

of the Year award and was ranked in the top 100 Outstanding School Administrators in North America by Executive Educator magazine. He was named Administrator of the Year by the Arkansas PTA in 1995, received the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Outstanding Educator award from the National PTA in 1999, and a year later was the recipient of the Dr. Dan Pilkington Award by the Arkansas School Boards Association. These accolades are all well deserved.

Dr. Gooden is actively engaged in the legislative process at the State and national levels on behalf of education. He has served as a member of the Executive Committee of the American Association of School Administrators and served as the organization's president from 2012–2103. Dr. Gooden has served his community, State, and Nation in a remarkable way in pursuit of better education opportunities for Arkansas students.

He has been a resource for me over the years to keep up with the needs and challenges of our education system. Whether pursuing opportunities for students of diverse backgrounds, cheering the accomplishments of adult education graduates, or paving the way for advanced technology in the classroom, Dr. Gooden's dedication to the young people of Fort Smith has made a positive impact on the community. Because of this, Fort Smith will continue to benefit from Dr. Gooden's work long after his retirement.

I congratulate Dr. Gooden for his outstanding achievements in his career and thank him for his dedication to education, students and the community. I appreciate his friendship and enjoyed supporting his efforts to improve education. I wish him all the best in retirement and know that his wife Martha and the rest of his family will enjoy the opportunity to spend more time with him.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JIM ROWLAND

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Fort Smith School District athletics director Jim Rowland who will retire in June after serving the school district for over half a century. Rowland's dedication to education and athletics in Fort Smith is nearly unprecedented.

Jim Rowland has been involved in Fort Smith's school district since 1963. He began work at Darby Junior High School as the head coach for track and football. In 1966, Rowland became an assistant coach to the football team at Northside High School and, in 1970, was named head coach at crosstown rival, Southside High School.

After a successful coaching career, Coach Rowland moved to the administrative sector becoming assistant principal in 1982 at Southside High School. Nine years later, Coach Rowland assumed the role of athletics director for Fort Smith Public School District.

Under his watch, both Northside and Southside High School won a combined

six State championships in football—more than any other school district in the 7A classification.

During Rowland's time as athletics director, he oversaw an extensive growth in athletics. Under his leadership, both Northside and Southside High school won State championships in track, volleyball, bowling, and golf.

His passion helped improve athletics in Fort Smith to a level not seen before. In 2009, Fort Smith School Board, in a unanimous vote, renamed Southside High School's stadium, Jim Rowland Stadium as thank you for his services.

I congratulate Coach Rowland for his outstanding achievements in athletics and education. I thank him for his service to the Fort Smith School District and the countless students he impacted, including me. I was on the Darby Rangers football team in eighth grade when he started his coaching career in Fort Smith, and I was a member of the Northside Grizzlies when he became an assistant coach at the high school. Coach Rowland was a role model and one of the most positive influences in my life, as well as so many others.

His efforts to foster growth in the district and enhance athletics in Fort Smith have become reality. I greatly appreciate his commitment to the schools and athletic programs, his guidance and friendship, and I wish him continued success in all of his endeavors. Fort Smith is fortunate to have had someone with his passion and dedication to the schools.●

#### TRIBUTE TO FRANCES DOLEZAL

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, on January 9, 1915, the Dolezal family scurried around a humble homestead in Hingham, MT. The house had no heat, no plumbing, and no modern conveniences to combat the bitter Montana cold. Jerry and Grace Dolezal had just welcomed a brand-new baby girl—Frances. Her brother Bob Dolezal says, “My father used to say, she was so small, she could have worn a ring as a bracelet.” Frances was a premature breach birth, and the family took turns huddling around her crib, a small dresser drawer, refilling a hot water bottle each hour to keep the newborn warm. Frances would survive that night and many more. She celebrated her 101st birthday this last January.

I would like to take this time to recognize and honor her service to our country and her contribution to the children of Montana. We are the land of the free because of the brave, and as we continue to face foreign and domestic threats I am humbled by the service men and women who have protected and served. In 1942 the United States faced a shortage of military personnel due to World War II. In an effort to fill the void, the Women Accepted for Emergency Volunteer Service program, or WAVES, was created and allowed women to enlist in the U.S. Navy.

After her brother George Dolezal survived the attack on Pearl Harbor, Frances was anxious to do her part and graciously enlisted in July of 1943. She was stationed on Terminal Island in San Pedro, CA, for the next 2 years, serving as a second class aviation machinist mate, preparing airplanes before they were shipped overseas.

When the war ended, Frances returned to Montana and earned her bachelor's degree in education from the Western Montana College of Education, now University of Montana Western, in Dillon. Frances would go on to be a first grade teacher and serve the communities of Cutbank, Malta, Havre, Zortman, Ledger and Browning for over 25 years.

Frances was a tough teacher but fair. In Browning, where class attendance was low, Frances created an innovative cotton ball calendar tactic to motivate class participation. Her classes held the highest attendance rates and many of her schoolchildren would exit first grade with third grade reading levels. Her brother Bob says: “Her ability to motivate little ones was what I was always impressed with. She instilled in them to never quit; keep trying until you can succeed.”

On Frances' 100th birthday she was showered with letters, cards, and gifts from her former students. One student, now a successful businessman in Billings, MT, made it a priority to be in attendance for the celebration. The young man thanked Frances and said that, among all of his teachers and college professors, Mrs. Ordway was his favorite.

In an effort to ensure all female World War II veterans receive their World War II service medals, Frances was recently honored by the Montana American Legion in Chinook, MT. Frances was pinned with her World War II Victory Medal in honor of her service from 1943 to 1945.

It is stories like Frances's, the Dolezal family, and numerous others that remind us of the importance of preserving these stories through efforts like the Veterans History Project. Though many people may never know her name, Montanans and Americans owe her our appreciation. Thank you, Frances, for your patriotism and commitment to the education of young Montana minds.●

#### TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINA ARAGON

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I would like to call your attention to Christina Aragon, a recent graduate of Billings Senior High School. While in high school, Christina competed in track and field, gymnastics, was an active member of the National Honors Society and concert band, and was named the Gatorade Montana Track and Field athlete of the year in 2015. Christina is the youngest daughter of Chuck and Kathy Argon and is running her way into the record books.

Christina, known as Teeny by friends and family, is a remarkable track and