

Mr. Luther Deaton, Jr. A native of Breathitt County, KY, Mr. Deaton is an esteemed banker, revered community leader, inspiring mentor, and caring father.

Luther began his career in the banking industry as an assistant manager and teller with Central Bank & Trust Co. in Lexington in 1978. Little did he know that initial exposure would lead to a lifetime of professional achievements. Possessed with a resolute and unshakeable determination to advance his employer's cause, Luther rapidly rose through the company's ranks. In January 1996, the Board of Directors promoted Luther to president and CEO of Central Bank, and in March 2002, he was named chairman of the bank. He also serves as the chairman of Commerce Lexington, Inc., which seeks to expand and attract economic development in central Kentucky.

While Central Bank has flourished under Luther, it is his leadership presence in central Kentucky I admire most. His formidable array of accomplishments directly results from his passion to improve the quality of life for his fellow Kentuckians. In September 1997, the Lexington Theological Seminary named Luther as the second recipient of the John R. Wooden Award, an honor given to layman whose life shows commitment to, and active involvement in, a faith community and evidence of putting one's faith to work for the welfare of humankind. In 2001, he was the recipient of the Governor's Economic Development Leadership Award for the State of Kentucky. Additionally, the Junior Achievement of the Bluegrass inducted Luther into the 2004 Bluegrass Business Hall of Fame, due to his labor and vision to improve the quality of life in the Bluegrass area.

Later this month, Luther will be the honoree at the Volunteers of America Tribute Dinner in Lexington, KY. Here the community will have an opportunity to thank him for all of his contributions and honor his achievements.

Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and recognizing one of Kentucky's pre-eminent professionals, Mr. Luther Deaton, Jr.

ROSEMARY VITAVEC

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Rosemary Vitavec, a third grade teacher at Walter Bracken Magnet School in Las Vegas, who was selected as one of 95 winners from across the Nation for the Presidential Award for Mathematics and Science Teaching for 2004.

The awards were created in 1983 and are administered by the White House and the National Science Foundation. Each year the program recognizes outstanding mathematics and science teachers from across the United States and four U.S. jurisdictions for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession.

This distinction highlights the fundamental importance of math and science education in preparing our Nation's students for the global economy. It also highlights the outstanding work done at Bracken Magnet School in emphasizing math and science learning with technology.

Mrs. Vitavec, a 23-year veteran, has taught in the Clark County School District for 12 years.

I salute Rosemary Vitavec for her service and dedication to the students of Clark County, and extend my best wishes for a successful future.

SCHOOL SAFETY PATROLLERS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize several young people who were recently selected by the American Automobile Association to receive special awards for their work as school safety patrollers.

More than 500,000 students in 50,000 schools across the country participate in AAA's School Safety Patrol program. These young people have taken on the important responsibility of making the streets around their schools safer for their classmates. Though their responsibilities are often routine, the patrollers on occasion must place themselves in harm's way in order to save lives. It is my honor today to recognize six students who were selected to receive the AAA Lifesaver Award for their selfless and heroic actions in fulfilling their duties as patrollers as well as the National Patroller of the Year.

The first AAA Lifesaver Award recipient is Jessica Zeiter, a 10-year-old student at Huron Park Elementary School in Roseville, MI. On February 9, 2004, Jessica was on a patrol when a pickup truck driver sped on icy snow in heavy traffic. The driver probably could not have stopped even if he had seen the small first grade student step into the street, but fortunately Jessica quickly grabbed the student by the coat and pulled her back to safety. Others who were at the crosswalk that day thought the child was going to be hit and were shocked that she was saved.

The second AAA Lifesaver Award recipient is Michelle Grimm, a 12-year-old student at Weems Elementary School in Manassas, VA. On March 5, 2004, a kindergarten student fell off of the sidewalk and was lying directly in the path of a school bus. The student was struggling to get up but could not regain his balance because of his heavy book bag. The bus driver did not see the child lying in the street, but Michelle ran to the student's aid, helping him out of the way of the approaching bus.

The third AAA Lifesaver Award recipient is Estefan Santos, a 10-year-old student at Jackson Road Elementary School in Silver Spring, MD. On September 10, 2004, a 6-year-old child broke free from his sister's care and ran to cross the street towards her father who

was waiting in his car. Estefan realized that the 6-year-old was not going to stop at the corner and held him back from the approaching traffic. Though bitten and kicked while holding the 6-year-old back, Estefan undoubtedly saved the child's life that day.

The fourth AAA Lifesaver Award recipient is also from Maryland. Her name is Pytrce Avonna Farmer, and she is a student at Eva Turner Elementary School in Waldorf. On October 4, 2004, a 6-year-old child was waiting on the street curb under Pytrce's direction. The child's mother, however, moved her car forward into the second lane of traffic, and the child stepped into the street without noticing another car approaching. Pytrce acted quickly and bravely to pull the child from the path of the car. The child's mother has said that her son would not be alive today if not for Pytrce.

The fifth AAA Lifesaver Award recipient is Jared Smith, an 11-year-old student at Combee Elementary School in Lakeland, FL. On January 7, 2005, a 7-year-old student dashed past the group of children who were waiting for a van to pick them up, darting out into the path of the van. Fortunately, Jared stopped her before she was hit, though the van was only a few feet away.

The sixth AAA Lifesaver Award recipient is Naomi Wall, an 11-year-old student at Dan Emmett Elementary School in Mount Vernon, OH. On March 19, 2004, a 5-year-old student named Braden walked into the road, obeying a walk sign though against his sister Naomi's patrol flag telling him to stop. At the same time, a car had run a red light and was headed right for a car going through the intersection. Had Naomi not held her brother back by the arm, he would have been in the middle of the crash.

In addition to honoring these six brave patrollers, AAA also recognizes one student as National Patroller of the Year for demonstrating leadership qualities, strong academic performance, and civic involvement. This year, the National Patroller of the Year is Deanna Constantino, a fifth grader at Cross Street School in Williston Park, NY. Deanna is a member of the student council, serves on the school newspaper, has been a Girl Scout for 4 years, and participates in charitable fundraising activities through her school. Deanna, like all the other safety patrollers recognized by AAA, is clearly an impressive young person with tremendous potential.

I also thank AAA for making the school safety program possible. The program has helped save many lives over the years and has made our schools safer for our students, though, as the stories of the Lifesaver Award recipients demonstrate, the streets around our schools are not safe enough. That is why I have worked for the last 2 years to create a national Safe Routes to School program. This program would fund safety improvements on roads near schools so that children