

maritime interdiction forces operating from a base within that region. Obviously transatlantic shipping is critical to our nation's economy, but as west coast ports operate at capacity, more and more operators are re-directing their shipments from Asia directly to the northeast. These shippers prefer to have their cargo spend the additional 7 to 10 days at sea rather than accept delays at west coast ports and during rail transport across the continent. Container traffic to New York alone has risen 65% in the last five years, the fastest rate of growth in over 50 years. All of the enormous volume of shipping to the region must be monitored, and if necessary interdicted whenever it may pose a threat.

The Defense Department's Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) will in 2005 identify military infrastructure for permanent elimination. The BRAC process must carefully factor in future requirements for maritime interdiction as they are just now being developed under the PSI. Caution is indicated—the nation cannot afford to close irreplaceable military facilities just as new concepts and capabilities are being developed to address a burgeoning threat. Maritime interdiction of weapons of mass destruction headed for our shores is zero-defect work, and the selection of bases for that effort must be equally judicious and effective. Location is an enduring essential—we must keep open our bases "at the corners."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

VIRGINIA DAVIS COCHRAN

● Mr. LEAHY. It is with great sadness that I inform the Senate that Virginia "Ginny" Cochran of Richmond, VT, died this past Saturday. She was 76.

Ginny Cochran was a native Vermonter originally from Hartland Four Corners. Like her husband Mickey who died in 1998, she attended the University of Vermont. Over the years, the Cochran name became synonymous with Vermont skiing. Ginny and Mickey established their own ski area where thousands of children learned to ski. They instilled a competitive spirit in each of their four children who went on to become internationally known ski racers. One daughter, Marilyn, won a World Cup race in 1969, and another, Barbara Ann, won an Olympic gold medal in 1972. Several of Ginny's grandchildren are already outstanding ski racers.

Ginny Cochran was one of those life-long Vermonters who personified the essence of what it means to be a Vermonter. She loved the four seasons, she was loved by her community, and she taught countless people how to enjoy freezing weather and beautiful scenery while gliding down snow covered mountains with style.

I ask that a February 6, 2005, article in the Burlington Free Press about the extraordinary life of Ginny Cochran be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows.

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

[From the Burlington Free Press, Feb. 6, 2005]

SKIING Matriarch GINNY COCHRAN DIES MOTHER OF OLYMPIANS TAUGHT THOUSANDS TO LOVE THE SPORT, AND SPORTSMANSHIP

(By Susan Green)

Virginia Davis Cochran, whose name has been entwined with Vermont's skiing heritage for more than four decades, died Saturday morning at age 76.

Cochran, known as Ginny, started the Cochran Ski Area in Richmond with her husband, Mickey, in 1961 and over the years taught more than 10,000 children to ski. She also helped her own four children and 10 grandchildren become top skiers—with some joining the U.S. Ski Team and one winning an Olympic gold medal.

Cochran died at Vermont Respite House in Williston of complications from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Mickey Cochran died in 1998.

The Cochran Ski Area began as a family affair when the couple moved to a former dairy farm along the Winooski River. They soon constructed a rope tow for their children: son Bob and daughters, Marilyn, Barbara Ann and Lindy.

Barbara Ann went on to earn the 1972 Olympic gold medal in slalom at Sapporo, Japan. In 1969, Marilyn was the first American to win a World Cup in the giant slalom.

"From the start, neighbors wanted to ski their hill," said David Healy, a friend of the Cochrans, "so Ginny opened her back door and welcomed them in. Her kitchen became the lodge."

The ski area was a modest business offering affordable access to the sport. "They ran a small mom-and-pop operation," Healy said, "and it's the nation's first nonprofit ski area."

In the winter nowadays, 800 schoolchildren come to ski at Cochran's each week, he said.

Cochran also ran the town's after-school ski program for 35 years as a volunteer, Healy said.

Ginny Cochran, who hailed from Hartland Four Corners, met Mickey on a ski trip to Stowe while both were UVM students in the late 1940s. They married in 1949 and moved to Windsor, where Mickey taught high school science.

"They skied with their kids at Mount Ascutney," Healy said, "but they came back to Burlington in 1958. He worked as an engineer at General Electric."

With the purchase of about 190 acres in Richmond, however, the Cochran clan didn't have to stray far from home to indulge their love of the slopes.

"The kids were already racing at Smugglers' Notch," Healy said. "Mickey recognized they needed to practice during the week. His goal was to give them a place to train after school."

Peggy Farr, who met the Cochrans when they arrived in Richmond, remembers the early years at the ski area.

"When the kitchen was still the lodge, one day Ginny had made brownies for her family. My son Chuck spent a lot of time at their house. He and his pals ate them all," she recalled with a laugh.

By way of a belated apology, the now-grown Chuck Farr and his wife made brownies for Ginny Cochran on her 75th birthday in March 2003.

"She had a great influence on so many children," Peggy Farr said. "Two of my three kids and all my grandchildren learned to ski there."

Ditto for Marvin Carpenter, who grew up nearby on what would later be called Cochran Road.

"There'd be 60 or 70 of us kids waiting in line for their rope tow on a knoll behind the house," he said. "We'd tramp through the kitchen with our ski boots on, open the fridge. If you needed gloves, they gave you gloves. The Cochrans made trampolines we could jump on as part of our ski training. In the summer, Ginny took us swimming. She was a mother to the whole community."

Carpenter, who now owns the Bridge Street Cafe in Richmond, boasts that Ginny Cochran "called me her second son. Of course, there are about nine other guys who make that claim."

The Cochran skiing philosophy, Carpenter said, has always been to teach parents who would in turn teach their children. When it came to ski lessons, "Ginny was a tough taskmaster," he said.

"Ginny never pulled any punches," said her friend Jack Linn, who got to know her in 1978. "She was direct as all get-out, thanks to her old Vermont stock."

As the ski area grew in popularity, the Cochrans added to the property. They bought another 140 acres in 1965. The facility includes eight trails, four lifts and a T-bar. Other lodges were built, allowing the family to reclaim its kitchen; the most recent one went up in 1984.

Although skiing was central, Ginny Cochran had other interests. "She was an avid tennis player and loved bridge," said Linn, her bridge partner.

"Ginny was very competitive at everything she did," noted Carpenter, who participated in the regular card games. "She also bicycled and walked a lot. This was a busy lady. I remember the calendar in her kitchen had activities written down on every day of the week."

Linn surmised that her legacy is the kind that endures. "Ginny was a supercitizen of Richmond."●

NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to National Girls and Women in Sports Day.

Tomorrow evening the Louisiana State University women's basketball team, which is currently ranked No. 1 in the Nation, will take on the fifth ranked University of Tennessee's Lady Volunteers. On Friday, LSU's lady gymnastics team, ranked third in the Nation, will face the women of the University of Georgia, ranked seventh nationally.

While I mention these two sporting events to highlight the achievements of the lady Tigers, I am also citing them to show how far women's sports have come in the past 35 years. Girls and women in sports today are leading our high schools, our colleges and universities, and our society. Seimone Augustus, the 6' 1" guard for LSU's women's basketball team, is now a candidate to receive the Player of the Year Award for 2005. Last year, Carly Patterson of Baton Rouge, LA, became the first American woman since Mary Lou Retton to win the women's all-around competition for gymnastics.

In an age in which one in six girls are obese and heart disease is the number one cause of death among American

women, it is important that we encourage our girls to participate in athletics and other physical activities. And the benefits that girls receive from participating in sports are far more than physical. Through sports, young girls learn leadership, self confidence, teamwork, and a host of other skills that they will use through their entire life. It is important that we, as a society, support these girls and women in their athletic endeavors.

Aside from just praising the fine women sports teams of Louisiana, I would like to offer special thanks to the organizations that are members of the coalition for National Girls and Women in Sports Day: the American Association of University Women, Girl Scouts of the USA, Girls Incorporated, the National Association for Girls and Women in Sports, the National Women's Law Center, the Women's Sports Foundation, and the YWCA USA.

Introducing our young women to athletics and encouraging their active participation in such events, is an important task, and one I look forward to doing with my own daughter. Today I commend the achievements of all girls and women throughout this country that participate in sports, and ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the National Girls and Women in Sports Day.●

TRIBUTE TO UNDEFEATED AUBURN UNIVERSITY TIGERS

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the undefeated 2004 Auburn University football team. The Auburn Tigers went 13-0 this season winning both the Southeastern Conference Championships and the Nokia Sugar Bowl. They finished the season tied for the best record in the land and, in my opinion, made a strong case for a national championship.

The Auburn Tigers finished the season ranked first in the Nation in scoring defense and fifth in the Nation in total defense. They also won four games over Associated Press top 10 teams—the most of any Division I team during the 2004 season.

While many Auburn players and coaches received individual accolades throughout the season, I believe that their dedication to extraordinary teamwork is an enduring tribute more impressive than any trophy or award. Saturday after Saturday, this team came prepared to play their hearts out and leave it all on the field. As the weeks passed, it became apparent to anyone watching that their efforts were more about a team, a brotherhood, and a community focused on victory than on individual accomplishments. The dedication, hard work, and focus of these players and their coaches are undeniable.

Individually, Auburn's players accomplished great things. Four Auburn

players earned All-America honors: offensive tackle Marcus McNeill, defensive back Carlos Rogers, safety Junior Rosegreen, and running back Carnell Williams. Two freshmen, Stanley McClover and Quenton Groves, earned Freshman All-America honors, and Carlos Rogers won the Jim Thorpe Award, which is presented to the Nation's top defensive back. Senior quarterback Jason Campbell won the most valuable player award for the Sugar Bowl and the Southeastern Conference Championship game; while also garnering SEC offensive player of the year and SEC player of the year honors as well as Most Valuable Player of the South squad in the 2005 Senior Bowl.

I believe it is important to emphasize that the young men who make up this outstanding Auburn football team understand that they are students first, and then athletes. The academic focus of these players is exemplified by the fact that 9 of the 18 seniors playing in the Sugar Bowl had already earned their bachelor's degrees and 17 players made the Southeastern Conference Academic honor roll. I commend the players and coaches for ensuring that academic achievement is not sacrificed for athletic success.

Auburn's head coach Tommy Tuberville is to be commended for his achievements as well. Coach Tuberville was the recipient of six Coach of the Year awards including the Associated Press, Paul "Bear" Bryant, American Football Coaches Association, Schutt Sports, Walker Camp, and Southeastern Conference awards.

I join Auburn fans across the country in recognizing their accomplishments, honoring their achievements and praising their teamwork. I am proud of their outstanding record and am inspired by their ability to overcome adversity to achieve success. The Auburn University Tigers showed football fans everywhere what it means to play as a team.●

HONORING VEL PHILLIPS

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I honor the accomplishments of Vel Phillips, a pioneer in Wisconsin history, who turns 81 on February 18.

The celebration of Black History Month in the State of Wisconsin cannot be complete without including Vel. In 1951, Vel was the first African-American woman to graduate from the University of Wisconsin Law School. She and her husband Dale moved to Milwaukee, where they became the first husband-wife attorney team admitted to the Federal bar.

Vel's is a household name in Milwaukee, where she was first inspired to run for office doing door-to-door voter registration. She was the first woman and first African American elected to the Milwaukee Common Council. Vel literally came under fire as she fought

for open housing in Milwaukee, when gunshots left a bullet lodged in her oven. But no threats, no matter how real or how terrifying, could change Vel's unshakeable commitment to making Milwaukee a more just city and to making the world a better place.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "We must be the drum majors for peace," and Vel heeded his marching orders. She was arrested at a rally at the burned-out NAACP Freedom House, the site of a previous night's retaliatory firebombing. Two weeks before Dr. King's assassination, the Milwaukee Common Council passed the open housing bill.

In 1971, Vel Phillips was appointed Wisconsin's first African-American judge. In 1978, she again reached another milestone with her election as secretary of state, first statewide office held by an African American. Now, at 81, Vel continues to make a difference in Milwaukee, and it is a privilege to call her a friend.

Vel Phillips is a distinguished figure in the progress of the civil rights movement in Wisconsin. Her life of firsts and steadfast determination to make a difference is an inspiration to me and a reminder of the need to advance and protect the civil rights of all Americans as we celebrate Black History Month.●

RECOGNIZING ERIC A. ORSINI

● Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I'm extremely proud to recognize a dedicated American who has retired after 64 years of service to the United States Army. This month, Mr. Eric A. Orsini of Stafford, VA, departed Government work at the age of 87.

Mr. Orsini began his service to country as a private in the Army in 1941. During World War II, he was highly decorated, earning the Bronze Star, the Silver Star and the Purple Heart in combat which included fighting in the Battle of the Bulge. Upon retiring from the military as a Colonel with 30 years of service, Mr. Orsini began working as a Senior Executive in the Department of the Army, where he would spend an additional 34 years, specializing in improving logistics support to our soldiers.

Today, I wish Mr. Orsini the best in his well-deserved retirement. I'm pleased to hear that he will now finally have the opportunity to improve his golf game, go fishing more often and spend more time with his family.

It is truly an honor to recognize a fellow Virginian for his distinguished service as both a soldier and a government civil servant. Mr. Orsini, your country thanks you for your courageous and meritorious work in the name of freedom.●