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Senate

CONGRATULATING JERRY TARKANIAN

Mr. HELLER. Madam President, today I wish to congratulate former University of Nevada, Las Vegas, UNLV, Runnin' Rebel basketball coach Jerry Tarkanian for being selected for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Coach Tarkanian will be inducted into the Hall of Fame on September 8, 2013.

Jerry Tarkanian headed the Runnin' Rebels for 19 seasons with an aggressive and up-tempo style that captivated basketball fans in Las Vegas and across the Nation. Coach Tarkanian posted an impressive winning record at UNLV with a 509-105 winning record--in fact, he never had a losing season with UNLV. He led the Runnin' Rebels to four NCAA Final Four appearances, and a national championship in 1990 with a 103-73 runaway victory over Duke. The 1990 National Championship is still the highest margin of victory in NCAA tournament championship game history.

Not only did Jerry Tarkanian help bring UNLV basketball to national prominence, he aided the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in gaining exposure and distinction in Nevada. It would be impossible to quantify the impact that Coach Tarkanian has had on the progress and success of UNLV, but his contributions to the State of Nevada certainly deserve our deep appreciation.

Although Coach Tarkanian has not nervously chewed on a towel in the 'Shark Tank' for more than two decades, he is still a beloved figure in the Silver State. Fans and the university community honored him when the court at the Thomas & Mack Center was named in his honor on November 26, 2005.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this great Nevadan and iconic figure in NCAA basketball history. He may now just be officially joining the Hall of Fame in Springfield, MA, but he has long been in the Hall of Fame in the minds and hearts of UNLV fans.