

Bush for Fiscal 2007 for programs to strengthen international education and foreign language studies even as we must follow tenaciously the response of Congress.

I was very pleased in this respect that last month President Bush told a group of U.S. university presidents of his proposal to strengthen foreign language study, particularly Arabic and other critical languages.

The President spoke of a "National Security Language Initiative" and asked for \$114 million in Fiscal 2007 as "seed money" to establish critical language instruction in grade schools, support college-level language courses and create a national corps of "reserve" linguists who could serve in times of need.

Although an encouraging sign, as The New Republic said last month (January 23, 2006), "[I]t remains to be seen whether the lightly funded initiative will be anything more than symbolic."

Now we must be sure that Congress votes even this modest amount of money to carry out this promise and, indeed, do much better!

For as the final sentence of our CED report declares, "Our national security and our economic prosperity ultimately depend on how well we educate today's students to become tomorrow's global leaders."

Amen!

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH AMERICO

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a truly extraordinary young student from Connecticut. Elizabeth Americo of Guilford has recently been selected as one of Connecticut's two honorees in the 2006 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. This honor, is given to only one high school student and one junior high school student in each state as well as the District of Columbia. A quick look at Elizabeth's record of community service shows her to be truly deserving of such recognition.

Elizabeth, who is 17 years old and a junior at Guilford High School, is the founder and president of Students for Health and Social Justice, a club at her school that is dedicated to raising awareness and funds to assist needy people both in the United States and abroad.

Elizabeth was first inspired to become involved in volunteer work by her older brother's work with impoverished Haitians. Upon arriving at Guilford High School her freshman year, Elizabeth decided she wanted to share her passion for helping others with her fellow students. The result was Students for Health and Social Justice, which now boasts 21 members who meet regularly to discuss poverty and community health issues around the world and plan both awareness, and fundraising, events to address these issues. With hard work, creativity, and a deep commitment to helping others, the club has sponsored dances and other events to help raise money for health care programs in Haiti, relief aid for tsunami victims, UNICEF, and other causes. Elizabeth and her fellow club members have also not forgotten about the needy in their local community, organizing an impressive four-

school-strong food drive for a local soup kitchen.

Elizabeth's extensive record of volunteer service, done at such a young age, serves as an inspiring example to all of us about the difference we can make in our communities if we are willing to put in the time and energy. It is young people such as Elizabeth that give me great hope for the future of our country.

In recognition of her achievements, Elizabeth will be invited to Washington in early May with the 101 other 2006 Spirit of Community honorees from across the country who were selected from a pool of several thousand nominees. While in Washington, 10 of the honorees will be selected as America's top youth volunteers of the year by a distinguished national selection committee cochaired by 2 of my distinguished colleagues, Senator TIM JOHNSON of South Dakota and Senator SAXBY CHAMBLISS of Georgia.

I wish Elizabeth the best of luck, both with this award and in all her future endeavors. I would like to end my remarks, Mr. President, by taking the time to thank Elizabeth Americo for the good work she has done and the work I am sure she will continue to do in the future.●

HONORING ELEANOR L. RICHARDSON

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I mourn the passing and pay tribute to a wonderful Georgian, a great leader, and a personal friend of mine. The Honorable Eleanor Richardson passed away on February 21, 2006, leaving a tremendous void in the hearts of all who knew and loved this extraordinary woman.

A long-time resident of Decatur, GA, she was involved in Civic Organizations such as the League of Women Voters, serving as the president of the Dekalb League and then the Georgia League. It was during this time that a friend urged her to run for a vacant seat in the Georgia General Assembly, thus beginning her memorable political career.

From 1975 until 1991, she served with great distinction as one of the first female members in the Georgia House of Representatives, and I was privileged to serve with her for many of those years. She gained an impeccable reputation as a faithful advocate for her district and a determined voice of the voiceless. Eleanor's legislative priorities included issues related to the welfare of children, women, the elderly and the homeless. She had an unwavering commitment to justice and equality.

Eleanor was respected by her colleagues on both sides of the aisle for her determined leadership. She served on several key House committees, including the Appropriations Committee, the Health and Ecology Committee and the State Planning and Community Affairs Committee, where she served as chair of the local legislation subcommittee.

After retiring from public office, Eleanor was appointed to the newly

founded Georgia Commission on Women in 1992 and served as its first vice chair. She remained a tireless servant to her community and to the State through her work on countless other boards and advocacy organizations. For over 45 years, she was a faithful and beloved member of Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church, highly active both in the local church and in her denomination.

Eleanor leaves behind a loving and devoted family, including her husband, Merlyn Eldon Richardson; her daughter, Merlyn Richardson Nolan; her two grandsons, Gaillard Ravenel Nolan, Jr., and Merlyn Richardson Nolan; and her two great-grandchildren, Hadley Jane Nolan and Parker Richardson Nolan.

This strong-willed and generous woman devoted her entire life to serving others, and she will always be remembered for her compassion, integrity, fairness and unshakable commitment to creating a fair and just society. She touched the lives of many Georgians, including this Senator, through her efforts on behalf of our community.

It was an honor to know and to serve in the Georgia House with Eleanor Richardson, and it is a privilege to be in this Senate and pay tribute to her great life.●

TRIBUTE TO JACK APPLEBAUM

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a truly extraordinary young student from Connecticut. Jack Applebaum of Greenwich has recently been selected as one of Connecticut's two honorees in the 2006 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. This honor is given to only one high school student and one junior high school student from each state as well as the District of Columbia. A quick look at Jack's record of community service shows him to be truly deserving of such recognition.

Jack, who is 13 and an eighth-grader at Central Middle School in Greenwich, is a founding member of his school's chapter of Building with Books, a national organization that raises money to build schools in developing countries. Jack learned about the organization and its mission in class and, in his own words, "I was hooked right away." After learning that four-fifths of the world is illiterate, Jack decided "I wanted to make this number smaller."

Instead of just talking about the problem, Jack decided to do something about it. He played a leading role in forming the Building with Books chapter at Central Middle School, helping to attract members to the club, setting goals, and putting together fundraisers. During its first year, the club hosted school parties and ran an after-school snack cart that helped to raise over \$4,000 to help build a school in Mali. The club also performed other good works, such as making blankets

for children in Africa and visiting nursing home residents during the holidays.

It is really impressive, how much community service Jack has performed at such a young age. I attribute this to the remarkable attitude he has demonstrated with his work. When Jack learned about the problem of widespread illiteracy in the world, his immediate response was to do something about it. He rolled up his sleeves and went to work. His hard work and willingness to sacrifice his time and effort for others serves as an inspiration for people of all ages. It is young people such as Jack that give me such great hope in the future of our country.

In recognition of his achievements, Jack will be invited to Washington in early May with 101 other 2006 Spirit of Community honorees from across the country who were selected from a pool of several thousand nominees. While in Washington, 10 of the honorees will be selected as America's top youth volunteers of the year by a distinguished national selection committee cochaired by 2 of my distinguished colleagues, Senator TIM JOHNSON of South Dakota and Senator SAXBY CHAMBLISS of Georgia.

I wish Jack the best of luck, both with this award and in all his future endeavors. I would like to end my remarks, Mr. President, by thanking Jack Applebaum for the all of his volunteer service and all of the volunteer service I am sure he will continue to perform in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO RONALD H. FRANCIS OF COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor in the RECORD of the Senate my friend Ron Francis, who is a great Georgian, a great American, and a great citizen of Cobb County. I honor Ron upon his retirement from the Bank of North Georgia after 37 remarkable years in the banking industry and for his many contributions to the quality of life in Cobb County, Georgia.

Ron received a bachelor of arts degree in sociology from Eckerd College and an MBA in finance from Georgia State University. He entered the field of banking in 1969 with Trust Company bank of Atlanta, now SunTrust. Following 5 years at SunTrust, he joined the former First Bank & Trust Co. as executive vice president, where he served for 9 years. In 1983, Ron was an organizing director, president and CEO of The Chattahoochee Bank, serving there for 6 years. In 1989, he joined Charter Bank & Trust Co. during its inaugural year and served as its president and CEO for 15 years. Charter Bank, along with Mountain National Bank, joined Bank of North Georgia in July 2004, where Ron now serves as vice chairman.

In addition to his impressive career in community banking, Ron has a long history of community involvement in my hometown of Marietta, GA, where he is a well-respected and dedicated

leader. He currently serves on the board of directors of the Marietta Re-development Corporation and the Marietta Country Club. He is a trustee of the Kennesaw State University Foundation and an executive committee member of the Georgia Council on Economic Education. Ron is also a member of the Chairman's Club of the Cobb Chamber of Commerce and the Governor's Board of Leadership Cobb.

In 2004, Ron was named "Marietta Citizen of the Year" by the Cobb Chamber of Commerce, and in 1997-1998 he served his professional peers and industry as chairman of the Georgia Bankers Association. As a businessman, Ron Francis personifies the values of honesty and hard work.

Retirement may not be the appropriate announcement because Ron has not "retired" from his commitment to his community, and he hopefully never will. He also will continue to serve the Bank of North Georgia as a consultant.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure and it is a privilege to recognize on the floor of the U.S. Senate the contributions of Ronald H. Francis to the city of Marietta, Cobb County, and the State of Georgia.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 10:48 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 2271. An act to clarify that individuals who receive FISA orders can challenge nondisclosure requirements, that individuals who receive national security letters are not required to disclose the name of their attorney, that libraries are not wire or electronic communication service providers unless they provide specific services, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3199. An act to extend and modify authorities needed to combat terrorism, and for other purposes.

At 1:01 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 1578. An act to reauthorize the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basin endangered fish recovery implementation programs.

S. 2089. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1271 North King Street in Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii, as the "Hiram L. Fong Post Office Building".

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3934. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 80 Killian Road in Massapequa, New York, as the "Gerard A. Fiorenza Post Office Building".

H.R. 4054. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located

at 6110 East 51st Place in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the "Dewey F. Bartlett Post Office".

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 32) to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide criminal penalties for trafficking in counterfeit marks".

At 4:23 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1053. An act to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Ukraine.

The message also announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 6968(a), and the order of the House of December 18, 2005, the Speaker appoints the following member of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy to fill the existing vacancy thereon: Mr. Kline of Minnesota.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 4:37 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1578. An act to reauthorize the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basin endangered fish recovery implementation programs.

S. 2089. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1271 North King Street in Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii, as the "Hiram L. Fong Post Office Building".

H.R. 32. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide criminal penalties for trafficking in counterfeit marks.

H.R. 1287. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 312 East North Avenue in Flora, Illinois, as the "Robert T. Ferguson Post Office Building".

H.R. 2113. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2000 McDonough Street in Joliet, Illinois, as the "John F. Whiteside Joliet Post Office Building".

H.R. 2346. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 105 NW Railroad Avenue in Hammond, Louisiana, as the "John J. Hainkel Post Office Building".

H.R. 2413. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1202 1st Street in Humble, Texas, as the "Lillian McKay Post Office Building".

H.R. 2630. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1927 Sangamon Avenue in Springfield, Illinois, as the "J.M. Dietrich Northeast Annex".

H.R. 2894. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 102 South Walters Avenue in Hodgenville, Kentucky, as the "Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Post Office Building".

H.R. 3256. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3038 West Liberty Avenue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the "Congressman James Grove Fulton Memorial Post Office Building".