principal is not the same as for a teacher. A principal must be able to set the agenda for learning for not only the students but for teachers and other staff as well. He or she is in charge of not only the safety, well-being, and future of the children in the school but must also guide and inspire the staff. The principal must be a diplomat, bring the community into the school, satisfy the taxpayer, and meet the needs of the school. The principal must mediate, command, and inspire any number of groups on any given day. The best of them are often taken for granted because everything just works. So I encourage my colleagues and the Nation to include in their appreciative thoughts this week our schools' hard-working, multitasking educational leaders—our Nation's principals.

In closing, as my colleagues here in the Senate consider, applaud, and recognize the hard work of the many Americans who work every day to make our schools the best, I would also encourage them to do their part. As you know, the Senate HELP Committee continues to work toward reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. I look forward to continuing and completing that work next year. We know that this law's goal is to help ensure that every single child in every community across the country has the opportunity and the tools to succeed, that is, that every child will fulfill his or her potential regardless of wealth, ethnicity, disability, or location. We all want that. Regardless of our views on the role or the degree of the role the Federal Government should play in our Nation's schools—whether we think Federal funding should come with the strings of accountability or not and to what degree—I hope we can all agree on one thing, and that is the proud tradition of bipartisanship we and our predecessors have achieved when it comes to education issues. We may disagree about our points of view, but in the end the final product is one most of us have been able to support.

I hope that as we observe American Education Week and in the days and months to come our Nation's children as well as the adults can look back at us with pride and say we got something good done for the country through civility, cooperation, bipartisanship, and a genuine love for our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO COL MICHAEL J. JENSEN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a truly exceptional Iowan. After more than 31 years of honorable military service, in November of this year, COL Michael J. Jensen is set to retire. His dedication and tireless devotion to the service of our great country is without question. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to COL Mike Jensen.

Colonel Jensen was born in Estherville, IA. He attended and graduated from Estherville Community High School in 1975, received an associate of science degree in computer science from Iowa Lakes Community College, a bachelor of arts degree in business management from Buena Vista University, and a master's degree in public administration from Drake University. Colonel Jensen also attended General Staff College, where he was the distinguished honor graduate.

Mike Jensen enlisted in C Battery 1st Battalion 194th Field Artillery on June 14th, 1979. He was commissioned a second lieutenant, Field Artillery, in June 1982 and graduated from the Iowa Military Academy Officer Candidate School at Camp Dodge in Johnston, IA. Duty assignments over his career include a number of positions in the 1–194th Field Artillery, 34th Infantry Division; Recruiting and Retention; the Secretary of General Staff; and Director of Military Support. In 2006, Colonel Jensen assumed his current position as the Commander of the Counterdrug Task Force, Iowa National Guard.

Over his admirable military career, Mike Jensen received a number of awards and decorations, including seven awards of the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal, and the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal. Colonel Jensen is also an accomplished outdoorsman and avid fisherman.

Congratulations again to COL Michael Jensen. The Iowa National Guard will no doubt miss his daily contributions; however he continues as a model of honorable and distinguished service to his country. I thank him for his unwavering commitment to Iowa and to the United States of America.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE VOICES OF UNITY YOUTH CHOIR

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, today I honor the Voices of Unity Youth Choir of Fort Wayne, IN, for outstanding achievement this past year at the sixth World Choir Games in Shaoxing, China.

The Voices of Unity Youth Choir was the first Indiana choir invited to participate in the World Choir Games, the world's largest choir competition. Known as the Choir Olympics, this year's contest featured more than 400 choirs comprised of 27,000 singers from 80 countries around the world.

One of only six American youth choirs invited to China, Voices of Unity won gold medals in two musical categories: popular choral music and gospel and spiritual. In addition, these Hoosiers won the title of World Grand Champion in the gospel and spiritual category.

Voices of Unity benefitted tremendously from the support of the Fort Wayne community who gave time and money to ensure these students had the opportunity to travel to China and share their talent with the world. In just 5 short months, Voices of Unity raised enough money to send 101 students and volunteers to China for the competition.

I particularly want to recognize Marshall White, founder of Unity Performing Arts Foundation, the home of Voices of Unity, for his tireless leadership.

I am honored to congratulate the World Champion Voices of Unity Youth Choir of Fort Wayne for this extraordinary achievement and for the teamwork, discipline, and hard work it takes to become champions.•

REMEMBERING HELEN McKINNEY

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I honor the life of Helen McKinney. I join with her family and many friends in mourning her passing. Helen has been a great source of support and encouragement to me and many others. The peace of mind that Helen provided me and others is immeasurable. Helen took on challenges with good humor and cheer. Helen had passion and strength that far exceeded her physical presence. Her energy and enthusiasm were inspiring. She was a steadfast, giving, driven, kindhearted, and focused leader. She was very firm but tactful.

Throughout her life, Helen was a hard worker. She has rightly been described as being able to do everything. When you look at the variety of jobs and tasks she took on, this could not be more accurate. In the 1940s, she worked in the newspaper business. Helen also taught junior high. In the 1970s, she directed the Caldwell Chamber of Commerce. Helen served in the Idaho House of Representatives. She also was a member of the Idaho Judicial Council. Additionally, Helen is widely known for her efforts with the Canyon County Republican Party. Helen served as regional chair. She also served as a national convention delegate and State and precinct committeewoman. Her great service and hard work have been recognized through her induction into the Idaho Republican Party's Hall of Fame.

No matter the task, Helen did her work very well. She was straightforward, diligent, and determined. Helen had an abundance of light and intelligence of hope in her eyes. She was serious and paid attention to details. However, she never lost her sense of humor, and her positive outlook dominated her personality. When Helen spoke, people listened. She also did not hide her talents. She openly shared and mentored others. She was bold in defending her principles, but she was also gracious. Helen truly reflected Idaho values and the constitutional values of a land she loved so much.

I will greatly miss Helen, and I will never forget her thoughtful support and genuine example.•