

HONORING KATIE KOCH-LAVEEN,
MINNESOTA TEACHER OF THE
YEAR

• Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, the following speech was given recently to honor the Minnesota Teacher of the Year. I believe it is important that my colleagues become aware of Ms. Koch-Laveen's accomplishment, and ask to print in the RECORD my comments to her as she was honored for the information of my fellow Senators.

The speech follows:

OCTOBER 18, 2000 STATEMENT OF SENATOR ROD GRAMS HONORING MINNESOTA TEACHER OF THE YEAR, KATIE KOCH-LAVEEN, AT APPLE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL, APPLE VALLEY, MINNESOTA

I appreciate the opportunity to be here today to honor Ms. Katherine Koch-Laveen as Minnesota's Teacher of the Year for the year 2000. This is certainly a high honor, as I note that 98 Minnesota educators were nominated for this award, and their accomplishments were reviewed by 18 judges. It is all the more impressive considering Minnesota's public schools reputation for academic excellence. I also commend the 98 nominees for this honor, 28 of whom were chosen as "teachers of excellence," and 10 of whom were further chosen for an "honor roll" of teachers. School teachers that excel at their craft are critically important to the intellectual development of their students, and help shape the student's vision for what they can accomplish in their lives.

I still can vividly remember the excellent educators that taught me at Zion Lutheran Christian Day School in Crown. Excellent teachers motivate, show enthusiasm for inquiry, and instill in their students a passion for learning that often continues for a lifetime. A great educator gives the student a core foundation of knowledge about a subject, and a curiosity about the topic that drives a student to study and research more extensively long after they have left that particular class.

Great teachers also make sacrifices for their students. It's no secret that in today's high-tech, knowledge-based economy, Ms. Koch-Laveen could probably find a more financially rewarding profession, especially with her science background. And our great teachers need to be rewarded financially, so that we do not lose too many to industry. But ultimately, I have to believe that what keeps them in the classroom is the intangible reward of seeing their students excel, and having a group of students come in to a class with little knowledge about a topic and have them leave with a firm grasp of core concepts, a desire to learn much more, and an excitement to apply what they have learned in "real world" situations. And I hesitate to use the term "real world," because these days there is probably nothing more real world than a high school classroom.

So congratulations and thank you, Ms. Koch-Laveen, for your commitment to excellence and dedicated service to your students, your community, and to Minnesota. Thanks also to the other hardworking Apple Valley teachers here today that strive for excellence in the classroom and shoulder so much responsibility for Minnesota's future. It has been a pleasure to be here.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 1999, the Secretary of the Senate, on October 18, 2000, during the recess of the Senate, received a message from the House of

Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills and joint resolution:

S. 1455. An act to enhance protections against fraud in the offering of financial assistance for college education, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2296. An act to amend the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands to provide that the number of members on the legislature of the Virgin Islands and the number of such members constituting a quorum shall be determined by the laws of the Virgin Islands, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2348. An act to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to provide cost sharing for the endangered fish recovery implementation programs for the upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins.

H.R. 3244. An act to combat trafficking in persons, especially into the sex trade, slavery, and involuntary servitude, to reauthorize certain Federal programs to prevent violence against women, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4461. An act making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4635. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5164. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to require reports concerning defects in motor vehicles or tires or other motor vehicle equipment in foreign countries, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5212. An act to direct the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress to establish a program to collect video and audio recordings of personal histories and testimonials of American war veterans, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 114. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 1999, the enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND) on October 19, 2000.

At 11 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the house passed the following bill:

S. 3062. An act to modify the date on which the Mayor of the District of Columbia submits a performance accountability plan to Congress, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House disagree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4811) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon. That Mr. CALLAHAN, Mr. PORTER, Mr. WOLF, Mr. PACKARD, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. WICKER, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Ms. PELOSI, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. SABO, and Mr. OBEY, be the managers of the conference on the part of the House.

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retary of the Senate, on October 19, 2000, during the recess of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills and joint resolution:

S. 406. An act to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to make permanent the demonstration program that allows for direct billing of medicare, medicaid, and other third party payors, and to expand the eligibility under such program to other tribes and tribal organizations.

S. 1296. An act to designate portions of the lower Delaware River and associated tributaries as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

S. 1402. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the rates of educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill, to improve procedures for the adjustment of rates of pay for nurses employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs, to make other improvements in veterans educational assistance, health care, and benefits programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1705. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into land exchanges to acquire from the private owner and to convey to the State of Idaho approximately 1,240 acres of land near the City of Rocks National Reserve, Idaho, and for other purposes.

S. 1707. An act to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) to provide that certain designated Federal entities shall be establishments under such Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2102. An act to provide to the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe a permanent land base within its aboriginal homeland, and for other purposes.

S. 2412. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the National Transportation Safety Board for fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003, and for other purposes.

S. 2498. An act to authorize the Smithsonian Institution to plan, design, construct, and equip laboratory, administrative, and support space to house base operations for the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory Submillimeter Array located on Mauna Kea at Hilo, Hawaii.

S. 2917. An act to settle the land claims of the Pueblo of Santo Domingo.

S. 3201. An act to rename the National Museum of American Art.

H.R. 1695. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal public lands in the Ivanpah Valley, Nevada, to Clark County, Nevada, for the development of an airport facility, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2607. An act to promote the development of the commercial space transportation industry, to authorize appropriations for the Office of the Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation, to authorize appropriations for the Office of Space Commercialization, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3069. An act to authorize the Administrator of General Services to provide for redevelopment of the Southeast Federal Center in the District of Columbia.

H.R. 4132. An act to reauthorize grants for water resources research and technology institutes established under the Water Resources Research Act of 1984.

H.R. 4850. An act to increase, effective as of December 1, 2000, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 1999, the enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. THUMOND) on October 20, 2000.