

is up. And the school climate has improved. The Bullying Prevention Program has been featured in local newspaper stories. High school students have come to Washington Elementary to perform skits on the bullying theme, and this May the CLIMB Theater group completed a 3-day residency on bullying.

In addition, the school can take pride in its Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment test scores. Last year, the school received four-star ratings in both reading and math from the Minnesota Department of Education.

Much of the credit for Washington Elementary School's success belongs to its principal, Randy Thudin, and to the dedicated teachers. The pupils and staff at Washington Elementary School understand that in order to be successful a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where students can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and pupils at Washington Elementary School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Washington Elementary School in Cloquet for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota. ●

#### TRIBUTE TO JACK MICHAELS

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Jack Michaels, a decorated veteran and a lifelong advocate for veterans and disabled persons and their families all over the country. It has been my sincere pleasure to work with him to forward these efforts and I wish him all the best in his retirement from his post as Executive Director of the Northwest Paralyzed Veterans Association. His remarkable record of service reminds us all that one person's efforts can improve the lives of many.

The effects of Jack's advocacy can be felt in many ways. Jack served courageously as a Captain in the United States Army from 1966 to 1971 and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, a Purple Heart, and other honors. After being shot down in combat and incurring a severe spinal cord injury, Jack realized his service to the United States was far from over; rather, it was just beginning.

We see Jack's influence in our national civil rights legislation. During Jack's tenure as the National President of Paralyzed Veterans of America, he worked tirelessly to facilitate the passage of landmark civil rights legislation, the Americans with Disabilities Act.

We see Jack's influence in the Puget Sound area. He provides expertise in accessibility and has served on public projects including Safeco Field, Seahawks Stadium, Benayora and McCaw Halls, and Seattle's new City Hall and Regional Justice Center, just to name a few. His leadership enabled

the Northwest Paralyzed Veterans Association to provide expertise to enable Amtrak's Cascades to become the first fully accessible train in America. His continued efforts to make SeaTac International Airport more accessible for the disabled will result in a new over-sized disabled passenger vehicle parking lot to be dedicated by Memorial Day this spring.

We see Jack's influence in Seattle's public transportation system. While working with the Washington Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities, of which he was a co-founder, and the Northwest Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America, which he founded, Jack advocated for a totally accessible public transit system, which became a reality at King's County METRO 20 years later.

We see Jack's influence in the lives of hundreds of disabled veterans, for whom he has delivered, often personally, adaptive equipment in a donation program he created that provides free wheelchairs and hospital beds to those in need.

Throughout his service and advocacy, Jack never forgot his brothers and sisters in arms, both past and present. Through his words and his works, Jack constantly reminded American policymakers and citizens alike of the bravery, honor, and sacrifice military service entails. He reminded us of our national obligation to take care of our veteran population and to create a system with the capacity to provide for future veterans. He reminds us that the absolute least we can do to thank the courageous men and women who put their lives in jeopardy every day to protect our rights is provide for them and their families when their service is complete. With the aging Vietnam and Korean war veteran population and ever growing number of Iraq veterans returning home, it is on all of us to continue Jack's work for veterans and never to forget the example he set.

You might notice the frequent use of a single word throughout this recounting of Jack's military and civilian experience: served. Jack dedicated his life to service, first when he volunteered for the Army, then in countless other volunteer and advocacy endeavors. He gave his time and expertise in exchange for the satisfaction of effecting change and improving the lives of others, many of whom he may never meet. Rather than react with anger or despair to his harrowing combat injury, Jack treated it as a call to action. Jack's work has given opportunity to thousands of veterans and disabled Americans and left a legacy of service that will continue to touch lives for decades to come. ●

#### WEBSTER, SOUTH DAKOTA, CELEBRATES 125TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Webster, SD. The town of Webster will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Day County, Webster was founded in 1881 and named after one of its first settlers, J.B. Webster. Webster has been a successful and thriving community for the past 125 years, and I am confident that it will continue to serve as an example of South Dakota values and traditions for the next 125 years.

I offer my congratulations to Webster on their anniversary and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come. ●

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7601. A communication from the United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a free trade agreement between the United States and the Republic of Peru; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7602. A communication from the Regulations Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Supplemental Security Income; Collection of Overdue Program and Administrative Debts Using Federal Salary Offset" (RIN0960-AE89) received on July 17, 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7603. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Effect of Elections in Certain Multi-Step Transactions" ((RIN1545-BB68)(TD 9271)) received on July 13, 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7604. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Field Directive on Asset Class and Depreciation for Casino Construction Costs" received on July 13, 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7605. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disclosure of Return Information by Certain Officers and Employees for Investigative Purposes" ((RIN1545-BB16)(TD 9274)) received on July 13, 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7606. A communication from the Interim Staff Director, United States Sentencing Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's 2005 Annual Report and Sourcebook of Federal Sentencing Statistics; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7607. A communication from the Deputy Director, Regulations and Rulings Division, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of the Saddle Rock-Malibu Viticultural Areas" ((RIN1513-AB15)(T.D. TTB-52)) received on July 18, 2006; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7608. A communication from the Deputy Director, Regulations and Rulings Division, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of the Alta Mesa, Borden Ranch, Clements Hills, Cosumnes River, Jahant, Mokelumne River, and Sloughhouse Viticultural Areas"