

children take after reading each book. For their efforts, pupils earn points, which they can then spend at the AR store twice a year.

Parents' involvement is another reason for Lakeview Elementary's exceptional performance. This fall, 99.6 percent of all parents attended their child's conferences. Parents are also very active in both the Lakeville Elementary Volunteer Organization and in the Parent Advisory Council. Last year, LEVO raised over \$17,900 to improve the educational program, providing a poetry residency for all pupils, funding two assembly presentations, purchasing lap-top computers for the children's use, providing funds for transportation for all field trips, expanding the number of AR tests available, and funding the new art bulletin boards.

Lakeview Elementary stresses the importance of being a good citizen through service projects. Last year, the children adopted an elementary school in Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and held a fundraiser to buy school supplies and coats for the displaced children. This service project created a strong bond between the two schools, and the children communicated with their counterparts throughout the school year. The children also held a fund drive for the Pennies for Patients Children's Leukemia Campaign for which they raised more than \$2,600.

Lakeview Elementary School has consistently been ranked a Minnesota five-star school over the past few years, recognized for excellence by the Minnesota Department of Education.

Much of the credit for Lakeview Elementary School's success belongs to its principal, Terry Lind, and the dedicated teachers. The children and staff at Lakeview 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 children can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and pupils at Lakeview Elementary School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

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

SCHOOLCRAFT LEARNING COMMUNITY, BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I honor Schoolcraft Learning Community, in Bemidji, MN, which will soon receive an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Schoolcraft Learning Community is truly a model of educational success. The school, which is designed according to the principles of "service and compassion," uses learning through

service as a supplement to scholarly study to deepen intellectual growth, build character, and contribute to the community in a meaningful way. The school views combining service with study as a powerful motivator for giving young people a purpose to learn. In the context of service work, students writing a letter, making a brochure, or creating a book are encouraged to perform at a higher level because the audience is a real one and because students have an authentic reason to communicate.

An integral part of the Schoolcraft culture is the weekly conflict management/resolution class, which teaches peacekeeping skills. A group of 29 students, part of a Students Teaching Attitudes of Respect—STAR—team, visits other schools to promote conflict resolution skills.

Schoolcraft deepens educational opportunities through a half-year integrated unit of study during which a student conducts an in-depth investigation of a theme or topic through authentic research, projects, field work, service, and reflection.

The success of Schoolcraft Learning Community is reflected in the students' development into self-directed, lifelong learners who have the skills and knowledge to navigate confidently and compassionately in the world. The school's strong test scores have also been recognized by the Minnesota Department of Education; in 2006, Schoolcraft Learning Community received four stars in reading from the department.

Much of the credit for Schoolcraft Learning Community's success belongs to its director and superintendent, Scott Anderson, and the dedicated teachers. The students and staff at Schoolcraft Learning Community 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 students at Schoolcraft Learning Community should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Schoolcraft Learning Community in Bemidji for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

TRIBUTE TO CAROLE KELL OF COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute in the RECORD of the Senate to my friend Carole Kell, who is a great Georgian, a great American, and a great citizen of Cobb County. Next week Carole will be honored by the Cobb Chamber of Commerce as the East Cobb Citizen of the Year for her many contributions to the quality of life in Cobb County, GA.

Carole has a long and distinguished record as an educator in Cobb County,

where she has lived for over 40 years. During her career, she served as the principal of Dickerson Middle School and Hightower Trail Middle School. I believe education is the most important thing we can provide for our children and for our country's future, and I commend Carole for her dedication to the success of her students over the years.

Carole also has a long history of community involvement in my hometown of Marietta, GA, where she is a well-respected and dedicated leader. Although Carole has retired from the workforce, she has not "retired" from her commitment to her community. Hopefully, she never will.

Carole is a longstanding member of the board of directors of the Cobb YMCA and the Business Education Steering Committee of the Cobb Chamber of Commerce. She is the chair of the Committee for Election of the Cobb County Commission and chair of the Wellstar Cancer Council.

Carole also serves on the advisory board for Johnson Ferry Community Bank of the South, the Cobb and Douglas Board of Health, and the Cobb and Douglas Community Services Board. In addition, she is a member of the Cobb County Republican Women's Club and a board member of the Cobb Boys and Girls Club as well as a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Kell High School, which is named after her late husband.

Carole was an active member of Marietta Baptist Church, where she taught Sunday School for children, sang in the adult choir, and helped with the children's choir. She is currently a member of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church. Carole has also raised funds over the years for the American Cancer Society, the Leukemia Society, and the American Heart Association.

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 Carole Kell to Cobb County and the State of Georgia.●

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORCHARD HOUSE

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I speak today in honor of The Orchard House Adult Day Center and its hardworking and dedicated staff on the occasion of their 25th anniversary.

For the past 25 years, Orchard House has been serving the needs of the elderly and the disabled, with loving care. The center has provided medical monitoring, recreational therapeutic treatment, and innovative programs to the mentally and physically challenged adults of the Connecticut community. Hundreds of families from the greater New Haven area have been granted respite at the Orchard House and both the State and the Nation have recognized Orchard House with awards for service and humanitarianism.

The Orchard House's dedication and commitment to the citizens of Connecticut can be seen not only through

its continued efforts to provide clients and families with comfort and support but also in its Intergenerational Program, a program designed to involve children from various local schools in the area, in activities at the center. Considering this, it is no wonder that Governor M. Jodi Rell has called Orchard House “a jewel of the Connecticut shoreline.”

I am confident that I speak for all the citizens of Connecticut in expressing pride and gratitude for the Orchard House Adult Day Center as it celebrates its 25th anniversary. The executive director, Thomas Russell Romano, and his staff have committed themselves to providing much needed care and treatment for the people of Connecticut.●

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL BENJAMIN J. SPRAGGINS

● Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I wish to take this opportunity to recognize and say farewell to an outstanding Air Force officer, BG Benjamin J. Spraggins, upon his retirement from the Air Force after more than 34 years of service. Throughout his career, Brigadier General Spraggins has served with distinction, and it is my privilege to recognize his many accomplishments and commend him for his service to the Air Force, the Congress, and our grateful Nation.

Brigadier General Spraggins is a longtime resident of my home State and devoted public servant of Harrison County, MS. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force on March 17, 1972. After over 6 years of successful enlisted service, reaching the grade of technical sergeant, Brigadier General Spraggins received his commission from the Academy of Military Science, McGhee Tyson, TN. Following graduation from Officer Candidate School, Brigadier General Spraggins completed aviation school at Mather Air Force Base, CA, and RF-4C training at Shaw, Air Force Base, SC. Brigadier General Spraggins was then stationed with the 187th Transport Ready Group at Dannelly Field, AL, flying the RF-4C fighter aircraft. While stationed in 187th, Brigadier General Spraggins served in many critical positions including instructor, scheduling officer and assistant chief of standards and evaluations. He was a weapon systems officer in the RF-4C from 1979–1983 and a weapons system instructor in the F-4D from 1983–1988 at the 187th Fighter Wing. Brigadier General Spraggins completed his military flying career with over 2,500 hours in the T-37, T-43, RF-4C, and F-4D aircraft.

On September 23, 1987, Brigadier General Spraggins was assigned to the Combat Readiness Training Center, Gulfport, MS. During his tenure at the training center, he served in various positions including range control officer, director of operations, operations group commander, and finally as commander of the Combat Readiness

Training Center. As commander, Brigadier General Spraggins was responsible for operations and training of over 20,000 military personnel annually and provided oversight for a \$75 million dollar budget.

Concurrently, Brigadier General Spraggins was sent to Andrews Air Force Base, DC, in 2002 to run the Crisis Action Team for the Air National Guard. In 2003, he also served as the interim commander of the 186th Air Refueling Wing where he was responsible for operations of KC-135 aircraft wing, with over 1,000 personnel and oversight of a \$48 million dollar annual budget. He was the first member of the Mississippi Air National Guard to simultaneously command two major units, the Combat Readiness Training Center and the 186th Air Refueling Wing.

Brigadier General Spraggins was assigned to the Tennessee Air National Guard in November 2005 as the chief of staff. In this capacity he was responsible to the adjutant general for readiness of Tennessee's three flying wings and three mission support units. In addition to duties as chief of staff, Brigadier General Spraggins also served as the air deputy commander, joint forces Headquarters, Tennessee National Guard. Brigadier General Spraggins was also attached as the battle commander for Air Force North, Tyndall AFB, FL. In this capacity he was responsible for ensuring the air sovereignty and air defense of the continental United States.

During his long and distinguished career, Brigadier General Spraggins successfully completed Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff, and the Air War College with the Air University. His decorations and awards include Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Mississippi Magnolia Cross, Tennessee Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Readiness Medal, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal and the Air Force Training Ribbon.

Upon the retirement of Brigadier General Spraggins after 34 years of dedicated service, I offer my congratulations to him and his wife Judy. Brigadier General Spraggins is a credit to both the Air Force and the United States of America. I know that I speak for all my colleagues in expressing heartfelt appreciation to him. I wish Brigadier General Spraggins blue skies and safe landings and congratulate him on completion of an outstanding and successful career.●

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID K. (BOB) EDMONDS

● Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize an outstanding officer upon his retirement from the U.S. Air Force. Brigadier General David K. “Bob” Edmonds will retire on February 1, 2007, after almost 28 years of

service. His successes and accomplishments have been significant and many. He has been recognized by his superiors and subordinates alike for his ability to motivate and lead teams and mentor future leaders. Today, it is my pleasure to recognize some of General Edmond's many accomplishments and commend his service to the Air Force, the Congress, and our grateful Nation.

Brigadier General Edmonds was born and raised in Charlotte, NC. He graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1979 as a distinguished graduate and the top cadet in the civil engineering major. He was selected for a Guggenheim Fellowship at Columbia University and graduated in May 1980 with a master of science degree in civil engineering. He began his Active Duty career at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, where he completed undergraduate pilot training as a distinguished graduate and was selected to fly the F-15 Eagle. He has served in numerous flying positions throughout his career, both as an instructor pilot and a commander, and led 45 combat missions with the 53rd Tactical Fighter Squadron during Operation Desert Storm. He is a command pilot with over 2500 flight hours and 300 combat hours.

General Edmonds' last assignment was deputy director for operations, National Military Command Center, the Joint Staff, Pentagon, where he led a team that performed initial analysis of developing military and political situations worldwide for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of Defense, and President of the United States. He also performed nuclear watch in conjunction with the North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Strategic Command and was ready to advise the President on available courses of action and transmit the President's nuclear decisions.

We especially remember General Edmonds' his service to the Congress as the Deputy Director for Air Force Legislative Liaison from 2003 to 2004 and as the Chief of Air Force Senate Liaison from 2001 to 2003. During these tours of duty, he was responsible for articulating Air Force priorities and programs to members and their staffs and responding to congressional inquiries regarding a broad range of issues.

From 1999 to 2001, General Edmonds was the 16th commander of the 131st Fighter Wing, St. Louis, MO, where he uniquely served as an Active Duty officer commanding an Air National Guard Wing. He had great success leading the Wing to achieve and maintain air superiority with the F-15 Eagle aircraft and, accordingly, was awarded the 2001 Executive of the Year for the St. Louis metropolitan region. Prior to assuming this command, he was the chief, Joint Requirements Division in the Directorate of Force Structure, Resources, and Assessments, J-8, Joint Staff, at the Pentagon. In June 1997, he graduated from the National War College as a Distinguished Graduate. From 1995 to