

school climate and technology planning. These initiatives on the part of the staff have resulted in lively staff debates, enriched staff development opportunities, better communication from grade to grade, and more frequent interaction with parents and community.

As a former teacher and school board chairman, I recognize the challenges involved in providing students a quality education. I commend the teachers and staff for their effort and innovation that have built a top-notch school. I am pleased that they have been recognized for their success, and it is with great pride that I represent them in the United States Senate.●

HOOSIER HERO TRIBUTE TO ROBERT MOHR

● Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize Robert Mohr of Peru, Indiana, for his outstanding accomplishment this past week.

You see, Mr. President, on May 12, 1998, Mr. Mohr, a conductor for Norfolk Southern railroad, and engineer Rod Lindley were guiding their 96-car freight train through a residential area of Lafayette, Indiana, when they noticed a small child on the train tracks. With only a short distance between the train and the child, these men slowed the train to 10 mph and blasted the horn, but 19-month-old Emily Marshall still remained on the tracks.

Robert Mohr acted immediately and selflessly. Risking his own safety, he climbed onto the front of the train, reached out, and pushed the toddler out of harm's way. Thanks to Robert's quick reaction, Emily Marshall was returned to her family with only a cut on her head and a swollen lip.

Mr. President, I commend Robert Mohr for this brave and selfless act, and that is why I am honoring him as a Hoosier Hero.

I began the Hoosier Hero award in order to single out Hoosier men and women who have made significant contributions to Indiana history or life, while at the same time serving as an inspirational example for the entire nation. I can think of no greater contribution to life than preserving the life of a small child, such as young Emily.

Emily Marshall, an innocent toddler who wandered onto the train tracks, will probably not realize for several years what Robert Mohr did for her. However, through Robert Mohr's courageous act, Emily now has the opportunity to grow healthy and strong. Emily's future is a bright one, full of promise because of the heroic decision Robert made on that spring afternoon.

Thank you, Robert Mohr, for your courage, your bravery, and your selfless act of saving the life of young Emily Marshall. You are an inspiration to all, a true Hoosier Hero.●

NATIONAL MUSICIANS WEEK

● Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, it gives us great pleasure to bring to the Senate's attention one of the new premier events in the world of music: Chet Atkins' Musician Days.

Known by many as "Mr. Guitar," Chet Atkins is the most recorded solo instrumentalist in music history. As a studio musician, his work has gilded the records of artists from Elvis Presley to the Everly Brothers to Hank Williams. Chet has been named Musician of the Year nine times by the Country Music Awards and has won thirteen Grammys, more than any other artist in the history of country music.

Now it's no secret that the State of Tennessee has provided the world with more than its share of great music, from the blues of Memphis' Beale Street to the bluegrass of Appalachia to the country sounds of Nashville. But it's also true, even in Tennessee, that we sometimes forget the performers who stand just outside of the spotlight, the musicians who accompany the stars but rarely take center stage. That gave Chet Atkins an idea: organize an event to honor the musicians, or, as Chet puts it, "the people who make the singers sound good!" I now yield to my colleague from Tennessee.●

● Mr. FRIST. And so, an idea was born. Last June, Nashville saw the debut of Chet Atkins' Musician Days, a celebration of the contribution of musicians from around the world in every genre of music. Over four days, a total of 169 acts comprised of 604 artists from seven countries performed at 43 venues throughout the city. From a star-studded concert featuring 90 performers at the historic Ryman Auditorium, former home of the Grand Ole Opry, to a myriad of informal acoustic jam sessions at smaller stages all over the city, it was an event that few will soon forget.

A big part of Musician Days is its focus on the future of music. Throughout the festival, budding musicians are encouraged to bring their instruments for impromptu sessions with the pros. Proceeds from last year's inaugural event went to the Chet Atkins Music Education Fund, to be distributed to organizations that encourage the musical education of our nation's young people.

The success of Chet Atkins' Musician Days in 1997 led to plans for an even bigger event this year. Next month, thousands of music lovers will again descend upon Music City USA for several days of first-rate concerts, musical workshops, and good fellowship. As we anticipate this year's repeat performance, it seems fitting for us to proclaim the week of June 22-28 as "National Musicians Week" in honor of these silent heroes, the players behind the stars, and the critical role they play in the musical legacy we all enjoy.●

RECOGNITION OF MELINDA HUBBARD

● Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the outstanding academic achievement of a resident from my home state of Oregon, Ms. Melinda Hubbard. A senior at Country Christian High School, Melinda was recently named as the Oregon State Winner of the Citizens Flag Alliance Essay Contest for her essay entitled "The American Flag Protection Amendment: A Right of the People * * * the Right Thing to Do."

I agree with Melinda that the time has come to protect our nation's flag with a Constitutional Amendment. I am requesting that her essay be printed in the record immediately following my remarks so that every American can have the opportunity to read it.

In addition, I have requested the Sergeant at Arms Office to fly a flag over the Capitol on Flag Day, June 14, 1998, in recognition of her achievement.

The essay follows.

THE AMERICAN FLAG PROTECTION AMENDMENT: THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE . . . THE RIGHT THING TO DO

(By Melinda S. Hubbard—A Senior at Country Christian High School)

The American flag. The stars and stripes. Old Glory. The Star-Spangled Banner. All of these are names for the most widely known symbol of our great nation. These are names that have inspired patriotism in many people. But what do they mean to us now?

In years gone by, many people have sacrificed their lives for the principles upon which the United States of America was founded and for which our flag is a symbol. The flag is a symbol of what our nation was as well as what it has become. Because of this symbolism, the flag of the United States of America should be honored and respected. This is why a flag protection amendment is necessary.

The United States of America has long been viewed as the greatest country in the world, not only by its citizens, but by many other nations as well. Part of the reason that it is viewed thusly is due to the fact that its Constitution and form of government have survived for so long. While it is true that America is a relatively young country when compared with European nations, America has known a stability that few other nations have known. Consider France or Italy. In the past two hundred years, France has experienced seven completely different forms of government, and Italy has seen fifty-one forms. The stability of the United States comes from our nation's foundation, which was on the principles and morals of the Christian men who founded our great nation.

In his farewell address on September 19, 1796, George Washington said, "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, Religion and morality are indispensable supports . . . 'Tis substantially true, that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government." Before we are able to look at what our nation symbolizes, we must first look to the men who founded it. They were the Puritans. But what were the Puritans looking for? The Puritans were looking for a land of freedom, a land where they could worship their Lord and Savior as they believed He should be worshipped. It was for this reason that they fled England. They wanted a country whose churches could not be dictated to by the nation's leaders. Not only were they looking