

to improve their preparation through a focus on raising Indiana's K-12 academic standards. More recently, Stan has led a comprehensive campaign to significantly increase college graduation rates in Indiana.

On a personal note, I have known Stan Jones for nearly 25 years. I am personally grateful to have had the benefit of Stan's wisdom for all these years.

Throughout his public career, Stan has been a tireless advocate for moving educational policy issues to the forefront of Indiana's political agenda. On behalf of all Hoosiers, we thank Stan for a job well done, for his passion and commitment to education, and above all, for his service to the people of Indiana.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL THOMAS L. CARTER

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an outstanding military leader, public servant, true patriot, and citizen of Charleston, SC: MG Thomas L. Carter.

General Carter is currently the Mobilization Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force, and on May 1, after nearly 35 years of distinguished and honorable service, General Carter will retire from the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

General Carter began his active duty service in 1975 after graduating from the ROTC program at Memphis State University. As an Air Force C-141 pilot he flew over 4,000 hours performing missions in support of the U.S. Special Forces. He also had the distinction of serving as the Air Force Aide to President Ronald Reagan from 1984 to 1986, where he spent countless hours with the President "carrying the football" at the height of the Cold War. Following his active duty career, he served 23 years in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

General Carter's public service also extends to the Senate. From 1986 to 1989 he served as Assistant to the Republican Leader for National Security Affairs in the Office of Senator Robert Dole. His keen understanding of the Senate made him the leader's chief adviser on defense, foreign policy and veterans' affairs matters, and also resulted in his selection as a key member of Senator Dole's 1996 Presidential campaign.

General Carter's legislative prowess was so respected, that he left the Senate to assume the role of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Senate Affairs in 1989. In that capacity, he counseled the Department of Defense leadership and individual service executives on issues before Congress.

For 13 years, General Carter also served in the Secretary of Air Force's Office of Legislative Liaison, advising numerous Secretaries on government affairs matters. He also trained countless Air Force officers in the ways of Washington, DC. His trademark was his commitment to providing each new assignee to the office with his "Hill

101" where military officers, and many times new congressional staff, would be given the secrets to success for navigating the legislative branch. Many of those he mentored have gone on to tremendous success in the public and private sector, due in large part to General Carter's tutelage.

In 2003, General Carter was named Assistant to the Chairman for Government Affairs during the Columbia Accident Investigation Board. He also served as a civilian in the Department of Defense as a member of the Senior Executive Service while Senior Counselor to the Coalition Provisional Authority—CPA—from 2003-2004. In that capacity, he led numerous congressional delegations through areas of ongoing combat operations including visits to Baghdad, Mosul, Tikrit and Fallujah.

The Nation will miss General Carter's congressional expertise, tireless advocacy for the Air Force, and unwavering commitment to public service. However, I know he will continue to serve his Nation wherever he goes. Tom is the proud father of Kathryn, 28, Will, 26, and Mary-Lee, 15. I am proud to speak on behalf of a grateful Nation in saying thank you to General Carter for his years of service and sacrifice.

I hope my colleagues will join me in wishing him well in all his future endeavors and hope that those who follow in his footsteps will continue his legacy of selfless dedication to our great Nation. Good luck and Godspeed.●

#### 135TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SCHOOL SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, today I honor the School Sisters of St. Francis which will be celebrating 135 years of service in Milwaukee on April 24, 2009. I want to share with my colleagues a bit of background on the Sisters and call attention to the pivotal role they play in Milwaukee's faith community.

The School Sisters of St. Francis was founded in 1874 in Wisconsin by three courageous women Emma Franziska, Mother Alexia; Paulina Schmid, Mother Alfons; and Helena Seiter, Sister Clara. A year prior, these women left Germany and came to the United States to fulfill their dream of founding a Franciscan religious order.

Their central mission was to help their fellow immigrants and address the need for service within the Church. Their dedication to helping others has culminated in a network of Sisters who always strive to respond to the times they are in, and to the needs of the people whose lives are affected by their inspiring work.

Today that spirit lives on with Sisters, associates, staff, and volunteers in India, Europe, Latin America and the United States. The Sisters continually demonstrate their compassion for others and have often been recognized for their pioneering spirit and innovation in education, health care, pastoral

ministry, and the arts. Their outstanding work promotes human dignity, justice, and outreach to the poor. It is with great pride that the people of Wisconsin wish the School Sisters of St. Francis a happy 135th anniversary and continued success as they carry out their mission in Wisconsin and across the globe.●

#### TRIBUTE TO VICKIE VANZANDT AND STEVE HICKOK

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Vickie VanZandt and Steve Hickok for their exemplary record of public service to the Bonneville Power Administration, the people of Washington State, and the Pacific Northwest.

Vickie VanZandt retired on March 28, 2009 after 35 years with the Bonneville Power Administration. She most recently served as Bonneville's transmission business line senior vice president. As the senior executive, Vickie assured the transmission grid operated safely and reliably in order to provide power to over 12 million customers. Her work involved coordinating and setting policy for transmissions system planning, design, construction, operations, and maintenance—clearly, no small feat.

Vickie graduated magna cum laude from the University of Washington's School of Engineering, is a registered engineer, and is a member of Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society. She has been a board member of the Western Regional Transmission Association, past president of the Northwest Regional Transmission Association, and has chaired the arbitration committees of both of these organizations. At the request of the Department of Energy, she also chaired the Operations Team investigating the East Coast Blackout of August 13, 2003.

Steve Hickok, Bonneville Power Administration's deputy administrator, retired on April 4, 2009, after 27 years of faithful service. Previous to his time with Bonneville, Steve served on the staff of my former colleague, Senator Mark Hatfield, as well as with the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Appropriations. His experience here in the Senate served him well, and at Bonneville, Steve has served as the assistant administrator for conservation and renewable resources development, the chief operating officer, and the group vice president for sales and customer service. He was appointed as the deputy administrator, the organization's second highest-ranking position, in 2001.

Steve graduated with honors from Pomona College in Claremont, CA, and is also a graduate of the Stanford Executive Program. He has received many awards during his time at Bonneville, including the Secretary of Energy's Meritorious Service Award and the prestigious Presidential Rank Award, which he earned in both 1992 and 2000.