TRIBUTE TO THE STUDENTS OF GILFORD HIGH SCHOOL’S INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING CLASS

Ms. Hassan. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize the students of Gilford High School’s introduction to engineering class as June 2019 Granite State Department of Education. These students successfully applied their engineering knowledge to create personalized, easy-to-use mobility devices for three young students in their community who experience disabilities.

The idea for this project came from Troy Gallagher, who just graduated from Gilford High School and will attend Texas Tech in the fall. Last summer, Troy participated in an advanced studies program at St. Paul’s School, where he took a 5-week engineering course that introduced him to the University of Delaware program GoBabyGo!, which works with communities around the world to modify ride-on cars for children with disabilities. The students used physical and occupational therapy sessions, in speech therapy as a means to increase a child’s expressive and receptive language skills, and to help children better socialize with their peers.

Troy thought this would be an excellent engineering project to bring to Gilford High School, as did his introduction to engineering teacher, Dan Caron. After petitioning the parent teacher association, PTA, to provide the down payment for the necessary parts and selecting the students that would receive these vehicles, the students in Gilford High School’s introduction to engineering class got to work.

The GoBabyGo! project was the students’ final engineering assignment, and to successfully build these mobility devices, the students used everything that they had learned about the engineering design process. First, the students visited with the three children, preschoolers George and Morgan, and first-grader Chloe, to take their measurements and determine how to best modify the Power Wheels to fit the specific needs of the children. For instance, the students noted that Chloe’s left hand was weaker than her right, so they knew that they would need to move the button that accelerates the vehicle to the left side of the steering wheel, which allows her to accelerate with her weaker hand while steering with her dominant hand.

The students also modified the headrest using pool noodles and refitted the hard plastic seats with softer materials with a design from the popular children’s show, “Paw Patrol.” Since some of the children have difficulty using their legs, the students rewired the pedal functions to the steering wheel, so that the children could easily start and stop the device with their hands.

After the vehicles were completed, Mr. Caron’s class visited the elementary school to present the children with their new mobility devices. The Gilford Police and Fire Department helped by bringing the two vehicles over to the school, which was fitting since the mobility devices were designed to look like a police car and a fire truck. One of the students even customized the vehicles with Gilford Elementary School license plates in the front and New Hampshire plates in the back with the students’ names and made Gilford Fire and Police logos for the front grills of the trucks.

The students presented the devices to two of the children in front of almost the entire elementary school. Troy gave a presentation about the project to the school in the hopes of inspiring more elementary school students to get interested in the STEAM fields of science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics.

I congratulate these students for their ingenuity, hard work, and compassion. I thank them for demonstrating that, by being inclusive, we unleash the creativity of our friends and peers, strengthen our communities, and bring joy and dignity to those who have been marginalized.

REMEMBERING BRIGADIER GENERAL ERNEST RANDOLPH WEBSTER

Mrs. Hyde-Smith. Mr. President, it is an honor to pay tribute to Brig. Gen. Ernest Randolph “Randy” Webster, U.S. Air Force ret., who passed away on June 2, 2019. A native of Midnight, MS, he served our country with distinction both stateside and abroad.

General Webster, who was an Army ROTC student at Arkansas State University, joined the U.S. Marine Corps and became a helicopter pilot and intelligence officer while serving in the Vietnam War. Following his service in Vietnam, General Webster transferred to the Air Force Reserve, where he served in a variety of assignments, eventually rising to the rank of brigadier general.

General Webster’s final assignment was as commander of the 403rd Wing at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, MS. Also known as the Hurricane Hunters, the airmen 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, a component of the 403rd Wing, have the critical mission of flying into dangerous conditions to identify and assess storms developing in the Gulf of Mexico, so the information they provide is crucial to allowing States and communities in the Gulf Coast region to prepare for severe storms.

Under General Webster’s leadership, the Hurricane Hunter aviators, along with support personnel, successfully fulfilled this vital mission of protecting Gulf Coast communities from weather-related disasters and further solidified their role as a key national asset.

General Webster stayed true to form following his retirement in 2000 with 33 years of military service, dedicating himself to his family and volunteering his time to youth groups and his church.

Our gratitude and condolences go out to his wife Martha Webster and the entire Webster family during this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING CHIPOLA COLLEGE LADY INDIANS

Mr. Rubio. Mr. President, I recognize the Chipola College Lady Indians softball team, winners of the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I National Championship.

The Lady Indians are comprised of talented young women in Marianna, FL, and finished their season scoring a total of 69 runs and a 52-5-1 record, leading them to the team’s third overall NJCAA championship title.

In the national championship game, they played against Angelina College from Lufkin, TX, and trailed by two runs after the first inning. Beginning in the second inning, the Lady Indians scored five runs, with Mikayla Lewin and Haley Sandridge both hitting home runs. In the third inning, the team scored five more runs on six hits from Thais Uyema, Sydney Mclain, Candela Figueroa, and Haley Sandridge, who all had RBIs in the inning.

The Lady Indians led Angelina College 10-2 entering the fourth inning. The scored remained the same until the sixth inning, when Ella Infante and Mikayla Lewin scored two more runs for the team. In the seventh and final inning, the Lady Indians scored seven more runs from Yoshi Omori, Tammie Lijbers, Sandridge, Infante, Jadia Jones, and Ally Clegg. At the bottom of the seventh, Amy Woodham recorded the first two outs against Angelina College before Brianna Bailey entered the game and recorded the final strikeout of the championship game. Chipola won with a final score of 19-2.

I extend my best wishes to head softball coach Belinda Husband and associate head softball coach Jimmy Hendrix, assistant softball coach Kelly Brookins, Brianna Bailey, Tyra Brown, Payton Clark, Ally Clegg, Candela Figueroa, Lauren Finch, Ella Infante, Jadia Jones, Madison Kent, Mikayla Lewin, Tammie Lijbers, Christine Marland, Sydney Mclain, Yoshie Omori, Naomi Parker, Haley Sandridge, Morgan Scala, Taylor Scala, Amy Woodham, Thais Uyema, and the Lady Indians softball team on this impressive accomplishment.

I look forward to hearing of their continued success in the years to come.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages