

The staff and students of Levey Middle School are proud of its history as a leading middle school, and the fact that it has been a catalyst for change inside the district and beyond. The staff and the community continue to set higher standards and hold greater expectations. With supportive parents, hardworking students, and a skilled and dedicated staff, I am confident that Levey Middle School will continue to set the precedent for years to come.

I applaud the students, parents, faculty and administration of Glenn W. Levey Middle School, for I believe this is an award which speaks more to the effort of a united community than it does to the work of a few individuals. With that having been said, I would like to recognize Dr. Linda Paramore-Ford, the Principal of Glenn W. Levey Middle School, whose dedication to making her school one of the finest in our Nation has been instrumental in creating this community. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I congratulate Glenn W. Levey Middle School on being named a Blue Ribbon School for 1999-2000, and wish the school continued success in the future. ●

LAKE ORION HIGH SCHOOL NAMED 1999-2000 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, in 1982, the United States Department of Education initiated its Blue Ribbon Schools Program. In each year since, the Department has recognized schools throughout the country which excel in all areas of academic leadership, teaching and teacher development, and school curriculum. In other words, Blue Ribbon Schools are recognized because they are the finest public and private secondary schools our Nation has to offer. They are the schools that set the standard for which others strive. I am very proud to report that nine of the 198 Blue Ribbon Schools named by Secretary Richard W. Riley for 1999-2000 are located in the State of Michigan, and I rise today to recognize Lake Orion High School in Lake Orion, Michigan, one of these nine schools.

In fall of 1992, Lake Orion High School set about to create school improvement that was purposeful to the lives of teachers and students. Their goals included a desire to maintain high academic standards, engage the learner, relieve stress, facilitate networking, expand curricular opportunities, curb attendance problems, and raise the responsibility of the student for his or her own learning. Ultimately, the mission was to reach the students of today and help them become the leaders of tomorrow.

All this required an enormous amount of time and extensive research. First, a staff committee devised a minimum restructuring of their normal six period days by allotting three hours on Wednesday morning for professional development, a program which was implemented in the fall of 1994. In Feb-

ruary of 1994, the Vision of Hope staff committee was formed to investigate the restructuring of the school day. Extensive research, visitations, debate and discussion followed and, in the fall of 1996, a 4 by 4 block schedule was adopted. The block system has resulted in better teacher cooperation, greater flexibility in scheduling, increased student choices and a more meaningful and relevant curriculum for Lake Orion High School students.

Lake Orion High School moved into a new building in the fall of 1997, a state of the art facility which has become an ideal setting for the many innovative changes that have become a part of the curriculum. More importantly, the new building stands as the perfect representation of the overall growth that has occurred at Lake Orion High since the fall of 1992, growth which is a tribute to the shared goals and shared vision that administration and faculty together committed themselves to eight years ago.

I applaud the students, parents, faculty and administration of Lake Orion High School, for I believe this is an award which speaks more to the effort of a united community than it does to the work of a few individuals. With that having been said, I would like to recognize Dr. John S. Kastran, the Principal of Lake Orion High School, whose dedication to making his school one of the finest in our Nation has been instrumental in creating this community. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I congratulate Lake Orion High School on being named a Blue Ribbon School for 1999-2000, and wish the school continued success in the future. ●

L'ANSE CREUSE MIDDLE SCHOOL— NORTH NAMED 1999-2000 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, in 1982, the United States Department of Education initiated its Blue Ribbon Schools Program. In each year since, the Department has recognized schools throughout the country which excel in all areas of academic leadership, teaching and teacher development, and school curriculum. In other words, Blue Ribbon Schools are recognized because they are the finest public and private secondary schools our Nation has to offer. They are the schools that set the standard for which others strive. I am very proud to report that nine of the 198 Blue Ribbon Schools named by Secretary Richard W. Riley for 1999-2000 are located in the State of Michigan, and I rise today to recognize L'Anse Creuse Middle School - North in Macomb, Michigan, one of these nine schools.

The mission of L'Anse Creuse Middle School—North, MSN, is for each student, with the support of staff, parents and the community, to "attain measurable growth intellectually, physically, and socially in a safe, positive environment." Being recognized as a

Blue Ribbon School is a tribute to the success that MSN has achieved in this regard.

Increased staffing, thoughtful scheduling and a dedicated staff have been the primary keys to this success. They have also been the keys to MSN completely "teaming" its students, the only school in its district to have done so. Teachers also work as parts of instructional teams—most academic teachers have been teammates for at least three years. This fact illustrates one of the greatest strengths of the school, which is the high level of cooperation that exists between members of the faculty, cooperation which in turn facilitates student learning.

The administration and faculty at MSN quickly realized the advantages that technology offered to their new learning program and made a strong commitment to improving the ability of their students to access computers. Indeed, this commitment to technology has revolutionized the teaching process and the management of the school. Two computer laboratories are now available to staff and students. Students can also sign out laptop computers for overnight use to help them with their homework. In addition, telephones have been placed in each classroom, which allow teachers to better communicate with parents and school offices, as well as with one another.

The administration and faculty of MSN recognize that a truly successful middle school is one that takes elementary school students and prepares them to succeed in the adult world of high school. Their philosophy is represented in this statement from the book *The Middle School—and Beyond*: "High quality middle schools result from the creative balance between elementary and secondary perspectives, between specialization and generalization, between curriculum and community, between equity and excellence, between teaching the mind and touching the heart." This is the core belief of all MSN faculty and administration, and the programs they have adopted, which have been so successful, reflect their commitment to this belief.

I applaud the students, parents, faculty and administration of MSN, for I believe this is an award which speaks more to the effort of a united community than it does to the work of a few individuals. With that having been said, I would like to recognize Mr. Erick Alsop, the Principal of MSN, whose dedication to making his school one of the finest in our Nation has been instrumental in creating this community. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I congratulate L'Anse Creuse Middle School—North on being named a Blue Ribbon School for 1999-2000, and wish the school continued success in the future. ●

RETIREMENT OF THE HONORABLE ROMAN S. GRIBBS

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Honorable