

creative and exciting way. Mr. Ribiero's winning video and lesson plan instructed students on how to make an acid/base indicator using common household items. Mr. Ribiero's win in the 2013 Make My LabWoRx contest has provided Pontiac High School with a new microscope and funding necessary to purchase additional lab equipment.

A quality education is fundamental to the future success of our young people, and to the health and prosperity of our country. This award is indicative of Mr. Ribiero's creativity, dedication and hard work as a science teacher, and his ability to challenge Pontiac High School students academically and to nurture their growth as individuals. I am proud of the example he has set, which represents the best of our State's educational system.

I know that Mr. Ribiero's family, friends and the Pontiac High School community are all truly proud of his accomplishment. I also know my Senate colleagues join me in congratulating Phillipe Ribiero on this achievement. His work has brought pride to both Pontiac High School and the community at large. I wish Mr. Ribiero the best of luck as he continues to educate and inspire young minds for years to come.●

#### REMEMBERING ELIOT AND MURIEL BATTLE

● Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I wish to offer tribute to a truly passionate team from Columbia, MO—Eliot and Muriel Battle—who together became key to forever changing race relations throughout Columbia.

One local newspaper recently wrote: "You could not have Eliot without Muriel. What they accomplished, they accomplished together." And what they accomplished was astounding—a testament to the power of leadership by example.

Over the last decade, the city of Columbia and the University of Missouri have lauded this couple with various citywide recognitions and, for Eliot, an honorary degree, in honor of their lifelong efforts. Yet the most poignant recognition of all was the decision to name Columbia's newest high school "Muriel Williams Battle High School." Education served as the backbone of the couple's series of first-ever accomplishments as they became pioneers in the desegregation of the city's public schools.

Seeing the new high school open became one of Eliot's last goals. And he met it with pride. Despite his declining health, he walked to the podium on June 2 to a standing ovation, spoke loud and clear, and received a second standing ovation at the end of his speech honoring his wife, who had passed 10 years earlier, in 2003. Nine days after the ceremony, he passed on too.

It is amazing how life works sometimes. Their story is one for all to

know and understand. I would like to share a few highlights.

They moved to Columbia in 1956 in the heart of the civil rights movement, just a year after Rosa Parks would not give up her seat on the bus. In this era, many civil rights leaders had more radical approaches to change, but the Battles did not fit into these molds. Even though they also wanted quick change, they were a couple who lived "quietly yet determined and unwavering," as one newspaper columnist noted, working behind the scenes of social justice and modeling the racial acceptance they wanted their community to adopt.

Both of the couple's first education jobs in Columbia were at Douglass School—Eliot as an assistant principal and, later, Muriel as a social studies teacher. Both had come from families that emphasized "education was the answer" for African Americans, Muriel once said. "We grew up," she said, "knowing we were going to college." It became clear quickly that both Eliot and Muriel wanted all Columbia children to have the same chance they did.

In 1960, Eliot became the first African-American faculty member at a newly integrated Hickman High School, serving as a guidance counselor. His approachable manner helped ease the tension of desegregation by mediating between some African-American families and White educators.

After Muriel's stint at Douglass School, she spent 30 years at West Junior High School, where she worked as a teacher, department chairperson, assistant principal, and principal. She retired as the school district's first female associate superintendent of secondary education.

Muriel was known for making all people of all ages and race feel valued and welcome even down to her school motto: "We're glad you're here."

Long into their retirement from education, the couple continued their efforts to promote diversity. Eliot became a founding member of the Minority Men's Network, served on the Columbia College board of Trustees, and wrote the 1997 book: "A Letter to Young Black Men."

Muriel formed the Battle Group, an education consulting firm that provided strategies to school districts, parent-teacher associations, and juvenile justice facilities, and dedicated time and money to building a Martin Luther King, Jr., memorial.

Their efforts toward overall community acceptance reached far beyond their professional lives. Two of their four children became the first African-American students to attend Grant Elementary—the first of Columbia's schools to be integrated.

They also integrated neighborhoods, being one of the first African-American families to move beyond the redlining real estate limits in Columbia and into a White neighborhood. Despite the hateful letters they received—and even after having a White neighbor shoot

their family dog, Bingo—the couple led by example and continued to tell their children that these neighbors feared change and they had to push on.

As one local newspaper recounted, Battle's daughter said her father would routinely say "They don't understand, and they are afraid. We have to live our lives and do the best we can, and if they knew better, they would do better."

The community of Columbia was so lucky to have had this team move into its community and change it forever.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the lives and accomplishments of Eliot and Muriel Battle.●

#### CLAIRE CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Claire City, SD. Founded in 1913, Claire City will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year.

Located in Roberts County, Claire City possesses a strong sense of community that makes South Dakota an outstanding place to live and work. On August 15, 1913, many people gathered along the treeless prairie to buy lots for \$100 to \$600 in this new town named after Claire Feeney. Claire City has continued to be a strong reflection of South Dakota's greatest values and traditions. The community of Claire City has much to be proud of and I am confident that Claire City's success will continue well into the future.

Claire City will commemorate the centennial anniversary of its founding with celebrations held from June 28th through June 30th featuring events such as a parade, tractor pull, and an auction of centennial items. I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Claire City on this milestone anniversary and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO BRITTANY ANDERSON

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Brittany Anderson, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Brittany is a graduate of Roosevelt High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, she is attending Wheaton College, where she is majoring in political science. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Brittany for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO KATIE HAUGEN

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Katie Haugen, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.