

Tony was a school administrator in Wicomico County, MD. His daughter Beth Sheller is currently a public school teacher in Wicomico County. Few other professionals are able to touch so many people in such a lasting way as do teachers. I have been privileged to witness this first hand through the experiences of my family members who have spent their careers in the education profession.

Today's teachers are in the midst of incredible struggles. Being a teacher has never been easy, but our modern society has only increased the challenges. Today, our teachers face the task of educating children with limited English skills, meeting the requirements of the recently enacted No Child Left Behind Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, staying abreast of new technology, and doing so in aging schools that are in need of extensive repairs and updating. With so many schoolchildren living in families with both parents working or in single-parent homes, our schools and teachers are being asked to assume much of the responsibility for after school care as well.

Compared with many professions, our Nation's teachers are overwhelmed and underpaid, shouldering major responsibilities that often go unappreciated. Our citizens are considered to be among the best educated in the world and for that we have our teachers to thank. While we frequently hear tales of failing schools, many success stories are overlooked. This week is a fitting time to tell the stories of the many caring, dedicated and talented educators who perform their jobs with excellence every day. Their successes motivate children and other teachers and increase our confidence in our education system. We need to hear more about teachers like Robin Nussbaum, this year's winner of the Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award for Howard County. Ms. Nussbaum is a special education teacher at Cedar Lane School in Columbia, MD. Her students and their families acknowledge it is her tireless work in and out of the classroom, coupled with her deep concern for student success that make her an extraordinary educator.

I would like to read for the RECORD a list of the 2002-2003 Maryland Teachers of the Year from all 23 Maryland counties and Baltimore City. These professionals have demonstrated incredibly high performance in their fields in a very challenging time.

2002-2003 MARYLAND TEACHERS OF THE YEAR
 Allegany, Heather Michele Morgan, Parkside Elem., Kindergarten
 Anne Arundel, Mattie A. Procaccini, Old Mill HS, English 9, 10
 Baltimore City, Sara Lawlives, Westport Academy, Kindergarten
 Baltimore County, Cheryl Bost, Mars Estates Elem., Reading/Language
 Calvert, James R. Seawell, Plum Point MS, Science 7, 8
 Caroline, Catherine L. Knight, Lockerman MS, Science 8
 Carroll, Susan H. Adami, Hampstead Elem., Grades 4, 5

Cecil, Charlotte E. Mehosky, Gilpin Manor Elem., Pre-primary/Special Education
 Charles, Joan Withers, La Plata HS, English 10, 12

Dorchester, Terri Lynn Wright, North Dorchester HS, Phys. Ed./Health
 Frederick, Darren Ray Hornbeck, Linganore HS, Social Studies 11, 12

Garrett, Elizabeth Rees Gilbert, Swan Meadow, Science/Lang./S.S.

Harford, Howard E. Eakes, Fountain Green Elem., Grade 5

Howard, Michele Zurad, Burleigh Manor MS, Math 6

Kent, Sue Dorsey, Millington Elem., Math, Science 3

Montgomery, Arlene Barte-Lowe, Takoma Park MS, Reading, Math 6

Prince George's, Vanessa Hill, Dwight D. Eisenhower MS

Queen Anne's, Darryl C. Calloway, Sudlersville MS, Social Studies 6

St. Mary's, Larry Brabec, James A. Forrest, Sheet Metal 10, 12 Career and Tech Center

Somerset, Glen N. Ennis, Greenwood MS, Grade 6 & Tech Ed.

Talbot, Thomas M. Callahan, Easton HS, Social Studies 9-12

Washington, Vicki Follett, Bester Elem., Grades 1, 2

Wicomico, Beth S. Sheller, West Salisbury Elem., Grades Pre-K - 2

Worcester, Sandy Coates, West Showell Elem., Grade 2

If you ask many people the name of the winner of the Academy Awards Best Picture Award 20 years ago, or the NBA Most Valuable Player from 10 years ago, few would be able to remember. However, ask any individual to name his or her favorite teacher, and it is usually an easy task. Not only can they recall the name, but also how that teacher positively affected their lives. Today, I want hard working teachers everywhere to know that they are appreciated. We know they make a difference and we should all thank them for their commitment and hard work.

HONORING THE MEMBERS OF THE 28th BOMB WING

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to welcome home the members of the 28th Bomb Wing stationed at Ellsworth Air Force Base.

The B-1 bombers and crews of the 28th Bomb Wing are returning home today, and over the next few weeks, from their service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. As they did in Kosovo and Afghanistan, the B-1 bombers performed superbly in the war in Iraq. They have once again demonstrated that they are the backbone of America's bomber fleet. The B-1's unique ability to linger over the battlefield and provide responsive firepower at the time and place required by military commanders was an integral part of our victory in Iraq.

I want to specifically honor four members of a B-1 crew stationed at Ellsworth Air Force Base who were acknowledged for their service during the war. CPT Chris Wachter, LTC Fred Swan, CPT Sloan Hollis, and 1LT Joe Runci were each awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross medal for their

April 7 attack on a suspected hideout of Saddam Hussein.

While in the course of another assigned mission, this four-member B-1 crew was tasked with striking a building in which current intelligence indicated Saddam Hussein was meeting with top Iraqi officials. This information was relayed to the B-1 crew which confirmed the coordinates, flew to the target, and accurately released four 2,000-pound bunker-buster bombs. This all occurred within 12 minutes. Having successfully hit this leadership target, the B-1 and her crew went on to strike an additional 17 targets in two separate locations.

Although B-1s flew fewer than 2 percent of the combat sorties in Operation Iraqi Freedom, they dropped more than half the satellite-guided Air Force Joint Direct Attack Munitions, JDAMs. The B-1s were tasked against the full spectrum of potential targets in Iraq, including command and control facilities, bunkers, tanks, armored personnel carriers, and surface-to-air missile sites. They also provided close air support for U.S. forces engaged in the field. The bombers and crews accomplished all of this while maintaining over an 80 percent mission capable rate. This record of success proves B-1 is a vital, versatile, and potent component of our military force structure.

Like all South Dakotans, I am proud of the men and women who are stationed at Ellsworth Air Force Base. They are an essential part of our South Dakota community, and are doing their duty to keep our Nation safe. I am pleased CPT Wachter, LTC Swan, CPT Hollis, and 1LT Runci were each recognized for their remarkable actions during Operation Iraqi Freedom. But I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge all the men and women at Ellsworth who keep the B-1s in the air and ready to respond. It is the work of all the crews and all the support teams that keep the B-1 at the forefront of our military.

Once again, I want to welcome home the members of the 28th Bomb Wing, and thank them for their service to our Nation.

NOMINATION OF LEWIS J. BUCKLEY

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, last Friday, my Senate colleagues and I voted unanimously to confirm the nomination of Lewis J. Buckley to the rank of captain in the United States Coast Guard. This confirmation is well-deserved and bears a particular significance to the United States Coast Guard.

Captain-Select Buckley is the conductor of the Nation's Coast Guard Band. Since its formation in 1925, this organization has developed an international reputation as one of the finest professional concert bands in the world. And since 1965, the Coast Guard Band has been the permanent, official musical representative of the nation's oldest maritime service.