

Committee on the Judiciary, be authorized to hold an executive business meeting during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 13, 1999, at 2 p.m., in room 226 of the Senate Dirksen Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO CAL RIPKEN, SR.

• Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, on March 25, the game of baseball experienced a tremendous loss when former Baltimore Orioles' manager, coach and minor-league player Cal Ripken, Sr., passed away at the age of 63.

Cal Ripken, Sr. was a monumental figure in Baltimore's baseball heritage. For nearly four decades, Cal Sr. was the heart of the Baltimore Orioles' organization. He exemplified everything that is good about baseball and about America—hard work, dedication and integrity. He taught his sons, Cal Ripken, Jr. and Bill Ripken, to play baseball when they were young and inspired in them his own legendary love of our national pastime.

In 1987, Cal Sr. was named manager of the Orioles, and became the first father to manage two sons simultaneously at the major league level. Ripken Sr. retired in 1992, having spent 36 years with the Orioles' organization.

I will never forget going to the ball park, year after year, and seeing the competitive fire Cal Ripken Sr. brought to the Orioles. He knew how to bring out the best in the players he coached and managed.

Cal Ripken, Sr. will be remembered for what he instilled in his family, in Baltimore and in all of us: work hard, show up every day, and always give it everything you've got. His spirit will live forever in the hearts of every Baltimore Oriole and every Oriole fan.●

##### RECOGNIZING INNOVATIVE EDUCATION AT OAK HARBOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

• Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize a school in Oak Harbor, Washington for their wonderful success in becoming a 'school of choice.' Oak Harbor Elementary is another shining example for why I began my "Innovation in Education Award" program—to highlight to my colleagues in the good things that are happening in education at the local level.

When Oak Harbor Elementary underwent a massive remodel of its north annex, originally built in 1934, it had the opportunity to add 200 more students to its student body. Rather than change attendance boundary areas, the school board and superintendent saw it as an opportunity to make it a magnet school to draw students from the most crowded schools in the district.

Over the course of a year, Principal Glenda Merwine met with parents and

staff to determine what the ideal elementary school could look like. After many meetings, surveys, and discussions, the school chose to make a series of reforms including: requiring uniforms for all students in grades K-5; including curriculum in every classroom about various positive character traits like honesty, generosity and integrity; requiring parent compacts for participation in their children's education; and eventually implementing strong fine arts programs.

With this innovative new structure, Oak Harbor Elementary attracted over 200 student transfers from other schools including private schools and home-schooled children in the area.

The Oak Harbor "school of choice" is now in its second semester under the new plan. Staff and parents are highly enthusiastic over the improved discipline, motivation and achievements of the entire student body. Ms. Merwine said she has seen a dramatic change in the students' attitudes. The student body at Oak Harbor Elementary has increased by 230, yet Ms. Merwine said suspensions and disciplinary incidents decreased dramatically.

She gave one example of how the uniforms have brought down artificial barriers between students. Last year, a kindergartener frequently asked Ms. Merwine or a teacher to play with her, claiming the other children wouldn't. Ms. Merwine eventually observed another student telling the girl she wouldn't play with her because she wasn't wearing the "right brand of jeans." This year, on the first day of school, Ms. Merwine said she saw the same two girls—now in 1st grade and wearing nearly identical uniforms—happily playing in the school yard.

I hope my colleagues will recognize the importance educators like Glenda Merwine, and the exciting things happening in our local schools when they are given the freedom to innovate. I for one, want to do all I can to increase their flexibility and resources so local educators—our parents, teachers, principals, school board members and superintendents—can continue to make the best decisions about the education of our children.●

##### MICHAEL "MICK" BIRD AND THE TRANS-OCEANIC ROWING EXPEDITION

• Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I rise today to bring my colleagues' attention to a very exciting expedition. In September 1998, Mr. Michael "Mick" Bird completed the second leg of an unprecedented 24,000 mile voyage around the world. On August 19, 1997, Mick Bird started rowing out to sea from Fort Bragg, California in his vessel Reach. After 66 days of rowing, on October 23, 1997, Mick arrived in Hilo Bay on the Big Island of Hawaii.

After putting the Reach in drydock in Hawaii, Mick returned to his home base in California to raise support and prepare for the next leg of his historic

journey. Mick returned to Hawaii last summer and put to sea in Reach on July 18, 1998 rowing for the Gilbert Islands, about 2500 miles southwest of Hawaii and halfway point between Hawaii and Australia. On September 22, 1998, 66 days and more than 2200 miles from Hawaii, Mick made landfall on Majuro in the Marshall Islands, a bit north of his intended destination in the Gilberts. Mick is now happily home in California with his family preparing for his next leg to the north central coast of Australia; another 2500 mile row.

Mick Bird, a former U.S. Air Force officer, is of Pacific Island descent and has family ties to the State of Hawaii. His voyage is more formally known as Trans-Oceanic, which is the name of the non-profit organization sponsoring this attempt at the world's first solo circumnavigation of the globe by a rowing vessel. The goals of this expedition are, among others, to explore the limits of the human spirit, to raise awareness about ocean ecosystems, to be an example of individual achievement as well as teamwork, and to generate support for the National Tuberos Sclerosis Association. The expedition is also using its World Wide Web sites ([www.naau.com](http://www.naau.com) and [www.goals.com/transrow](http://www.goals.com/transrow)) to create a direct link between Mick's vessel Reach and educators and students to share experiences and practical applications of math, science and geography.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Bird on his very impressive accomplishments to this point, and to express my good wishes for the safety and success of the rest of this voyage around the world. I also wish to commend him and Trans-Oceanic for enhancing public awareness and education. I encourage my colleagues to have a look at Trans-Oceanic's web sites and share them with educators at home to follow along with this amazing journey.●

##### TRIBUTE TO EDITH SCHMIDTCHEN ON HER RETIREMENT

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Edith ("Edie") Schmidtchen on her retirement as the Town Clerk for Bedford, New Hampshire after thirty-five years of service. She has had an exceptionally distinguished career with the Town of Bedford.

Edie began her career in Bedford as the Assistant to the Town Clerk. She was promoted and served as the Deputy Town Clerk and then served as the Town Clerk for twenty-one years. Her dedication to the Town and the State of New Hampshire is truly admirable.

Edie has also been very active in the community during her time in the Town Clerk's office. She has been a volunteer teacher for the Bedford Mother's Club, an active member of the Bedford Presbyterian Church, and Secretary of the Town of Bedford Planning Board. She has also participated in