult students, opening an adult campus in Kansas City in 1974; Phoenix, AZ, in 1977; Brookfield, WI, in 1992; Jeffersonville, IN, in 2002; and Chandler, AZ, in 2009. In 2008, OU began offering complete degree programs online.

Today, Ottawa University serves more than 5,000 students from 50 States and six countries. The university employs more than 200 faculty and staff who are committed to ensuring that each student receives a high-quality education that honors OU's mission and history. Today there are more than 23,000 distinguished OU graduates serving their communities, professions, and churches around the world.

Congratulations to Ottawa University on the 150th anniversary of its founding, its enduring partnership with the Ottawa Indian tribe, and the achievements of all faculty, staff, students, and alumni who have contributed to the university's success.●

TRIBUTE TO MIKE HORSLEY

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure and the highest regards that I speak on the retirement of my long-time friend and valued constituent James Michael Horsley. Mike announced his retirement as president of the Alabama Hospital Association earlier this year and is planning to transition to his next venture in November.

Mike has had a long and distinguished career with the Alabama Hospital Association and has represented well the interests of hospitals and the patients they serve. His tremendous knowledge of the health care industry has been a valuable resource for members of the Alabama delegation. This knowledge is grounded not only in his 24 years of service to the association but also in his service to the State as commissioner of both the Alabama Medicaid Agency and the Alabama Department of Mental Health. His knowledge of health policy is unparalleled in the State and his expertise will be sorely missed as we continue to discuss the myriad of issues concerning health care delivery.

Not only is Mike well versed in health policy, but he is also a skilled negotiator, who has been able to convene diverse interests and facilitate lasting solutions that benefit all parties. He is respected as a man for his word, with a reputation for being ethical in all of his endeavors.

Mike is a strategic thinker who possesses the ability to find innovative solutions for seemingly insurmountable challenges. Under his leadership, Alabama's hospitals have been able to provide extraordinarily good care with very limited resources. In addition, he has been very active in highlighting the inequalities of the current Medicare wage index payment mechanism and advocating for a change of the broken system. I commend Mike's tireless work to reform the Medicare Area Wage Index, and I am proud to have worked with him on many successful endeavors to improve the wage index. In 2003, after leadership by the Alabama Hospital Association, the Congress passed legislation that improved the wage index for several rural States. The action resulted in payment gains for hospitals in Alabama of approximately \$1 million per hospital per year. The State of Alabama has been lucky to have him as their champion on this issue.

I also want to commend him for his exemplary service to his country as an active member of the U.S. Navy and as a long-time reservist. Mike was a respected intelligence officer who retired at the rank of captain and was responsible for keeping many of our Navy men and women out of harm's way.

In addition to this remarkable career and military service, Mike is also a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He has been married to Wanda for almost 40 years, and together, they have one son and two grandchildren. In light

of these and all of his many accomplishments, I want to congratulate him on his outstanding career and to wish him the best in his impending retirement.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

NOTIFICATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTENT TO TERMINATE THE DESIGNATIONS OF SEYCHELLES, URUGUAY, AND VENEZUELA AS BENEFICIARY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES UNDER THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP) PROGRAM—PM 24

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 502(f)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "1974 Act") (19 U.S.C. 2462(f)(2)), I am providing notification of my intent to terminate the designations of Seychelles, Uruguay, and Venezuela as beneficiary developing countries under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program. Section 502(e) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(e)) provides that if the President determines that a beneficiary developing country has become a "high income" country, as defined by the official statistics of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development of the World Bank (the "World Bank"), the President shall terminate the designation of such country as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP program, effective on January 1 of the second year following the year in which such determination is made.

Pursuant to section 502(e) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that it is appropriate to terminate the designations of Seychelles, Uruguay, and Venezuela as beneficiary developing countries under the GSP program, because they have become high income countries as defined by the World Bank. Accordingly, their eligibility for trade benefits