

strides in developing new relationships between private and public schools. He developed a partnership between the local Montessori school and Suttons Bay Public Schools that incorporates the Montessori educators and their techniques into the public school curriculum. He was also pivotal in the construction of a new high school. This new building allowed all K-12 grades to be moved to new classrooms.

The dedication and innovation that Robert MacEachran has brought to the Suttons Bay Public Schools during his 16-year tenure as Superintendent and 38 years within the Michigan public school community is exceptional. He has demonstrated unwavering support for the education of Michigan's youth. The legacy that he has left within the Suttons Bay public school system will endure after his retirement. Future generations will greatly benefit from his commitment to the education and development of all children. I am confident my colleagues will join me in offering our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Robert G. MacEachran and in wishing him well in his retirement.●

RECOGNIZING TONY AUTORE

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to recognize Tony Autore for his outstanding commitment to community service in my home State of Michigan. On September 26, 2003, the Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action Agency will honor Tony for his exemplary service to the Eastern Upper Peninsula and to the Community Action Agency.

Tony began his service to the community in 1952, when he entered the United States Army and served until he was honorably discharged in 1954. After his two years in the Army, Tony moved to Cedarville, MI, with his wife Ethel and began a successful local business. Tony's service continued as he became a member of the Les Cheneaux Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber recently hosted the Michigan Outdoor Writers' winter and summer conventions, bringing over 300 writers to the area to discuss and celebrate the conservation and preservation of the state of Michigan's natural resources.

Tony has also served his community on the Clark Township volunteer fire department and the Les Cheneaux Community Foundation Board and was instrumental in establishing a Boy Scout Troop in the area. Along with these activities, Tony has devoted his time and talent improving his community for others as a member of the planning commission, the Mackinac County Housing Commission, and the economic development corporation. Tony has also been involved with other local organizations. He is a member of the Lions Club, the Knights of Columbus, and the Christopher Columbus Association.

For the past 18 years, Tony has served on the Board of the Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action

Agency. He is currently the treasurer of the group, which strives to address poverty by helping to enable people to become self-sufficient members of society. The counsel and advice he has given the Agency Director and staff have been invaluable. During his time with the agency he has helped provide a truck and driver free of charge to help with the periodic distribution of food commodities in the area. Additionally, through his ties to the local community, Tony helped the agency secure use of the town hall for senior congregate meals. Tony also assisted the Community Action Agency in the development of a Head Start Center in Cedarville. Appropriately, this center will be dedicated as the "Autore Center, Community Action Agency Head Start".

I am confident that my colleagues in the Senate will join with me in thanking Tony Autore for his outstanding service to his community and congratulate him on receiving this high honor from the Community Action Agency.●

KEN FERGESON, CHAIRMAN OF THE ABA

● Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, today I rise to honor an Oklahoman who has climbed to the top of his profession. Today, Ken Fergeson, from Altus, OK, is being installed as the American Bankers Association chairman. He is also the chairman of National Bank Commerce in Altus.

Ken has been active in the ABA for many years. He has chaired its Government Relations Council, Community Bankers Council, a joint trade association Credit Union Steering Committee and Minbanc Capital Corp., in addition to serving on the board of the Corporation for American Banking. He also served on the ABA Communications Council, Education Foundation and Professional Development Council, and chaired the Oklahoma Banker's Association.

After graduating from college Ken began his career at Liberty Bank in Oklahoma City. A native Texan, Ken had interviewed and considered a better job offer from a Houston Bank, but he decided to go with the Liberty job in part because, as he joked, it had cheaper parking.

It was at Liberty that Ken first became involved in the ABA and the Oklahoma Bankers Association as well as numerous charitable organizations, trade groups and civic organizations.

After leaving Liberty, Ken went on to purchase National Bank Commerce in Altus. At the time of the purchase the 38-year-old father of two didn't have the money to buy the bank, but he knew if he could somehow find it he could make the venture work. So he decided to take some risks that he admits were "stupid" in retrospect: he got the biggest loan he could get, sold his house, withdrew his kid's college funds, and issued debentures and subor-

dated notes. His risk was rewarded as he expanded the bank's markets and customer base.

Ken's success has grown over the decades, and for good reason. He conducts business with one concern in mind: What is best for the customer? He understands that a bank that conducts business in this manner will retain customers for life. Ken tells his employees not to "sell anything you wouldn't sell your mother." Many today will see this mentality as old fashioned, but you can't argue with success.

When Ken was approached by his daughter about her desire to be a foreign missionary, his response was telling of his view of his business. He encouraged her to come to work for the bank. Ken noted that there is no greater mission field than the "ministry of banking." In his own words he explains that the banking industry helps people "plan for their children's education, or buy their first home, or plan for retirement, or expand a business. If those outcomes are not a ministry, I don't know what is."

The next chairman of the ABA will bring this experience and worldview to bear upon his new post. He plans on making ethics a central theme of his chairmanship. Ken believes that in life and in business you need a set of ethics to live by so that when tough decisions come your way, you will have a moral reference point to help you reach a conclusion. I am excited about Ken's chairmanship and the ideas and values he will bring to the table.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Ken and his family and I wish him all the best as he takes his new post.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The following enrolled bills, previously signed by the Speaker of the House, were signed on September 18, 2003, by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS):

S. 520. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain facilities to the Fremont-Madison Irrigation District in the State of Idaho.

S. 678. An act to amend chapter 10 of title 39, United States Code, to include postmasters and postmasters' organizations in the process for the development and planning of certain policies, schedules, and programs, and for other purposes.