

KY; Harlan High School in Harlan, KY; Hazard High School in Hazard, KY; Hickman County High School in Clinton, KY; Jackson City School in Jackson, KY; Johnson Central High School in Paintsville, KY; Magoffin County High School in Salyersville, KY; Owensboro High School in Owensboro, KY; Paintsville High School in Paintsville, KY; Paris High School in Paris, KY; Phelps High School in Phelps, KY; Pineville High School in Pineville, KY; Russell County High School in Russell Springs, KY; Walton-Verona High School in Walton, KY; Whitley County High School in Williamsburg, KY; Williamsburg City School in Williamsburg, KY; and Williamstown High School in Williamstown, KY.

Again, I commend these high schools for a job well done. I hope that their efforts will inspire other schools in Kentucky and around the country to strive for the best.●

#### CONGRATULATING SILVER MEDAL SCHOOLS IN KENTUCKY

● Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, today I congratulate the top public schools in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. I was pleased to learn that U.S. News and World Report awarded seven high schools in Kentucky with a silver medal for their outstanding performance on standardized exams and for providing college-level coursework.

These seven Kentucky high schools have shown that they foster an environment that serves all students, no matter their academic goals, by demonstrating a commitment to excellence through quality education. These Silver Medal Schools back this up with measurable academic outcomes that show improvement throughout a range of performance indicators.

I have always been proud of Kentucky education because of its relentless effort to enhance and develop the lives of every student. This is a well deserved recognition for the excellent work that is done by all of these high schools, and I would like to congratulate each for its great success.

The following schools were commended with awards: Beechwood High School in Fort Mitchell, KY; Bowling Green High School in Bowling Green, KY; Dupont Manual High School in Louisville, KY; Highlands High School in Fort Thomas, KY; Louisville Male High School in Louisville, KY; North Oldham High School in Goshen, KY; and South Oldham High School in Crestwood, KY.

Again, I commend these high schools for a job well done. I hope that their efforts will inspire other schools in Kentucky and around the country to strive for the best.●

#### REMEMBERING MARY SWEENEY

● Mrs. CLINTON. Madam President, I would like to take a moment to remember one of my constituents and a

life-long New Yorker, Mary Sweeney of Niagara Falls. Seven years ago, it was my great honor to send congratulations to Mary and her husband John on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. I know that her fighting spirit will live on through John and her children, Moira, John, Billy, and Brendan, and a large and loving family of grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Born in the Great Depression, Mary exemplified the hopes and dreams of New York families whom I have had the honor and privilege of representing in the Senate these past 8 years. Mary had an ardent appreciation for public service and the political process, and she remained true to her strong convictions throughout her life. She was a loving wife and mother who worked every day to ensure opportunities for her children. In retirement she enjoyed her many grand-children and great-grand-children and she should be proud that the rewards of her commitment to her family, her church, and her community can be seen in the many accomplishments of her family and extended family and in the many loving tributes that have been shown to her since her passing.●

#### REMEMBERING ROBERT COOK EDWARDS

● Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of a dedicated educator and innovator, Clemson University president emeritus Robert Cook Edwards. After a lifetime of unprecedented service to his students as Clemson's longest serving chief executive, Dr. Edwards passed away in Seneca, SC, on December 4, 2008, at the age of 94.

Dr. Edwards will be remembered for his legendary leadership, strength in business negotiation, and passion for Clemson football. Known as a giant in the history of Clemson University and affectionately referred to as "R.C." by his students, he led the institution through a period of peaceful integration and phenomenal growth to become a thriving, coeducational, and diversified university.

Born and raised in Fountain Inn, SC, Dr. Edwards attended Clemson College at the young age of 15. He went on to graduate with a bachelor of science degree in textile engineering in 1933, and after a successful career in the textile industry, he returned to Clemson as the university's first vice president for development in 1956. Dr. Edwards became acting president in 1958, after the death of President Robert F. Poole, and was eventually elected president on April 9, 1959, by the board of trustees. He became the eighth chief executive of Clemson and the second alumnus to hold the position.

Dr. Edwards peacefully led the university through racial integration when its first African-American student was enrolled in 1962. Despite the recurring turmoil of racial tensions

during the 1960s, President Edwards handled those challenging times without incident. His brave actions resulted in progress and advancement of equal civil rights throughout the State of South Carolina.

By the time of his retirement in 1979, Dr. Edwards had awarded over 28,000 diplomas, which represented more than 70 percent of all the undergraduate degrees and doctorates awarded in Clemson's history to date, the student body had grown to 11,000 students, 4 schools had become 9 colleges, and the students could choose from over 60 majors. Because of Dr. Edwards's oversight, leadership, and enthusiasm for growth, his influence has stretched beyond the gates of the university to impact the lives of men and women all over the country.

Dr. Edwards was predeceased by his wife Louise Odom Edwards, who died on July 29, 2008. She was affectionately referred to as "Moon Pie" by Clemson students and alumni and was said to be a perfect compliment to her husband, "R.C."

Robert Cook Edwards's legacy will live on not only in the hearts of his students and fellow educators, but through the developments and achievements he has accomplished at one of our Nation's finest institutions. I ask that the Senate join me in commemorating Dr. Edwards's lifelong dedication to higher learning and to the State of South Carolina.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:21 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 7321. An act to authorize financial assistance to eligible automobile manufacturers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7327. An act to make technical corrections related to the Pension Protection Act of 2006, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, without amendment:

S. 3663. An act to require the Federal Communications Commission to provide for a