

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 Country 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

the birth and development of the State of Israel, and in him we see the essence of Israel itself—an invincible spirit that cannot be denied. Through his determination, his strength and perseverance, and his profound compassion, President Peres enabled a seemingly impossible dream to become a reality and changed forever the destiny of the Jewish people.

Even as a young man, Shimon Peres showed a dedication to public service and a commitment to the pursuit of justice and peace. He was an active leader in the "Working Youth" group, he founded a kibbutz in the Jordan Valley, and became a member of the Haganah [hah-gah-nah]—all before he reached 21.

Over the course of his seventy years of public service, President Peres has served as a member of the Knesset for 48 years and held virtually every position in dozens of cabinets, serving in nearly two dozen ministerial posts including twice as Prime Minister, and as Defense Minister, Treasury Minister, and Foreign Minister. He was then elected as the ninth President of the State of Israel, the position he holds today.

I have met many brave and inspiring people in my life, but there are few who have done more to preserve freedom for future generations than Shimon Peres. He recognized that the highest duty of leaders is to protect and preserve the freedom and security of their people, even in the face of hostility and in the face of doubt and disappointment. And this is just what President Peres has done, not only for the Jewish people but for all people.

He has been a leader for strength, building Israel's military and defense capabilities. He has been a leader for prosperity, helping make Israel one of the strongest economies in the world today. And he has been a leader for peace, making difficult and sometimes unpopular decisions in persuading the Palestinians to pursue negotiations and find peace for all, standing by his belief that all children, both Israeli and Arab alike, deserve the chance to grow up and grow old free from the threat of violence and tyranny.

In the time that I have known Shimon Peres, I have been inspired by his statesmanship, leadership, courage and civility. And among his many virtues, I have been most inspired by his idealism. Shimon Peres has always been a dreamer. He once said that "dreaming is only being pragmatic"—words that drew criticism from some and laughter from others.

But he is right, of course. It is difficult to understand how someone who has witnessed such unspeakable horrors in his life can still place such faith in dreams. But it is due in part to his optimism and idealism, and his willingness to serve on behalf of those dreams, that Israel exists today. By never giving up on his dreams, Shimon Peres reminds us that we do not need to give in to complacency or cynicism—and why we can't afford to.

So I join all of you in recognizing the great achievements of Shimon Peres. And I thank you for devoting your time to honor this great man. With your help, it is my hope that our friends in the House will complete the necessary legislation, and all of us in Congress will be able to join together to express the abiding affection and admiration that we and the American people have for one of Israel's most distinguished sons—a man whose inspiration and impact will endure far beyond the generations who have witnessed them.

RECOGNIZING MARRINER S. ECCLES

Mr. HATCH. Over time, many Utahns have been honored for their contribu-

tions to our country, and perhaps no one contributed more to our Nation's economic success at such a critical time than Marriner S. Eccles. I am honored to stand with the Eccles family this week as the Federal Reserve unveils a statue of Marriner Eccles in the atrium of the Marriner S. Eccles Building of the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, DC.

Marriner Stoddard Eccles was born in Logan, UT, on September 9, 1890, the oldest of nine children. Following the death of his father, who had become a leading industrialist with numerous enterprises, Marriner, at the young age of 22, took over the leadership of his father's businesses that were left to his mother, Ellen Eccles, and Marriner and his siblings. Previously, Marriner had worked in several of his father's businesses, had served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, LDS, in Scotland and had attended Brigham Young College in Logan.

A superb business analyst and bold administrator, he reorganized and consolidated his father's industrial conglomerate and banking network. Eccles, along with his brother George, joined with the Browning family in Ogden, UT, to form the Eccles-Browning Affiliated Banks, believed to be the first multibank holding company in the United States.

With the onset of the Great Depression of the 1930s, banks around the country faced customers rushing to withdraw their deposits. The Eccles-Browning Affiliated Banks withstood several bank runs, and in the process, Eccles began to understand the need for a compensatory fiscal and monetary policy. In July of 1933, Eccles was one of the experts summoned by the Senate Finance Committee to travel to Washington to counsel Congress on the profound economic turmoil that was occurring across the country.

Eccles delivered 38 pages of testimony, including a distinct 5-point plan for fixing the economy. "We must correct the causes of the depression rather than deal with the effects of it!" became one of the most quoted lines from Eccles' dramatic testimony. His five-point plan included unemployment relief through direct aid to the States, a bank deposit guarantee program, canceling the World War I Allies' war debt, implementing a national minimum wage, and establishing a national economic planning board.

Eccles made his points clearly enough that the Roosevelt administration invited Eccles to join as an Assistant Treasury Secretary. Even when asked by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to become a Governor of the Federal Reserve Board, Eccles stood strong and replied he would "not unless fundamental changes [were] made in the [Federal Reserve]."

Eccles' involvement with policy-making did not stop there. He became involved with the Emergency Banking Act of 1933, the Federal Housing Act of

1934, and the 1933 law creating the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. With FDR's blessing, Eccles rewrote the 1935 Federal Reserve Act and became the first Chairman of the reorganized Federal Reserve Board, serving from 1936 to 1948. In February 1944, Roosevelt appointed Eccles to another 14-year term and Eccles stayed on the Board until 1951, when he resigned, marking a total of 17 years of service.

Eccles' talents combined with the policies he supported helped counter the recession crisis of 1937-1938, which in turn helped build America's economic strength prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor and World War II.

Many at the time considered Marriner Eccles' policies to be radical, but there is little doubt that his influence at the Federal Reserve continues to benefit our country today.

It is my honor to stand with the Eccles family this week and unveil yet another tribute to this remarkable Utahn we are so proud of.

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY THROUGH QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I am here to support the introduction of a bill I am cosponsoring, the Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Act.

Charter schools are about freedom for teachers, choices for parents, and more and better opportunities for students.

I gave the weekly address for the Republican Party on Easter weekend, and I said that, instead of mandating tasks for you to do, government should enable you to create a happier, safer, more prosperous life.

This bill is just the kind of proposal that enables people. It enables parents to help their children get a real opportunity by choosing better schools for them to attend. It enables students to learn and succeed. It enables teachers to succeed by giving them the freedom to use their firsthand knowledge.

And it enables administrators to succeed by freeing them from bureaucratic mandates and giving them the chance to use their good judgment.

The bill would continue the Federal charter schools program, which since 1994 has given grants to states to start new charter schools. It would make improvements to that program to ensure that those funds are used as effectively as possible to increase the number of high-quality charter schools.

Specifically, this bill would invest more Federal funds in the replication and expansion of high-quality charter schools with a proven record of success, while still giving States the flexibility to invest in innovative new models.

The bill would continue Federal support for non-profit organizations which help charter schools find suitable facilities, while also encouraging States to assist charter schools in this task.

It would provide those hard-working and creative educators seeking to open