

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF WTOP
RADIO

• Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate one of our local news outlets, WTOP Radio, on their 30th anniversary. Thirty years ago, on March 9, 1969, WTOP began its news broadcasts. Today, WTOP has become a vital source of news and information in the nation's capital. Along the way, Dave McConnell, WTOP's congressional correspondent, has become a familiar voice to Washington residents and one of our nation's most respected journalists.

America's Constitution is unique and special in the responsibility it has bestowed on our nation's press corps—in print, on TV, and on the radio. With our revered First Amendment, the nation gives reporters the awesome responsibility to help communicate the needs of the nation and report on the day-to-day governmental events that affect all Americans. In return, we hope those reporters recognize that responsibility and carefully tend their role as stewards of public information.

WTOP has taken that responsibility seriously and sought to provide high-quality, timely information for residents in the greater Washington area. For thirty years, WTOP has covered the news as it happened—in Washington and around the world. From the War on Poverty to the War in Iraq, WTOP's reporting has kept millions of Washingtonians informed. They have tracked legislation that affects residents in Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Maryland, and helped bring perspective to issues facing the nation.

As important, WTOP provides a critical service to local residents in alerting them to breaking local stories. In addition to their comprehensive news coverage, they have warned residents of dangerous weather, alerted commuters to traffic snarls, and celebrated sports victories of our Orioles, Ravens, and Redskins. WTOP's committed staff are part of the daily lives of countless Washingtonians who listen as they brush their teeth, drive to and from work, or cook the evening meal. My constituents in Maryland's DC suburbs rely on them to get information they need to know to stay informed, stay healthy, and stay tuned.

I commend the WTOP family and its listeners on 30 years of service to the greater Washington area and welcome 30 more years. Our nation's capital, and our nation, are proud of their work and appreciative of their commitment.●

TRIBUTE TO MR. DONALD DEROSI

• Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Donald DeRossi who is this year's recipient of the Distinguished Service Award at the Hendricks House's 5th Annual Awards Dinner. As a small business owner, he has set an outstanding example of

quality, production, and leadership. These business qualities have been reflected in his extensive community and charitable activities.

Mr. DeRossi began working at DeRossi & Son Company in Vineland, New Jersey in 1960 under his father, Dominick and his grandfather, Angelo. From them, Mr. DeRossi learned all aspects of the clothing business. Today, DeRossi is seen as a premier clothing supplier of military dress coats for the US Defense Department. Under Mr. DeRossi, who currently serves as president, the company has received numerous awards. Most recently, DeRossi received the United States Small Business Administration "Administrator's Award for Excellence," as well as the Defense Supply Center's Small Business contractor of the year award.

Mr. DeRossi has put the same enthusiasm and energy into his community and charitable work as he has put into his business. He has dedicated countless hours of service to such commendable causes as the United Way, the YMCA, the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Association, the March of Dimes, the 4H Club, and Muscular Dystrophy. He has sat on the Boards of such community organizations as the Urban Enterprise Zone, Ellison School, the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, and the Vineland Chamber of Commerce.

On the eve of his receipt of this award, Mr. DeRossi deserves to be recognized for his outstanding services to both the business community and his community of Vineland, New Jersey. He is an exemplary businessman, and I am grateful to have the opportunity to show my appreciation for all he has accomplished.●

CONCLUSION OF MORNING
BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. At this point morning business is closed.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 12:30 having arrived, the Senate will now stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:30 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. INHOFE).

EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY
PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1999

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 280, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:
A bill (S. 280) to provide for education flexibility partnerships.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Jeffords Amendment No. 31, in the nature of a substitute.

Bingaman Amendment No. 35 (to Amendment No. 31), to provide for a national school dropout prevention program.

Lott (for Jeffords) Modified Amendment No. 37 (to Amendment No. 35), to provide all local educational agencies with the option to use the funds received under section 307 of the Department of Education Appropriations Act, 1999, for activities under part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Gramm (for Allard) Amendment No. 40 (to Amendment No. 31), to prohibit implementation of "Know Your Customer" regulations by the Federal banking agencies. (By 0 yeas to 88 nays, 1 voting present (Vote No. 33), Senate failed to table the amendment.)

Jeffords Amendment No. 55 (to Amendment No. 40), to require local educational agencies to use the funds received under section 307 of the Department of Education Appropriations Act, 1999, for activities under part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Kennedy/Daschle motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report back forthwith with the following amendment: Kennedy (for Murray/Kennedy) Amendment No. 56, to reduce class size.

Lott (for Jeffords) Amendment No. 58 (to the instructions of the motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions), to provide all local educational agencies with the option to use the funds received under section 307 of the Department of Education Appropriations Act, 1999, for activities under part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Lott (for Jeffords) Amendment No. 59 (to Amendment No. 58), to provide all local educational agencies with the option to use the funds received under section 307 of the Department of Education Appropriations Act, 1999, for activities under part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote scheduled to occur at 4 p.m. today occur instead at 2:45 and that the time between now and 2:45 be equally divided between the chairman and the ranking member of the committee.

I further ask that immediately following the vote the Senate stand in adjournment until 12 noon on Wednesday, and that the routine requests through the morning hour be agreed to, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, and the Senate proceed for 1 hour of debate to be equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the committee relative to the cloture votes.

I further ask unanimous consent that at 1 p.m. on Wednesday the Senate proceed to the Kennedy motion regarding class size, and the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived. I also ask that immediately following that vote, if not invoked, the Senate proceed to a cloture vote relative to the Lott amendment regarding IDEA and choice.

Finally, I remind all Senators that under the provisions of rule XXII, all second-degree amendments must be filed by 12 noon on Wednesday, March 10, in order to qualify postcloture.