

teach American history and the Constitution to our young people.

Each day Melissa teaches eleventh and twelfth graders about the Constitution and how it is used in everyday life and how it is reflected in our society. The future of our country depends on today's students and on their knowledge and comprehension of our Constitution and government.

She not only gives her students greater understanding of our country, but she also inspires her students to achieve more through her example. By continuing her own education, Melissa is showing her students that the educational process should never end.

I applaud Melissa for her hard work and dedication to her profession and for her commitment to her students and to learning.●

SALUTE TO ALEX XUE

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, on Friday May 14th, MATHCOUNTS held its national competition in Washington, D.C.—the culmination of local and State competitions involving 350,000 students. It gives me great pleasure to inform my colleagues that Alex Xue, a resident of Essex Junction, VT finished second in this competition and received a \$6,000 college scholarship.

In a day and age where we are bombarded by reports of failing school systems and apathetic young people, I believe it is extremely important to recognize Alex's tremendous accomplishment. His success is a tribute not only to his own intelligence and hard work, but also to his family, his teachers and his school community.

In addition to meeting with Alex and his MATHCOUNTS teammates on the Senate steps prior to the competition, by coincidence, I was on Alex's flight back to Vermont on the Sunday following his competition. I had a chance to talk with Alex and compliment him on his tremendous achievement. He was holding the trophy he had received and when I admired it, although it was clear that he was happy with it, he was especially pleased with the college scholarship. I praised him as any Vermonter would, but I was impressed with his modesty and his pride in his family and school. This is a young man who will do remarkably well in life and we Vermonters should be proud that he is one of us.

I ask that the editorial detailing Alex's achievement, which appeared in the Burlington Free Press, be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, May 19, 1999]

WHAT ALEX KNOWS

Imagine a 13-year-old boy who finished second in the nation in an athletic event.

Vermont would know exactly how to celebrate: His parents and coaches would be praised, he would be held up as a role model for other kids, his community would be proud.

Alex Xue of Essex Junction deserves the same response, for scoring second in a nationwide math contest last week.

This remarkable performance is a tribute to his school, though schools are rarely praised these days. This success requires effective instruction year upon year.

His award is an accolade that also belongs to his parents, who support his studies. Would that more parents lavished as much time on their children's academics as they do on their sports.

The high finish is also a sign that he is a smart kid, very smart, and that is worth a great deal in the life Alex and his classmates have ahead of them.

Of course, schools cannot fix their attention solely on top students, because they must serve everyone who enters their doors. But they can recognize talent and reward performance, because it motivates other students, and because it serves as a reminder of what school is for: to learn, to strive, to fail at times and gain by the experience, and to achieve.

For his knowledge of math, statistics, geometry and more, Alex receives a \$6,000 college scholarship—a fitting prize. Learning offers rewards for every student, though, not just the smartest, and education level is the clearest indicator of a person's later wages.

Won't it be fun to see what becomes of Alex and his abilities? Wouldn't it be something if society thought of every child's potential that way?●

"FRIENDS OF ROMAN LEE HRUSKA"

● Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I ask that the attached comments made by the Honorable Charles Thone at the memorial service for former Senator Roman Lee Hruska, be printed in the RECORD for Monday, April 26, 1999, immediately following my remarks entitled, "Tribute to U.S. Senator Roman L. Hruska."

The comments follow:

FRIENDS OF ROMAN LEE HRUSKA

Friends all:

First, let me, and all of you here today, recognize two special people, Millie and Carl Curtis. Sen. Curtis served all 22 years with Roman, and Senator Hruska always acknowledged that no U.S. Senator ever had a more caring, a better and more cooperative colleague anywhere—anytime. Thank you, Senator Curtis.

INTRODUCTIONS

It seems only fitting to also recognize all public officials present. It is from thence, that Roman sprung. He epitomized public service at its best. He lived it! He loved it! He honored it!

He would have been pleased to know that, at the outset here, all Judges, current & past, all Federal, State and County officials, current and past, are asked to stand for a brief silent recognition. I also want to especially recognize Governor Mike Johanns; Former Governor Kay Orr and Bill; Former Governor Ben Nelson, Former Governor and U.S. Senator Jim Exon and Pat; former Congressman John Y. McCollister and Nan; Nebraska Supreme Court Chief Justice John Hendry; Congressman Doug Bereuter and Louise; and Congressman Lee Terry. Also, a special salute to former chair of the Lancaster County Board and the lifelong Douglas Theatre skilled business partner of Roman, Russell Brehm of Lincoln and his charming wife Louise Brehm. Also, Attorney General Don Stenberg, a former Hruska staff member.

It was the British iconoclast, George B. Shaw who once wisely opined, "No remarks from a former Governor are all that bad"—if

they are short enough. Good stuff, but, in remembering Roman, I'm inclined to want to cover everything, filibuster a bit, if you please, and exhaust both your goodwill and patience, so I'll condense best I can! He was so special to me and many of you, too.

HIS WORK ETHIC

Roman's work was always his total recreation—Oh, occasionally he would superficially fish, hunt and in later years, cheer the mighty Cornhuskers on to victory! Early on, I must concede, he would have easily accepted the specious thought that "a quarter-back was a refund on the ticket."

Many here will remember genial Dean Pohlenz, the Senator's long time and wonderful AA. He and I once seriously conspired against Roman and another very studious and important top aide to Roman, Bob Kutak. (Kutak and Harold Rock later organized Kutak-Rock, a very successful national law firm with which Roman proudly associated after leaving the Senate.) Kutak's interest and knowledge of sports made Roman look like the legendary Grantland Rice. So, Dean and I decided to reserve a table for four in the Senate Dining Room for Roman and Kutak, and then have two New York baseball stalwarts, Casey Stengel and Yogi Berra join them for lunch, ostensibly for Berra and Stengel to advise on finalizing a professional sports anti-trust bill. It didn't happen, but we figured that a recording of that awkward luncheon conversation would have gone down in history as a sports classic—of sorts.

Just a few Hruska vignettes:

DEBATE COMRADES

At Commerce High School, Roman was a star debater. His team should go down as a Hall of Famer. The team was Harry Cohen, a brilliant lawyer who was later President of the Nebraska Bar Association; Dick Robinson, another very successful lawyer, and a beloved Federal District Judge; Jerry Kutak, business tycoon, President of Guarantee Life of Hammond, Ind; and Roman. They stayed life-long friends and confidants and what a joy it was just to see the four together visiting and reminiscing.

OMAHA ROOTS

Roman loved Omaha, and he effectively promoted his town throughout his career—he was the Senate architect of its Interstate System. S.A.C. and his friend, Curtis LeMay, were also tremendous beneficiaries of his Senate Appropriation skills. Chuck Durham, Ed Owen, Morrie Jacobs, Art Storz, Don Ross, John McCollister, Peter Kiewit, Cliff and Ann Batchelder were notables as his early Omaha Betterment Co-Conspirators.

WORLD-HERALD RESPECT

He always thought the Omaha World-Herald was easily the country's best newspaper and frequently checked in with then publisher, Walt Christensen and editor, Fred Ware—and, there was also a brilliant, hard working Statehouse and Douglas County Court House Reporter named Harold Andersen, whom he respected very much. World-Herald-wise, we wonder what ever happened to Harold.

FAMILY LOVE

Family was most important to Roman. His wife and life-long partner, Victoria Kunch Hruska was simply the best. A special wife and mother—and a political associate in a very effective low-key way—no flim-flam, no nonsense, just herself—beautiful Victoria. We last visited with able and vivacious daughter, Jana at the David City Library Dedication Ceremony. She has been suffering terribly with dreaded Lou Gehrig's disease. Her devoted husband, Charlie Pagan, is here from Maryland. Son Quentin came home several years ago and carefully cared so well for