

Congress, under the authorities granted by the Constitution, has a responsibility to both raise and equip armies, and to regulate that portion of the militia which is called into Federal Service. When a budget proposal makes changes in those areas that are as considerable as these, it is entirely appropriate for Congress to hit the pause button and to ask for a second look.

We look forward to working with Members on both sides of the aisle to ensure that we properly balance and size the Army, and that we do not repeat past mistakes by needlessly discarding the depth of our forces.

TRIBUTE TO LEWIS D. CARTER JR.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an accomplished educator from my home State, the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Lewis D. Carter Jr. will retire from his position of superintendent of the Monroe County Schools on July 1—nearly 40 years after beginning his career in education.

An intense passion for education runs throughout the Carter family. Lewis's grandfather was the first in the family to hold the post of superintendent of the Monroe County Schools in the early 1900s. His father also held the position for 28 years until his retirement in 1980, and his great-aunt and his great-uncle held the same position near the time of his grandfather. For Carter, teaching the next generation of children might as well be ingrained in his DNA.

Carter got his start in 1975 teaching health and PE. Since then, he has held positions across the education field. In 1991, he was made principal of Tompkinsville Elementary School. In 1994, he began 10 years as the director of adult education, in addition to coordinating the School to Work program. More recently he served as the deputy executive director of the Kentucky Education Cabinet—an assignment that immediately preceded his current position.

Carter will have plenty to keep him busy in retirement. In addition to his large family he and his wife of 42 years, Sheila, have two children and six grandchildren—Lewis will let you know that he has a “hunting, fishing and golfing list” that requires his attention.

While Lewis can look forward to some much deserved fun in his retirement, he will be sorely missed in the Monroe County School System. Lewis's big heart and passion for education serve as an example for us all. I ask that my U.S. Senate colleagues join me in honoring this exemplary citizen.

Mr. President, The Daily Times recently published an article chronicling Lewis D. Carter Jr.'s career. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Daily Times, April 11, 2014]

CARTER WILL RETIRE

(By Gina Kinslow)

After five years as superintendent of Monroe County schools, Lewis Carter is stepping down.

Carter announced his retirement Thursday night during the Monroe County Board of Education meeting. It becomes effective July 1.

After making his announcement, staff members and others present for the meeting, applauded and gave him a standing ovation.

Carter cited his age as one reason for retiring. He is 62. “I think it's time [to retire],” he said. “I feel like it's time.”

Another reason for retiring is the success the school system has achieved in the last five years.

“I want to make sure when I retire that everything is good,” he said.

Carter read a lengthy list of accomplishments for the school district before announcing his retirement.

“When I first came here, we set goals as the whole administrative staff,” he said. “We met every single goal without exception. When our team met the last goal, I said to myself, ‘That's good.’ That was in December.”

That last goal was seeing Monroe County High School become a high-achieving school and being listed in the 94.6 percentile.

“When I came here, we were like in the 28 percentile,” he said.

Carter pointed out successes achieved by other schools in the district, including Monroe County Middle School becoming a national school to watch and being named one of the top-10 achieving middle schools in the state.

He noted Tompkinsville Elementary has been named a Blue Ribbon School nominee and Gamaliel Elementary won the Winners' Circle Choice Award in the Kentucky Tell Survey. GES was also recognized by the Kentucky Department of Education as an honor school two years in a row.

Joe Harrison Carter Elementary was named the overall winner of the Governor's Cup academic competition and has been recognized as K-PREP [Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress] progressing school.

Toby Chapman, school board chairman, learned of Carter's retirement plans on Tuesday and said the news came as a shock.

“He had another year on his contract. I thought he was going to stay, but evidently he's ready to go,” Chapman said.

Carter had a two-year contract with the school board to serve as superintendent.

Chapman praised Carter for the good job he has done as superintendent.

“I won't say we've always seen eye-to-eye on everything, but we've always worked out what was best for the kids,” Chapman said.

Carter succeeded Rachel Ford and Liz Willett, who served as interim superintendents, following the resignation of George Wilson as superintendent.

Prior to becoming superintendent of Monroe County schools, Carter served as deputy executive director of the Kentucky Workforce and Education Cabinet. He also served in many roles for the Monroe County school system during his career, including as assistant principal and then principal of Tompkinsville Elementary.

He began his career in education in 1975 teaching health and physical education, as well as coaching school athletic teams.

As for his retirement plans, Carter said, “I have a hunting, fishing and golfing list. I plan to have fun.”

Dr. Michael Carter, school board member, said he will miss Carter.

“Lewis has always been a great spokesman for our school and I know he truly cares about our schools and our children,” he said. “I don't think we will find anybody who cares more than Mr. Carter does.”

Eddie Proffitt, also a school board member, said Carter has done a lot for the school system.

“He was a good superintendent. He will be hard to replace,” Proffitt said.

The search for a replacement will begin as soon as possible.

“We're going to meet with Lewis tomorrow. We are going to call a lawyer and get the ball rolling, so probably in the next couple of weeks we'll be advertising for applications,” Chapman said.

He hopes to have a new superintendent hired by the first of June, so they can spend a month working with Carter, since his last day will be June 30.

CONDEMNING ABDUCTION OF FEMALE STUDENTS IN NIGERIA

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, the recent kidnappings of over 200 schoolgirls in Nigeria by Boko Haram, a terrorist organization whose name translates to “Western education is sinful,” has captured the world's attention and stirred global outrage.

These girls were abducted from their classrooms at gunpoint and their captors are now reportedly threatening to sell them into child marriages and slavery.

The Senate unanimously approved a resolution condemning Boko Haram for kidnapping these young girls and terrorizing the people of Nigeria, and Secretary of State John Kerry has publicly condemned the kidnappings, calling them an “unconscionable crime” and pledging our assistance.

Such inhumanity simply cannot be tolerated. As a nation, we must do all that we can to assist the people of Nigeria and help them find these missing children.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them, and I am hopeful they will be reunited with their families soon.

HONORING ISRAELI PRESIDENT SHIMON PERES

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today I was honored to take part in a ceremony honoring Israeli President Shimon Peres. I ask unanimous consent that the remarks I made at the ceremony be printed in the RECORD.

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

[May 7, 2014]

LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF SHIMON PERES REMARKS BY SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN

It is my pleasure to join all of you today as we honor President Shimon Peres, one of the bravest and most principled political leaders of our time. I was honored to join with my colleagues in the Senate to pass legislation bestowing the congressional gold medal on this great man. I was not surprised when that legislation passed unanimously, and it my hope that our colleagues in the House will move forward with their own legislation soon.

President Peres deserves this honor. The story of his life is entwined with the story of