

their 25 years of service to the Glen Ridge School System.

For the past 25 years, these outstanding educators have taught many grade levels and a countless number of students have benefitted from their instruction. As members of the Glen Ridge community, Ms. Blauth and Ms. Thomas have demonstrated an extraordinarily high level of commitment and selflessness to which we should all strive to achieve.

However, the impact of their service reaches far beyond the classroom. Both Ms. Blauth and Ms. Thomas have dedicated themselves to creating a supportive and productive environment for the youth of Glen Ridge. They have helped to shape the minds and encourage the spirit of these young individuals during a crucial stage of development in their lives.

Ms. Blauth's and Ms. Thomas' accomplishments, throughout their years of service, reflect only a small portion of the many contributions they have made to the people of Glen Ridge. Their efforts have touched the lives of their students as well as those throughout their community.

They are an example of the professionalism that we look for in our educators, and the type of citizens that we hope to find in our neighborhoods, which is why their dedication is to be recognized and commended.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL BENJAMIN L. CASSIDY, USMC

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, today I recognize Colonel Benjamin L. Cassidy, United States Marine Corps, on the occasion of his retirement from active duty. During his twenty-eight years with the Corps, Colonel Cassidy served our nation with distinction and aplomb.

After having graduated from Brown University in 1975, Colonel Cassidy was commissioned aboard the U.S.S. Constitution in Boston Harbor. Upon completion of The Basic School in 1975, he was transferred to Camp Lejeune, NC where he served as the Battalion Logistics Officer, Executive Officer, and Platoon Commander, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marines, 2nd Marine Division.

In 1978, Colonel Cassidy was assigned to 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division in Okinawa, Japan where he served as Company Commander and Platoon Commander. He was transferred to Fort Benning, GA in 1980 where he attended the Infantry Officers Advanced Course. Upon graduation, he accepted orders to Recruiting Station, Hartford, CT and served as the Recruiting Station Executive Officer from 1981 to 1984.

From 1984 to 1987, he served with the 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, NC as the Battalion Operations Officer and Company Commander. In 1987, he attended the Marine Corps Command and Staff College at Quantico, VA and was later assigned as an Instructor.

From 1989 to 1991, Colonel Cassidy served as the Marine Corps' Exchange Officer to the Brazilian Marine Corps, Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. From 1991 through 1993, he served with the Bureau of International Narcotics Matters, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. During this time, he also earned a Masters in National Security Studies at Georgetown University.

He next served as Battalion Inspector-Instructor and Marine Corps Advisor, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, San Antonio, TX. In 1995, he served as Marine Corps Liaison and student at the Chilean Naval War College, Valparaiso, Chile.

Many of you know Ben personally, as he has served for almost 4 years as the Director of the Marine Corps' Senate Liaison Office. During Colonel Cassidy's tenure here at the United States Senate, he planned and led numerous congressional delegations on fact-finding trips around the world. He coordinated these delegations flawlessly and with meticulous attention to detail. In addition, he has overseen the resolution of hundreds of congressional inquiries that have been submitted to the Marine Corps for clarification and assistance. Colonel Cassidy has also worked to ensure that members of the Senate have a better understanding of the requirements and capabilities of the Navy/Marine Corps Team.

We in the Senate have benefitted from Colonel Cassidy's dedication, sense of duty and outstanding work ethic, and I have made certain that we continue to benefit by hiring him as my Defense and Foreign Affairs Legislative Assistant. I wish Colonel Cassidy, his wonderful wife Kathleen, and their children Alanna, Ben, and Caroline, fair winds and following seas as he begins this new chapter of his life.●

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL JOHN D. HAVENS

● Mrs. CARNAHAN. Mr. President, I am honored today to pay tribute to the outgoing Adjutant General of the Missouri National Guard, Major General John D. Havens.

Governor Carnahan appointed him to this post on March 6, 1997. For the next 4 years, General Havens was responsible for leading 10,000 Missouri Army and Air National Guard personnel as well as the State Emergency Management Agency and Civil Air Patrol.

Under his stewardship, the State's Guard was always ready for action; ready to respond to disasters both in Missouri and elsewhere when duty called. In addition, the Missouri Guard was ready to aid in our country's national defense. General Havens has been in command of our Missouri Guard men and women as they performed missions in defense of freedom throughout the world. His troops have graced the sky or put boots on the ground of 18 States and 26 countries.

General Havens created several ground-breaking programs as well. He

was instrumental in establishing Missouri's Show-Me Challenge Program for our State's youth. His Guardsmen created an educational program that instilled discipline and motivation in teenagers who had dropped out of school. To this day, the valuable program continues to enhance the responsibility and self-esteem of Missouri's "at-risk" youth.

General Havens fostered a culture of success by growing an organization that emphasizes skill, talent, and dedication, and values diversity. This philosophy enabled him to improve recruitment in both rural and urban areas, as demonstrated by our impressive retention rates under General Havens' administration. Missourians are proud to be associated with our Guard. For his action, the NAACP presented the General with its prestigious 2001 Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award honoring his concern for the diversity, health, strength, comfort and accomplishments of the Guard's men and women.

Throughout his military career, General Havens earned several other awards, including the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

But more important than any of these awards, was the honor and respect he enjoys from the men and women who served under him. General Havens is truly a people's general, and he will be missed.

In the past, I had the opportunity to work with Guard members first hand as they helped Missourians cope with natural disasters. I saw the deep commitment and compassion General Havens had instilled in them. I will also never forget the tremendous kindness shown by General Havens and members of the Guard during my husband's funeral.

General Havens' career reflects the ideal of service represented by General George Washington when he said, "When we assumed the Soldier, we did not lay aside the Citizen." Throughout his career of service to our State and to this Nation, he truly epitomized the concept of Citizen Soldier.

General Havens has served our Nation and our State honorably. I wish him all the best in retirement. He will be remembered as a patriot, a leader, a Missourian, an American, and a friend.●

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF AKRON

● Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the citizens of Akron, OH, for their selfless actions following the September 11 terrorist attacks. Specifically, the Akron Beacon Journal, the City's largest daily newspaper, launched a campaign to collect donations to purchase a fire truck for New York City.