

Cedarville Elementary School has made great strides in these areas.

Cedarville Elementary School is dedicated to combining quality education with innovative community involvement. By collaborating with community partners in Fort Wayne, Cedarville imparts on students not only the value of a great education, but also how to foster strong relationships for the future. These teaching methods have led Cedarville Elementary School to consistently achieve both an A-rating and a four star designation from the Indiana Department of Education. With hard work, Cedarville Elementary will continue to help build a stronger and better Indiana.

I would like to acknowledge Principal Bradley R. Bakle of Cedarville Elementary School, the entire staff, and the student body. It undoubtedly took hard work and dedication to achieve this prestigious award.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate the Cedarville Elementary School community, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING SPRUNICA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I wish to applaud Sprunica Elementary School of Nineveh, IN for being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized over 7,000 public and non-public schools that demonstrate a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among student groups.

Recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education is based on a school either being measured as an Exemplary High Performing School, where schools are among the State's highest scorers in English and mathematics, or as an Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing School, where schools, with at least 40 percent of their student body coming from disadvantaged backgrounds, have reduced the achievement gap in English and mathematics within the last 5 years. Sprunica Elementary School has made great strides in the area of improved proficiency in both English and mathematics.

In 2014 alone, Sprunica Elementary School's combined ISTEP+ passing rate for English and mathematics was 92 percent for third grade and 93 percent for fourth grade. By giving the student body a variety of tools for early educational development, such as flexibility to pursue their own reading interests and observing the many facets of nature outside of the classroom,

the staff at Sprunica Elementary School provides students with an independent and hands on learning environment. Students can be challenged at their own pace. Beyond the classroom setting, the staff dedicates their time to help the student body develop strategies to become more respectful and aware citizens within the greater town of Nineveh through community service. In addition to its Blue Ribbon School recognition, it is no wonder that Sprunica has also been selected as an Indiana four star school.

I would like to acknowledge Principal Dr. Abbie Suzanne Oliver of Sprunica Elementary School, the entire staff, and the student body. It undoubtedly took hard work and dedication to achieve this prestigious award.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Sprunica Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING MERLE SIDENER GIFTED ACADEMY

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I also applaud Merle Sidener Gifted Academy of Indianapolis, IN for being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

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Recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education is based on a school either being measured as an Exemplary High Performing School, where schools are among the State's highest scorers in English and mathematics, or as an Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing School, where schools with at least 40 percent of their student body coming from disadvantaged backgrounds have reduced the achievement gap in English and mathematics within the last 5 years. Merle Sidener Gifted Academy has made great strides in the area of improved proficiency in both English and mathematics.

Merle Sidener Gifted Academy has a rigorous academic curriculum, and students are provided a different approach to learning through the incorporation of technology. Students are given the opportunity of choice in their academic development—whether they want to learn a foreign language, learn how to play chess, or even take up karate. This approach helps keep the learning process not only fresh but exciting. In addition, the students at Merle Sidener Gifted Academy are taught to be aware of, not only their surroundings, but of global issues that affect people from different cultures.

I would like to acknowledge Principal Tennille Wallace of Merle Sidener Gifted Academy, the entire staff, and the student body. It undoubtedly took hard work and dedication to achieve this prestigious award.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Merle Sidener Gifted Academy, and I wish the staff and students continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE INDUCTION OF SHANE CONLAN INTO THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize former Penn State linebacker Shane Conlan for being named to the College Football Hall of Fame Class of 2014.

On the night of January 2, 1987, more than 52 million Americans were introduced to Shane Patrick Conlan, then the 22-year-old cocaptain of the Pennsylvania State University Nittany Lions. This was the brightest of spotlights—the bowl game between No. 2 Penn State and No. 1 Miami still remains the most viewed college football game of all time and Conlan's performance was worthy of the stage. Despite an injured knee and a twisted ankle, Conlan intercepted his Heisman Trophy-winning opponent two times, returning one for 40 yards to set up Penn State's game-winning touchdown. This National Championship victory against a highly favored opponent and the accompanying defensive most valuable player award would be crowning achievements in a storied college career.

Mr. Conlan's origins are much more modest than that memorable night in the desert of Arizona. This son of a State policeman and a grocery store clerk grew up in a western New York town that was too small for even a stoplight. The relative obscurity of Frewsburg almost hid the young Conlan's athletic prowess. Even though he was named Western New York Player of the Year in 1981, Mr. Conlan only had one scholarship offer waiting for him when he graduated high school: Penn State.

In State College Mr. Conlan would evolve from a 6'3", 185 pound, mild-mannered freshman to become one of the most significant contributors to Penn State's cherished legacy as "Linebacker U." A 4-year letterman, 3-year starter, and first-team All-American, Mr. Conlan helped lead a football team that would go 23-to-1 over his final 2 years. In a lasting display of the reverence for Mr. Conlan in Happy Valley, several star linebackers at his alma mater have since donned his No. 31 as a tribute to his success and leadership, while he wore the blue and white. This October 25 his university and fans honored Mr. Conlan once again with a mid game salute by a sold-out crowd of 107,895 at Beaver Stadium.

After graduation from Penn State with a degree in administration of justice, success would follow Mr. Conlan

to the National Football League. There he would be named Defensive Rookie of the Year and earn three trips to the Pro Bowl during a 9-year career. Today, Mr. Conlan resides in the Pittsburgh area with his wife Caroline and their four children: Patrick, Christopher, Mary Katherine, and Daniel.

I am privileged to have the opportunity and the venue to offer congratulations to this adopted son of my State and thank him for his significant contributions to college football, the Penn State University community, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I wish him all the best as he is inducted as a member of the College Football Hall of Fame this December. Thank you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

LINCOLN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Lincoln, NH—a town in Grafton County that is celebrating the 250th anniversary of its founding. I am proud to join citizens across the Granite State in recognizing this historic occasion.

Located in the heart of the White Mountains, Lincoln is renowned for its spectacular scenery. Several of New Hampshire's natural wonders are in Lincoln, including "the basin" at Franconia Notch State Park, Indian Head Profile Rock formation, and the Flume Gorge—all examples of the Granite State's unique natural beauty.

The town of Lincoln was named for Henry Fiennes Pelham-Clinton, the 2nd Duke of Newcastle, 9th Earl of Lincoln. It was granted in 1764 by colonial Governor Benning Wentworth to a group of 70 land investors from Connecticut. The grant was so large that today Lincoln remains the second largest town by area in the State.

Lincoln's location near the Pemigewasset River was integral to the development of its logging and paper industries, an important part of the town's history. By the mid-19th century, Lincoln was a center for processing and shipping timber. North Country businessman James E. Henry purchased over 100,000 acres of timber at the turn of the century and constructed a pulp and paper mill to process the wood in what is now the center of Lincoln. Henry also built the Lincoln House Hotel to house the increasing number of tourists eager to experience the beauty of the White Mountains.

Today, the population of Lincoln has grown to over 1,600 residents, and the town has become one of New Hampshire's most popular tourist destinations. Visitors come from across the Nation to ski at Loon Mountain, hike the Appalachian Trail, spot a moose, or take a ride on the Kancamagus Highway—one of the State's most scenic routes. Families—including mine—also enjoy stopping by Clark's Trading Post to see Clark's famous trained bears

perform, and riding through the mountains aboard the Hobo Railroad. Each September, Lincoln hosts the New Hampshire Highland Games, where thousands gather to celebrate Scottish culture and heritage.

On behalf of all Granite Staters, I am pleased to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Lincoln on reaching this special milestone, and I thank them for their many contributions to the life and spirit of the State of New Hampshire.●

TRIBUTE TO MIKE JACOBS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Mike Jacobs, who will retire as the Johnson County judge after more than two decades of public service to the citizens of Arkansas in this elected position.

As Johnson County judge, Mike was a constant advocate for services, programs, and improvements for Johnson County residents. He worked to secure funding to provide a safe source of drinking water for citizens in county, preserving funding for rural schools and protect rural firefighters. After a tornado devastated Johnson County in 2011, Mike fought to ensure FEMA would allow citizens to receive Federal disaster assistance.

Mike's passion for public service extends beyond the borders of Johnson County. As the president of board of directors for the Association of Arkansas Counties for more than 15 years, Mike has shared his efforts, experiences, and examples of success with others. He is a visionary for the State and the Nation as he also serves on the board of directors of the National Association of Counties.

I congratulate Mike for his commitment to public service. We are all grateful for his years of service and leadership to Arkansas. I am grateful to be able to call Mike a friend. While he is stepping down as county judge, Mike will continue public service in another capacity. We will be able to rely on his advice and his experience as he serves as justice of the peace.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Johnson County judge Mike Jacobs on his retirement. I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.●

REMEMBERING JACK CHATFIELD

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I wish to remember Jack Chatfield, a longtime resident of Hartford, CT, who passed away on September 18, 2014. Although Jack was not well known outside Connecticut, he helped create a better history for our Nation. Born in Baltimore, MD, in 1942, he first came to Connecticut to attend Trinity College. Later, he returned to teach, first at the Watkinson School and then at Trinity.

Jack Chatfield was an incomparable individual who lived a full life. He interrupted his undergraduate career at Trinity in 1962 to volunteer with the

Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, SNCC. An article in the New York Times detailed how southern sheriffs had beaten his college roommate Ralph Allen, and without looking back Jack went down to join him in rural southwest Georgia. At the time, SNCC workers faced great personal danger, both from local law enforcement and from vigilantes known as "nightriders." Immediately after arriving, Jack was wounded by shotgun blasts fired by nightriders while he was eating dinner in the house where he was staying. Despite this, Jack's spirit never wavered, and he kept working to register African Americans to vote. He later said that it was during this time that he became "a true student of American history."

Jack returned to Trinity in the fall of 1963 and graduated in 1965. He went on to earn his master's and doctorate from Columbia University. During this time, he turned his attention to teaching, which he found to be his true calling. He returned to Trinity in 1987.

In the classroom, Jack absolutely excelled. He had an exceptional ability to teach history as if it were happening today. He drew his students in, immersing them in history texts that would make them think and question, building knowledge and skills that they would never forget. His love of the subject was equaled by his unwavering dedication to his students. Whether they were interested or not, brilliant or not, Jack wanted to reach them all. He was honored for his ability with Trinity's Hughes Teaching Prize for junior faculty in 1993 and its Brownell Prize for senior faculty in 2002.

Jack was equally concerned with how his students were faring outside the classroom, and he saw part of his job as facilitating their moral development and understanding of life. With another colleague, he started what became known as the "Friday Table." This informal gathering of students and faculty for Friday lunch became a tradition that endured for over 15 years. Around the table, the participants would talk about history and politics, life at Trinity, and other issues of importance. For many of the students who were fortunate enough to participate, this remains one of their most cherished memories.

The world is a little bit emptier today without Jack Chatfield, but his spirit and vision live on. Robert Kennedy once remarked that our actions could send out ripples of hope and that those ripples together can make a significant difference. Everyone who knew Jack Chatfield came away a little better for the experience, and each of these people are one of his ripples of hope. Whether consciously or unconsciously, they will continue to carry on his vision, maintaining his legacy and his spirit for many years to come.●

RECOGNIZING JANICE HELWIG

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to pay tribute to Janice Helwig