Nicole specializes in deaf studies and special-needs education. She uses innovative, research-based teaching methods to educate her students. She designs lesson plans to promote continuous learning in a teaching environment meant to encourage and inspire her students.

Nicole works with students to identify their fears in order to foster a better growth mindset and develop an enthusiasm for learning. Last year, 60 percent of her students earned a level three or higher on the State English test, compared to 51 percent in Pinellas County schools.

Nicole earned her master's degree from Dowling College and has taught at Plumb Elementary School for 3 years. She follows a teaching style based on a growth mindset and Conversation, Help, Activity, Movement, Participation, and Success or CHAMPS. She also uses the strategies of Advanced Via Individual Determination teaching and restorative practices.

In the past year, she launched a schoolwide initiative during Autism Awareness Month to educate members of the school community to promote acceptance, love, and understanding of those with autism and special needs. As a result of the initiative, many students performed random acts of kindness and engaged students with exceptionalities.

I express my sincere gratitude to Nicole for her commitment to helping her students succeed in school. I look forward to learning of her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MELISSA PAPPAS

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Melissa Pappas, the Orange County teacher of the year from Brookshire Elementary School in Winter Park, FL. Melissa is a K-5 intensive autism teacher that works with children with severe behavioral functional and academic needs. She is motivated by her passion for her students and is responsible for one of only five intensive units districtwide, serving students with severe behavioral, functional, and academic needs. She believes teaching is not only a profession that teaches all other professions, but the one with the power to shape the future for all types of learners.

In the past year, she launched a schoolwide initiative during Autism Awareness Month to educate members of the school community to promote acceptance, love, and understanding of those with autism and special needs. As a result of the initiative, many students performed random acts of kindness and engaged students with exceptionalities.

I express my sincere thanks and gratitude to Melissa for her devotion to helping her students succeed in life. I look forward to learning of her continued success in the coming years.

TRIBUTE TO LAURA WYKOFF

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Laura Wykoff, the Alachua County teacher of the year from Fort Clarke Middle School in Gainesville, FL.

Laura keeps letters from her students to remind her of the importance of her job. After receiving this award, she shared many of these letters with those in attendance at the award ceremony. The letters consist of humorous ones on learning about integers, algebra, and other math subjects to serious ones about how, if it was not for Laura, they would not have been successful in school.

I offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to Laura for her dedication to her students throughout her career. I look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING SOUTHERN CRAFT CREAMERY

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, as chairman of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize a small business that exemplifies the unique American entrepreneurial spirit. It is my privilege to honor a business that not only produces an amazing product, but also tirelessly serves their community.

Today, I recognize Southern Craft Creamery, of Marianna, FL, as the Senate Small Business of the Week. Founded in 2012, Southern Craft Creamery is owned and operated by Dale and Cindy Eade, with the help of their children. After selling their handcrafted ice cream wholesale for 6 years, the Eade family opened its first brick-and-mortar location last February.

Southern Craft Creamery is a true family-run business. While Dale and Cindy’s daughter, Megan Austin, along with her husband Brad, currently manage Cindale Farms, a local dairy farm where Southern Craft Creamery sources its milk, Lauren and Zach O’Bryan, Dale and Cindy’s daughter and son-in-law, initially launched the business. Since becoming involved in the Florida dairy business since 1980, it is no surprise that the Eade family’s ice cream is crafted to showcase the quality milk they produce and the delicious southern ingredients they grew up with.

Today, Southern Craft Creamery sells a wide variety of signature ice cream flavors including tucelo honey, salty caramel, and candied bacon, as well as seasonal flavors such as rum buttermilk.

Southern Craft Creamery creates the remarkable ice cream flavors by sourcing many of their ingredients from other local, family-owned small businesses. Working with local farmers and producers has allowed Southern Craft Creamery to give back to their community while also receiving the freshest and most flavorful ingredients available. They also work with regional, family-owned retailers to sell their ice cream throughout Florida.

I offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to Laura for her dedication to her students throughout her career. I look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years ahead.

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), and the order of the House of Congression...