background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among student groups.

Recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education is based on a school being measured as either an ''Exemplary High Performing School''—where schools are among the State's highest scorers in English and mathematics—or as an ''Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing School''—where schools with at least 40 percent of their student body coming from disadvantaged backgrounds have reduced the achievement gap in English and mathematics within the last 5 years. St. Patrick School has made great strides in the area of improved proficiency in both English and mathematics.

As a Four Star School, St. Patrick's takes great care to integrate elements of Catholic faith into its curriculum. Consisting of strong morals, a deeply rooted faith in community, and a strong sense of respectful conduct, the staff at St. Patrick challenges its students to put their faith into action through community service and social engagement on global issues.

I wish to acknowledge Principal Richard John Rupcich of St. Patrick School, the entire staff, and the student body. It undoubtedly took hard work and dedication to achieve this prestigious award.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate St. Patrick School, and I wish them continued success in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO DONALD LINDBERG

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, as a member of the Senate who has spent many years leading efforts to build support for biomedical research and improved public health, I would like to pay tribute to a great public servant and trailblazer in medical informatics, Donald A.B. Lindberg, Director of the National Library of Medicine, NLM, the world's largest biomedical library, and a part of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Lindberg recently announced that he will retire next year after over 30 years of distinguished public service.

Trained as a pathologist, Dr. Lindberg is recognized worldwide as a pioneer in medical information technology, artificial intelligence, computer-aided medical diagnosis and electronic health records. When Dr. Lindberg joined NLM in 1984, the library had no electronic journals, personal computers were few and far between, and only a relatively small number of research institutions had access to the Internet. Today millions of scientists, health professionals, and members of the public use NLM's high-quality electronic information resources billions of times a year.

Dr. Lindberg arrived at NLM with a belief in the potential of advanced computing and telecommunications. He immediately launched the groundbreaking Unified Medical Language System, now broadly used to help computer systems behave as if they understand biomedical meaning. He also greatly expanded NLM's informatics research training programs, increasing the Nation's supply of informatics researchers and health information technology leaders. The library, its grantees, and its former trainees continue to play essential roles in the development of electronic health records, health data standards, and the exchange of health information.

One of the proudest achievements of Dr. Lindberg's tenure was the establishment of the National Center for Biotechnology Information, NCBI, in 1988. It expanded the scope of the NLM and provided a national resource for molecular biology information and essential support for mapping the human genome. Today, NCBI is home to GenBank, dbGaP, PubChem, and PubMed Central and is an indispensable international repository and software tool developer for genetic sequences and other genomic data, and a pioneer and leader in linking data and published research results to promote new scientific discoveries.

In another unprecedented move, Dr. Lindberg asked NLM to create the Visible Humans, a library of digital images representing the complete anatomy of a man and a woman—giving a unique and detailed look inside the body. People around the world can and do use the images in a variety of ways. They have been used to help students learn anatomy; to develop products like artificial limbs; and to create tools to help surgeons rehearse operations.

As access to the World Wide Web and the Internet spread throughout the country, Dr. Lindberg seized the opportunity to make high quality medical information freely available to the public. In a 1997 press briefing that I sponsored with the late Senator Arlen Specter, R–PA, and then Vice President Al Gore, we announced free Internet access to MEDLINE via PubMed. In 1998, Dr. Lindberg went on to create the consumer-friendly MedlinePlus.gov and a new era of timely and trusted online health information for the general public began. ClinicalTrials.gov, now the world's largest trial registry and a unique source of summary results data for many trials, followed soon after in 2000, providing patients, families and members of the public easy access to information about the location of clinical trials, their design and purpose, and criteria for participation.

In 2003, I again joined the NLM and the National Institute on Aging in launching NIHSeniorHealth.gov, a website that features authoritative, up-to-date information from the NIH, in a format that addresses the cognitive changes that come with aging and allows easy use. In that same year, I partnered with Dr. Lindberg and respected national physician groups to launch the Information Rx project, which supplies prescription pads to health providers to point their patients to trusted health care information from the NIH. At the urging of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Dr. Lindberg has also made high-quality health information available to physicians and their patients via NIH's first consumer magazine, NIH MedlinePlus. This free magazine is now available in Spanish and online around the Nation and worldwide.

Over the past three decades, Dr. Lindberg greatly expanded the scope of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine. Now, NLM and this network of more than 6,000 academic, hospital, and public libraries partner with community-based organizations to bring high-quality information to health professionals and the public-regardless of location, socioeconomic status or access to computers and telecommunications. NLM has entered into long-standing and successful partnerships with minority-serving institutions, tribal and community-based organizations, and the public health community. NLM's marvelous exhibitions which Dr. Lindberg championed, such as Native Voices: Native Peoples' Concepts of Health and Illness, expand NLM's reach with electronic and traveling versions, bringing important issues and scholarship to persons unable to make it through NLM's Bethesda doors. Moreover, Dr. Lindberg helped set the U.S. standards for the public's use of the Internet. He was the founding Director of the National Coordination Office for High Performance Computing and Communications in the President's Office of Science and Technology Policy and was named by the HHS Secretary to be the U.S. National Coordinator for the G–7 Global healthcare Applications Project.

It gives me great pleasure pay tribute to Dr. Donald A.B. Lindberg, one of this country's visionaries, for his many contributions in science and technology that have transformed access to biomedical information and clearly had a lasting positive impact on the Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ROBERT J. McALEER

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to my constituent COL Robert J. McAleer for his exemplary dedication to duty and his service to the U.S. Army and to the United States of America. He has served his last 2 years in the Army as Chief of the Army's Senate Liaison Division, representing the Army on Capitol Hill.

A native of Washington State, Colonel McAleer earned a commission as a distinguished graduate from the U.S. Military Academy in 1988. Colonel McAleer has served in a broad range of challenging operational assignments and an unusually diverse set of Army units: cannon artillery, rocket and missile, air defense, light infantry, cavalry, Ranger, Special Forces, and Stryker.