

help ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed academically and socially.

This Blue Ribbon Award is a tribute not only to the students, but also to the administrators, teachers, staff, and parents of Falmouth High School. Together, they are accomplishing their mission to help students succeed in the classroom and as engaged citizens. They are making a difference in the lives of their students, helping them reach their full potential. I congratulate the entire community for this well-deserved recognition.

RECOGNIZING YARMOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am delighted to commend Yarmouth Elementary School in Yarmouth, ME, on being named a 2018 National Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performing School. Serving 358 students from second through fourth grade, this outstanding school is one of only 349 schools across the country to receive Blue Ribbon recognition from the U.S. Department of Education.

Created in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate significant gains in student achievement. The schools singled out for this national recognition are models of high educational standards and accountability.

The Blue Ribbon designation continues a tradition of quality education in Yarmouth. The graduation rates and assessment test scores for the town's K-12 school district consistently are among the highest in the State of Maine.

Yarmouth Elementary School's mission statement, "Empowering all students to create fulfilling lives in a changing world," is carried out daily. Students focus on the core values of fairness, citizenship, respect, and caring. The core curriculum has a strong focus on math, literacy, science, and social studies, with special programs that recognize each student's individual learning style.

Rich and diverse learning opportunities are a part of every child's experience, from art and music, to library skills and physical education. The school involves all students in extra-curricular activities, which helps forge a strong school community where students are connected and encouraged to pursue their interests. Throughout the curriculum, students are also taught to use technology both effectively and responsibly.

Faculty, parents, and community members are committed to both academic excellence and each child's social, emotional, and physical health. Faculty work to ensure a safe and secure learning environment and to develop strong and collaborative relationships with parents and community members. An active parent-teacher or-

ganization supports enriching educational activities, and the Yarmouth School Foundation promotes excellence and innovation by funding a number of projects and initiatives.

I applaud the administrators, teachers, staff, and parents of Yarmouth Elementary School. Together, they are succeeding in their mission to build students' confidence and generate momentum for learning. I am pleased that the U.S. Department of Education has selected Yarmouth Elementary School for this well-deserved honor, and I congratulate the entire school community for this outstanding achievement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD "RICK" BERNDT

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this Wednesday, November 28, 2018, the Sisters of Mercy will be celebrating 50 years of service to Mercy Health Services provided by one of my longest and dearest friends, Richard O. Berndt. That is right: half a century of service.

Rick is a senior partner at Gallagher, Evelius & Jones, LLP, a firm he joined after he assisted the firm's founder, Francis X. Gallagher, at the Maryland Constitutional Convention in 1967. That was the year Rick earned his law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law. That was where we met, and he has remained one of my closest and most trusted advisers ever since. He earned his bachelor's degree from Villanova University in 1964 and went on to earn a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1970. His continued devotion to all three institutions—but, perhaps, especially his beloved "Nova"—knows no bounds.

Rick, the son of German immigrant bakers, is actively and productively engaged in Maryland's business community, and he currently serves on the boards of Mercy Health Services, Inc., and Johns Hopkins Medicine. Over the last five decades, Rick has served on the boards of Associated Catholic Charities, Inc., Baltimore Community Foundation, Baltimore Development Corporation, Baltimore Equitable Society Insurance Company, Center Stage, Inc., Maryland Academy of Sciences (Maryland Science Center), Goucher College, Good Samaritan Hospital, and the Board of Regents of the University of Maryland Higher Education System, and for-profit companies such as Mercantile Bankshares Corp.

Rick has never sought the spotlight. Perhaps that is one of the reasons he has been so influential over the course of his career. As the Baltimore Sun reported in 2001, "Without making headlines, Berndt played an important role in moving the Baltimore Archdiocese into the foreground on civil rights, rebuilding the Inner Harbor in the 1970s, shaping the campaigns and policies of leading Democrats, pushing a major statewide gun control measure and ne-

gotiating the huge Inner Harbor East waterfront development." Then-Delegate Howard P. "Pete" Rawlings referred to Rick as "the political pope of Baltimore." That was nearly 20 years ago; I can assure you Rick hasn't slowed down since.

Winston Churchill said, "We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give." Rick has been successful as an attorney and in life because his ethical compass has always been pointed to true north. He may be modest about his service, but it hasn't gone unnoticed. Rick is the recipient of numerous public service awards including not one, but two, papal medals from Pope John Paul II; the Pro Bono Service Award from the University of Maryland School of Law Alumni Association; the Frances Morton Froelicher Civic Statesmanship Award from the Citizens Planning and Housing Association; and the Greater Baltimore Committee Award for Outstanding Service. In 1994, then-Cardinal William Keeler bestowed on Rick one of the highest honors the Roman Catholic Church can give to a layperson: the rank of Knight Commander in the Papal Order of St. Gregory the Great.

One of the blessings of my life is to count Rick Berndt as a mentor, adviser, and friend. I hope my Senate colleagues will join me, along with the Sisters of Mercy, Rick's innumerable other friends, and his family in celebrating his career and his legacy of selfless devotion to the service of others.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on November 20, 2018, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 3554. An act to extend the effective date for the sunset for collateral requirements for Small Business Administration disaster loans.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on November 20,