

RETIREMENT OF MARTY BERMAN

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the Senate community is losing a longtime and valued employee. After 18 years of loyal and distinguished service, Marty Berman is retiring from the Senate Recording Studio. Marty played an integral part in the television broadcast of the Senate's proceedings and in helping facilitate the audio and video needs of Senators and their staffs.

His service to his country really started 45 years ago. Marty served faithfully, enlisting twice in a military career that began when he was 17 and lasted 6 years from 1961 to 1967. Before leaving the military he was a communications specialist with duty in Vietnam.

Marty brought extensive television experience to his job at SRS. In the private sector he worked at Satellite News Network, CNN, and finally at CBS. His work for Charles Kuralt and CBS Sunday Morning was nominated for an Emmy. A 13-minute-long story he had photographed was aired, which is the television equivalent of a long book.

His career at the recording studio began in 1988 where he quickly came to specialize in audio operations. However, his contributions were not just technical. He also had just the right personal touch with Senators. It isn't always easy to get up in front of TV cameras and lights to speak, even for Senators, but Marty had the ability to put any Senator at ease. When floor directing, he spoke to each Senator easily and with warmth, and they trusted him. He was never intimidated but he was always respectful.

Marty can be a bit feisty, but his bark is much worse than his bite. To those who have gotten to know him, he is warm and caring, too.

Marty ended where he had started, working the Senate television shift. In 18 years he braved many long days and late nights through the Senate's always unpredictable schedule. Throughout his time at the studio, Marty could always be counted on to be at his post. That included his work as chief STV audio operator where for most days during his shift he started up in the audio booth, assuring that the Senators could always be heard in the Chamber and on television.

Marty has two grown sons, Eric and Alex. The two have been the pride of his life and have become responsible and caring adults. His marriage to Darlene has brought him much happiness. Both share the same three hobbies: antique collecting, antique collecting and more antique collecting. Their home is a somewhat cluttered but fascinating museum of American Western and American Indian artifacts, pottery, Big Little Books and just about anything else you can think of. Last but not least, there are four others who hold a place in his heart. They are Hoover the yellow lab, Clarence the basset hound, Crystal the cat, and Birdie the cockatiel. Birdie likes to lie back and

listen to the blues with Marty and Darlene and can even whistle "Bridge on the River Kwai."

Marty's unique personality, loyalty, and dedication will be missed. We all join to wish Marty the best as he begins this next adventure in his life and know he will enjoy the newfound time for family, friends, pets, and antique collecting.

CARL PERKINS CAREER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION IM-
PROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I rise today to support final passage of S. 250, the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act. This legislation represents a bipartisan effort to enhance and strengthen career and technical education programs across the United States.

In my home State of Nevada, career and technical education programs enjoy strong support. Recently, career and technical educators from across the State came together to come up with common course standards for students that focus on certain career and technical education programs. Nevada also has a Career and Technical Education Plan that links these course standards with the academic requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act.

I have always supported the Perkins Career and Technical Education Program because I believe that these programs often catch students that slip through the cracks in traditional education programs. Career and technical education programs provide students with real world applications for what they are learning in the classroom. Students in Nevada have the opportunity to work with state-of-the-art technology in their classrooms to learn the skills they need in the workforce. Too often these are students that would have dropped out of school had career and technical education courses not been available.

During the conference committee on this important legislation, I was honored to work with my colleagues to strengthen this legislation. We worked to ensure that career and technical education programs have strong performance indicators that are linked to meet industry standards as well as academic achievement. The tech-prep grant program was maintained as a separate program to encourage continued innovation in career and technical education programs. This legislation also encourages states to develop articulation agreements and sequences of courses, something Nevada has already worked hard to develop. Finally, this legislation recognizes the importance of strong partnerships between high schools and institutions of higher education that support these programs.

During the conference I worked hard to ensure that funding for the Perkins programs continued to flow to fast-growing States. It is vitally important that funding follow students to their

new homes. To that end, we maintained the current hold harmless level at the 1998 level. This allows millions of dollars to move from State to State according to student population counts. As a Senator for one of the fastest growing States in the country, it is my duty to ensure that each of the children in Nevada, whether they were born in Nevada or just recently moved there, are accounted for when Federal funds are allocated to States.

I am pleased that all of my colleagues supported final passage, and look forward to working with career and technical educators in Nevada to implement this important law.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to applaud the passage of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006. Perkins, the Federal Government's largest investment in our Nation's high schools, provides critical resources for students pursuing career and technical education at the secondary and postsecondary levels. Although the President has proposed eliminating the program in recent budget requests, Perkins has enjoyed a long history of bipartisan support. More than 11 million students are currently enrolled in some form of career and technical education and I am confident this reauthorization will improve the programs and services available to help them realize their goals.

I am particularly heartened by this bill's heightened focus on individualized student counseling and the use of graduation and career plans. For too many students, high school graduation and postsecondary education seem out of reach. That is why I have introduced my Pathways for All Students to Succeed, PASS, Act. The PASS Act provides assistance for schools to hire and train mathematics and literacy coaches; supports the collection and reporting of accurate graduation rates; and targets funding for struggling schools to implement reforms. It also dedicates resources to increase the number of academic counselors working in schools. Research has shown that providing early high school students with guidance boosts the likelihood that they will graduate with a diploma. Early, individualized planning also helps students obtain the coursework and training they need to achieve their professional aspirations. I applaud the increased focus on individualized student counseling and planning in Perkins, which will reach career and technical education students earlier in their schooling and put them on a track to graduate.

This Perkins reauthorization retains and strengthens the Tech Prep program, which encourages states to design and implement innovative programs that combine secondary and postsecondary activities into a coherent set of courses. In my home State of Washington, it is estimated that workforce training at community and technical colleges increases a student's lifetime earnings by more than \$150,000.