

the whole person. Trinity School is about the task of what is truly education."

Trinity School at River Ridge calls its approach "An Education in Truth, Beauty and Goodness."

Forming a true community of learners through the active involvement of students, Trinity School at River Ridge has instituted a common, coherent, and integrated curriculum that helps students apply their knowledge more effectively. The constant evaluation of students at Trinity School is a critical part of this unique education. Students, teachers, and parents know where resources and energy need to be focused.

This historic designation was accomplished through the pioneering and innovative contributions of a truly dedicated administrative staff and dynamic collection of committed teachers. Their deep and unwavering commitment to the students forms the foundation for a very special relationship with the young people at Trinity School at River Ridge. The teachers and staff have gone above and beyond all reasonable expectations to help kids.

Mr. Speaker, another key ingredient in the overwhelming success of Trinity School at River Ridge has been the precedent-setting and inspiring level of involvement by parents. In this day and age when we in Congress hear so much blame being placed on the lack of participation by parents in their children's education, Trinity parents stand out as shining examples of the miracles that can happen when adults take the time to help out at their schools.

But, Mr. Speaker, the No. 1 reason Trinity School at River Ridge has been chosen as a Blue Ribbon Award winner is its spirited students. This student body is focused in a most impressive way on real achievement and a relentless pursuit of the highest standards of excellence. The students have worked hard to create a safe, supportive, and drug-free environment. They have worked hard to establish a record of academic excellence across the board.

From student leadership to participation in public service projects to help people in need in the community, from the heavy emphasis on scholastic achievement to the enthusiastic way they revel in the success of their classmates, the students of Trinity School at River Ridge deserve to claim this national honor as their own. The students at Trinity are the kind of young people any parents would be proud to call their own.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating everyone at Trinity School at River Ridge on a job well done and for setting such a powerful example of what can be accomplished by a school if everyone pitches in and strives to do their best.

Today we salute Trinity School at River Ridge for proving that schools all across America can succeed if everyone puts their minds and hearts into the effort.

"ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL":
ESSAY BY KELSEY PERKINS

HON. DAN SCHAEFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 1996

Mr. SCHAEFER. Mr. Speaker, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its

Ladies Auxiliary sponsor an annual Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest. This year's contest attracted more than 116,000 secondary school students competing for 54 national scholarships totaling more than \$118,000. The theme this year was "Answering America's Call".

I am pleased to report that Kelsey Perkins of Aurora, CO, was the State winner of this year's contest. Kelsey, a senior at Smoky Hill High School, is active in her school and has won many scholastic and musical awards, including the Yale Book Award, National Merit Commendation, National Honor Society, and membership as a violinist in the all-State orchestra. Although she maintains a 4.0 grade point average at school, she still finds time to play field hockey, hike, camp, and read.

I commend Kelsey's composition to your attention, Mr. Speaker, as it gives excellent reasons why Americans should become involved in their country's Armed Forces, government, and community. It proves that democracy requires commitment and involvement by all citizens.

I congratulate Kelsey Perkins and her sponsoring VFW Post 3161 in Aurora, CO, on this fine essay.

"ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL"

Good Morning, and welcome to the American Safari Corporation. I will be your guide for today's tour. What brought most of you here was not the call of the wild, rather it was the call of America. Today we will be conducting a tour in search of some rare species. Now I'm sure that some of you have been told that our search is futile since the prize we are seeking is often considered to be almost extinct. I'll let you be the judge of that. For those of you who are not familiar with our goal today, let me begin by telling you that we are searching for some responsible Americans. Before we set out, I will outline three identifying marks of a responsible American which will help you in our hunt.

The first sign of a responsible American is often that of involvement in our country's armed services. In many countries across the world, military service is mandatory for young men. They have no choice in whether or not to serve their country. In the United States we have no such requirements. Service is voluntary during peace-time. The strength of a country's military is often the standard by which it is judged by other nations. The military is not only a fighting force, it is an international representative of its country. Service shows patriotism and pride for one's home. The armed forces serve the common good by protecting America's interests in all areas, and by embodying the strength, skill and patriotism that symbolizes our country and fills every American with pride. For many citizens, military service offers the perfect opportunity to answer America's call and take on responsibility for our nation. Our armed forces have very high standards for their applicants. By meeting this standard of excellence through service in the armed forces, many men and women are successfully answering America's call to responsibility.

The second tell-tale mark to look for in our hunt is involvement in the government. Perhaps one of the best days to search for responsible Americans is on the first Tuesday in November. They can be seen in herds as they assemble to vote. In a day and age where many people are content to sit on the sidelines and not become involved in our government, utilizing one's right to vote and becoming involved in the government is a sure sign of a responsible American. As

President Harry S. Truman observed, "It's not the hand that signs the laws that holds the destiny of America. It's the hand that casts the ballot."

Responsible Americans not only participate, but realize what an honor their role in government is. Our founding fathers risked execution by first daring to give Americans their rights to vote and to be involved in government because their actions of protesting unfair government were seen as treasonous. Since the Revolution, Americans have fought and died in many wars to keep Americans free. They fought and died to maintain our rights which include voting and government participation. As citizens of the United States today, it is our duty and privilege to vote in elections and to be involved and informed about our national and local government. Answering America's call includes meeting these responsibilities which support the rights for which many men and women have risked their lives.

One final way to find a responsible American is to look for those who are involved in community service. Acts of unselfish kindness for the common good or the benefit of others is not too much to ask in a nation which has so much. Community service touches the individual lives which make up this great country. It serves as a testimony to our country's humanity. Behind the mass of the armed forces and government are the everyday individuals in life which can be touched and inspired by the work of a few citizens who have realized their responsibility as members of this nation. Many organizations work year round to meet the basic needs of our nation's people because we have a responsibility to those less fortunate than ourselves. So, be sure to search for those who spend their free time helping others in such places as food banks, soup kitchens, and schools.

Well, I hope my little overview has given you a better idea of what to look for in your hunt for a responsible American. Don't forget to look for those obvious signs we reviewed: military service, government participation, and community service. With these in mind, you're sure to find a trail. Please also consider yourself in regards to what's been said today. Don't be afraid to answer America's call personally. By doing so, you could greatly increase the responsible American population. They don't have to be an endangered species!

COMMENDING KURT ANGLE OF
THE U.S.A. OLYMPIC WRESTLING
TEAM AND MT. LEBANON, PA

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 1996

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend one of my constituents, Mr. Kurt Angle, for his heroic athletic achievement at the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta, GA. Mr. Angle represented his family, his community, and his country with dignity and honor in earning a gold medal in the 220-pound division of Olympic freestyle wrestling.

As one of America's best hopes for a medal and the defending 1995 world champion in the 220-pound class, Mr. Angle withstood the intense pressures of competing against the best wrestlers in the world and persevered to achieve his dream.

Mr. Angle has been a National Collegiate Association of America [NCAA] champion from