

confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 539 and the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 728.

On vote No. 65, had I been present, I would have voted yea on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 539.

On vote No. 66, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 728.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SCIPIO WHITE

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Scipio White for his service to our Nation, the Commonwealth, and to the Monessen community in Pennsylvania.

In 1941, Scipio entered the Army to defend our Nation during WWII. He was recognized early on for his leadership skills and his ability to interact with individuals of all backgrounds. Upon completing officer training school, Scipio was commissioned lieutenant. He became one of the first African Americans to serve as a field officer during WWII.

After the war concluded, Scipio continued his military career as an Army Reservist, eventually securing the rank of major. He served as branch president and vice president of his local Reserve Officers Association and is also active with the Military Officers Association of America.

Returning to Pennsylvania, Scipio continued his government service with the Post Office for 41 years. During that time, he completed a business degree from Douglas Business School in Monessen. Additionally, he was a board member of the Mon Valley Community Health Center during its inception and served on the board of the Washington County Postal Credit Union.

Today Scipio's devotion to the community remains evident. He actively works with the Monessen Clean Air Coalition to promote smoking cessation and remains a long-term member of the NAACP. For more than 50 years, he has worked with the Mon Yough Lodge No. 79 and is a 32 Sublime Prince with the St. Cyprian Consistory No. 4 in Pittsburgh, PA.

I commend Scipio White for his life of service and leadership on behalf of the Nation, the Commonwealth, and the residents of Monessen, PA.●

TRIBUTE TO MAXINE T. BELL

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, my colleague Senator JIM RISCH joins me today in honoring Idaho State Representative Maxine T. Bell, of Jerome, ID, for her 30 years of serving in the Idaho House of Representatives.

Maxine has been an instrumental leader through economic challenges and an excellent role model for those interested in government service. She was first elected to the Idaho House of Representatives in 1988 and has represented

the people of Jerome, Cassia, Minidoka, and rural Twin Falls Counties throughout her time in the Idaho statehouse. She also operated a family farm with her husband, Jack, and was a librarian at the Jerome Junior High School. In the State legislature, she has served as vice chairman of the agricultural affairs committee, as a member of the resources-conservation committee, as chairman of the appropriations committee, and as joint chairman of the joint finance and appropriations committee. Throughout her career, she has been known as someone who brings people together, works hard, and gets things done.

It is no wonder that Maxine Bell has received numerous awards for her distinguished service. These recognitions include being honored multiple times as the Farm Bureau's Friend of Agriculture, Ag All Star by farm organizations, Legislator of the Year by the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Co-operatives Friend, Advocate of the Year from the Idaho Career Development Association, and Legislator of the Year by the Idaho Library Association. She also received Idaho State University's President's Medalion, the Idaho Professional Technical Education Distinguished Service Award, and many other honors.

She is recognized as a strong, solution-driven leader who makes things happen. Her congenial demeanor, quick wit, and keen intellect are just a few of the traits that have made her so beloved and effective over the years. Idahoans have been fortunate to have Representative Bell's leadership in the legislature. We thank Maxine Bell for her outstanding service, congratulate her on her exemplary career, and wish her well as she concludes her service in the State legislature.●

TRIBUTE TO HEATHER HICKOX

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Heather Hickox, the Baker County Teacher of the Year from Baker County Pre-K/Kindergarten Center in Macclenny, FL.

Heather was named Teacher of the Year after exhibiting great use of strategies to meet all learning styles. In her classroom, mathematical concepts are taught well beyond what is expected to be seen at her students' grade level. She is also known for showing excellent orientation to her lessons through clearly posted objectives and activation of background knowledge.

According to Heather, every student is important and deserves the chance to achieve their goals. She believes it is the job of teachers to support and encourage students on their journey, to help them find their passions, and to give them the tools they need to be successful.

Heather received her bachelor of arts degree in elementary education in 2010 from the University of North Florida, graduating summa cum laude and on

the president's list. She began her teaching career at Baker County Pre-K/Kindergarten Center and has been there for 6 years.

I extend my best wishes to Heather for all the hard work and dedication she has for her students and look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO BRANDON JENKINS

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize Brandon Jenkins, the Brevard County Teacher of the Year from Heritage High School in Palm Bay, FL.

Brandon received this important recognition based on his teaching philosophy and practice, leadership, professional development, and encouragement of parental engagement in the learning process. After Brandon was named Teacher of the Year, he said it felt like proof his hard work was not in vain. It has always been a dream of his to touch the lives of students, as his life was touched many years ago.

Under Brandon's leadership, Heritage has seen its band membership grow from 15 to 130 students. The band's ratings have improved from previously receiving poor ratings at competitions to becoming a superior-rated concert band for the past 3 years.

Brandon earned his bachelor of science degree in music education from Winston-Salem State University and master of music degree in wind conducting from Messiah College. He became the band director at Heritage High School and has been a Brevard County Public School teacher for 5 years.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Brandon for all his hard work and dedication he has given to his students. I wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ASA JERNIGAN

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Asa Jernigan, the Nassau County Teacher of the Year from Fernandina Beach Middle School in Fernandina Beach, FL.

Asa's dedication to both his students and profession led to him being named Teacher of the Year. For 34 years, Asa has taught at both the middle and high school levels. His bands have earned the accolades with 26 consecutive years of superior ratings, as well as having numerous students selected for All-District and All-State Bands. Many of his former students have become professional musicians who perform around the world.

Asa shares his passion and expertise of music to colleagues across the district and State. Asa works on various different efforts, such as supervising new band directors, articulating with the Fernandina Beach High School band program, and serving on the Florida Bandmasters Association small schools and mentoring committees.