

to the brave men and women who walk in the footsteps of Sergeant Beminio and Officer Martin to protect and serve our communities across the country.

HONORING OFFICER JUSTIN MARTIN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, early this month, in my home State of Iowa, a tragedy took place that shocked our entire State. On Wednesday, November 2, 2016, the lives of Des Moines Police Sergeant Anthony Beminio and Urbandale Police Officer Justin Martin were taken at the hands of an assailant. It is almost unimaginable for somebody to attack the people who dedicate their lives to protecting our communities. Unfortunately, it is a threat all too familiar for everybody who has a family member in law enforcement.

Just after 1 a.m. on November 2, police responded to reports of shots fired and discovered that Officer Martin was shot and killed in his car while he was on duty. A short while later, Sergeant Anthony Beminio was found shot and killed in his car. He was believed to have been responding to the report of shots fired when he was killed by the lone assailant who moments earlier had allegedly killed Officer Martin. At this time, police do not have a motive for the shootings.

Nothing excuses the unforgivable act of attacking a police officer. I praise these heroes who gave their lives carrying out their mission to protect and serve.

Justin Martin obtained a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Simpson College, with a lifelong dream of becoming a police officer. As Officer Martin's father said, "He went into law enforcement for one reason—because he wanted to help people." Justin achieved that dream when he joined the Urbandale Police Department in 2015.

I want to express my deepest sympathy to Officer Martin's parents, Randy and Jayne Martin; his brother Ryan Martin; his maternal grandmother, Ann Margaret Krommendyk; his paternal grandparents, Gene and Carolyn Martin, as well as his extended family and friends for their loss. Officer Martin was an Eagle Scout. He was active in many extracurricular activities such as football, swimming, and he also played the trombone. Officer Martin, like Sergeant Beminio, was a fine example of a community leader whom our young people should aspire to be like. By all accounts, he was a well-rounded, upstanding citizen. Officer Martin left a lasting impact on the communities he was part of, and we should follow the example that he set for us.

These trying times serve as a reminder to show our appreciation to those who watch over our communities and run to danger. We can look to the words of wisdom from an Iowa mother who lost her son, Officer Carlos

Puente-Morales, in the line of duty earlier this year. As she said, "We shouldn't wait for a tragedy to recognize our heroes." We should all live by this sentiment and show appreciation to the brave men and women who walk in the footsteps of Officer Martin and Sergeant Beminio to protect and serve our communities across the country.

RECOGNIZING FALMOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am delighted to commend the Falmouth Middle School of Falmouth, ME, on being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. This outstanding middle school is one of only 329 schools across the country to receive this prestigious recognition from the U.S. Department of Education.

Created in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate significant gains in student achievement. The schools singled out for this national recognition are models of high educational standards and accountability.

Falmouth Middle School is among a select group of schools to achieve the Blue Ribbon designation not once, but twice. Since receiving its first award in 2008, the school has continued to excel as a community of collaborative and engaged learners who value diversity, kindness, creativity, excellence, responsibility for self, and service to others.

This award recognizes the hard work and determination of Falmouth Middle School's pupils and staff. This is a top-performing school on State-required assessments, and staff at the school use assessments throughout the academic year as a tool for improving and customizing instruction. A strong commitment to professional development ensures that teachers and staff, as well as students, are lifelong learners.

Falmouth Middle School is known for its extensive extracurricular activities in academics, athletics, and the arts, which help forge a strong school community where students are connected and encouraged to pursue their interests. Just this year, three new after-school clubs were formed—in French, writing, and dance—driven by enthusiastic students and guided by involved teachers.

This Blue Ribbon award is a tribute not only to the students, but also to the administrators, teachers, staff, and parents of Falmouth Middle School. Together, they are succeeding in their mission to generate excitement and momentum for learning. They are making a difference in the lives of their students, helping them reach their full potential as independent, responsible learners and citizens. I congratulate the entire community for this well-deserved recognition.

RECOGNIZING REEDS BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am delighted to commend Reeds Brook Middle School of Hampden, ME, on being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. This outstanding middle school is one of only 329 schools across the country to receive Blue Ribbon recognition from the U.S. Department of Education.

Created in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate significant gains in student achievement. The schools singled out for this national recognition are models of high educational standards and accountability.

The Blue Ribbon designation continues Reeds Brook's tradition of quality education. In 1997, just 2 years after it opened, the school became just one of five middle schools in Maine to be accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Today, after earning reaccreditation in 2007, Reeds Brook Middle School is one of just three Maine middle schools to achieve that distinction.

This award recognizes the hard work and determination of Reeds Brook Middle School's pupils, teachers, and staff. It is a top-performing school on State-required assessments, and educators at the school use assessments throughout the academic year as a tool for improving and customizing instruction. A strong commitment to professional development ensures that teachers and staff, as well as students, are lifelong learners.

Reeds Brook excels as a school built on a foundation of responsibility, respect, honesty, and compassion. Through a unique weekly trading card program, teachers and staff recognize students who demonstrate those values, instilling a sense of individual and school pride.

Reeds Brook Middle School is known for its extensive extracurricular activities in academics, athletics, and the arts, and students are encouraged to pursue their interests. An on-site garden and greenhouse promote volunteerism throughout the community. Students serve their community by working with the local food pantry and recycling center.

Two projects underscore the values that guide Reeds Brook Middle School. Students avidly support the Special Olympics, championing and cheering not just their team, but also athletes from other schools. Through an ongoing project, students meet with and interview local veterans, preserving the veterans' living histories and honoring their service.

This Blue Ribbon award is a tribute not only to the students, but also to the administrators, teachers, staff, and parents of Reeds Brook Middle School. Together, they are succeeding in their mission to generate excitement and momentum for learning. They are