

TRIBUTE TO MARIE RADER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, for two decades, Representative Marie Rader from Mckee was a powerful voice for her constituents in Kentucky's House of Representatives. It is my privilege today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant and a dear friend who retired from her legislative career at the end of last year.

A graduate of Berea College in Madison County, Marie was a passionate advocate for the causes important to Kentuckians, and she spent her career helping guide the public policies of our State. As the chair of house transportation committee, she proved her leadership for Kentucky and was a strong supporter of our Commonwealth's infrastructure. Her work to encourage economic development provided a wonderful service to Marie's constituents and to families throughout our State.

Even after her retirement from the general assembly last year, Marie has continued to remain active in the Jackson County community. She serves as the executive director of the public housing authority and employs her many talents with the Jackson County Development Association and the Jackson County Industrial Authority. Earlier this year, she helped organize a Memorial Day event to honor the service and sacrifice of local Vietnam veterans. The community gathered to celebrate more than 100 brave Kentuckians, and Marie was crucial to making the event a success. Her selfless work for the residents of Jackson County and the Commonwealth continues to inspire others.

When the Kentucky State House came into session at the beginning of this year, its members recognized the absence of their former colleague with gratitude and respect. Representative Robert Goforth, Marie's successor, sponsored a resolution honoring her lasting impact in that body and throughout Kentucky. It is my privilege today to join with the members of the Kentucky State House in sharing those sentiments and wishing her a wonderful retirement. I urge each of my Senate colleagues to help me honor Marie Rader, a remarkable individual and my friend.

 RECOGNIZING THE STUDENTS OF ASHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today it is my privilege to congratulate the students of Ashland Middle School, in Boyd County, who recently won the national "Solve for Tomorrow" competition for their work to help communities and emergency responders address our Nation's opioid epidemic. This prestigious award, presented live on national television, comes after months of hard work, collaboration, and a drive to help their community face this pressing issue.

The competition, which promotes science, technology, engineering, art,

and math—STEAM—disciplines, challenges students to identify an important cause and to create change in their school. After speaking with Ashland Middle School's public resource officer, these bright innovators chose to develop a technological solution to help first responders safely collect hazardous needles discarded by drug users, which often carry and can transmit dangerous diseases. Employing a 3-D printer and working through multiple prototypes, the students created a hollow, molded plastic box, which can allow first responders to pick up the needles without putting themselves in danger.

As a prize for their innovation, these students won \$150,000 of technology for their school. They also won a trip to our Nation's Capital, where I had the privilege to meet with them and personally congratulate them on their successes.

Our Nation is gripped by a worsening opioid crisis, and we all have a responsibility to help keep our communities safe. These young students are using their creativity and technological ingenuity to do just that. I join with the entire Ashland community in congratulating the following inspirational students: Caleb Campbell, James Campbell, Aubree Hay, Eric Billups, Connor Calhoun, Ethan Goodrich, Liam Ferguson, Cade Parlato, and Shaela Taylor. I would also like to express my gratitude to their advisers who provided guidance throughout this process: Michael Polley, Linda Calhoun, William Ferguson, Mark Harmon, and John Leistner.

The Daily Independent in Ashland, KY, recently published an article about these students, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Daily Independent, Apr. 12, 2018]

ASHLAND WELCOMES WINNING TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS WITH PARADE

(By Mike James)

The Ashland Middle School students who won tens of thousands of dollars' worth of high-tech equipment for their school capped their triumphant return Thursday with a parade and the acclaim of other students throughout the district.

The students, whose first-prize winnings included \$150,000 worth of hardware and software for their school courtesy of competition sponsor Samsung Inc., also learned they'd won the community choice portion of the competition, which brings another \$20,000 worth of technology to the school.

And a corporate representative told the students after the parade each of them would receive a computer tablet of their own.

The parade, organized on the fly after Samsung made the Big Reveal Wednesday on national TV, took the students in a bus escorted by police and firefighters past each school in the district, where students turned out with banners and applause.

The students, members of the Student Technology Leadership Program and a 3D design and modeling class, were among three first-prize winners in the Samsung Solve for

Tomorrow competition, which challenges teams from middle schools around the country to identify and find solutions for community problems.

The Ashland students invented and built prototypes of a device police and emergency workers can use to pick up potentially dangerous hypodermic syringes, and developed a website and database of information about discarded hypodermics first responders and the public can use.

The community choice award was based on social media voting. Ashland supporters took the AMS team to an early lead in Facebook votes, a lead it maintained throughout the competition.

Samsung representatives made the snap decision to fly to Ashland for the parade after seeing the community support, said corporate citizenship director Ann Woo. "We saw the power of your community in the voting . . . when we heard they'd organized a parade for you, we thought what better place to announce the community support award," she said.

"We wanted to see the community that rallied behind you all year . . . we wanted to see that and thank them," she said.

The parade was a fitting celebration because the competition was a community project, said Mike Polley, who teaches the 3D design and modeling class. The community gets behind sports; why should this be different . . . the community got behind them when they saw the drive and the compassion and the commitment of the kids.

"I hope it's a ripple effect and more and more kids want to have that kind of drive."

 HINTON MILLS CENTENNIAL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, as we continue to discuss the farm bill, I would like to take a moment to congratulate a prominent member of the agricultural community in north-eastern Kentucky. Hinton Mills in Fleming County is a family-owned and operated business celebrating 100 years of serving farm communities in our State.

Founded in 1918 by Frank L. Hinton in Goddard, KY, Hinton Mills began as a small general store for the rural community and was the first retailer in the area to recognize the need for a one-stop, full-service farm supply store. Since its doors opened, it has grown and transformed into a major feed supplier in the area. Under the family's constant care, Hinton Mills continued to expand and today has five locations in three counties. They also make deliveries to farm families in Kentucky and Ohio, providing important services to communities throughout the region.

Today, the family business is led by Bud Hinton of the third generation. As the president and CEO, Bud has reaffirmed Hinton Mills' commitment to the many small towns and rural communities it serves.

Continuing the tradition in the family, Bud's three sons joined the business and are currently vice presidents. Representing the fourth generation, Matt, Adam, and Nathan were all raised in Fleming County, and each of them brings unique skills and experiences to Hinton Mills. They are helping Frank Hinton's business and legacy