

Medal. But the medals and certificates do not say it all. Like all Sergeants Major in their day-to-day activities and accomplishments, Randy Taft has served as a positive role model for a whole generation of the Army's finest soldiers. Whether he was serving as a personnel specialist, a platoon sergeant, a recruiter, a member of the Army's premier Honor Guard, or as the Senior Enlisted Advisor for the 44,000 person Defense Logistics Agency, he has led by example. His greatest accomplishments are the young soldiers he has helped mold into the kind of citizens this country can be proud to call our Army.

Mr. President, I am proud and honored to congratulate Sergeant Major Randy Taft upon the occasion of his retirement from the United States Army.●

#### SET A GOOD EXAMPLE

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, these are difficult times for our nation's children as they watch their peers turn to violence, drugs, truancy and gang membership. If one were to believe the evening news, there appears to be little good news coming from our schools. But I rise before my colleagues today to share with them some good news. Thunderbolt Elementary School in Savannah, Georgia, has been recognized by the Concerned Businessmen's Association of America as violence-free and the "Best Example in America" of what a safe and drug-free school should be.

Thunderbolt Elementary is the only school out of the 10,600 which enrolled in the national "Children's Set a Good Example" Competition during the past 12 years to win the national award three times in a row. Additionally, Thunderbolt has also been chosen this year by the judges of the first "Best of the Best" competition, which will be held just once every ten years, as the best of the best elementary schools in America.

The war against drug abuse, violent crime, illiteracy and intolerance is a multifaceted battle being fought in every sector of our community. It is a war that ravages our streets and has kids killing other kids. Too many of our children have become casualties of this epidemic. We as a society must apply proven, workable methods if we are to salvage our youth and rid our cities of those social ills. Positive counter peer pressure could be more effective than authoritarian efforts when it comes to influencing youth away from drug abuse and gang involvement and I am so proud of Thunderbolt Elementary for showing this to be true.

The work that the students at Thunderbolt have done is inspiring and I hope that they will be an example to other students around the country.●

RUSSELL W. PETERSON HONORED WITH FIRST-EVER "LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD" BY CREATIVE GRANDPARENTING, INC.

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the lifetime achievements of a man with truly a lifetime of achievements.

Russell W. Peterson served as Governor of Delaware from 1968-1972, restoring peace on the streets of Delaware's largest city in the wake of the tumultuous 1968 summer riots—as he overcame decades of resistance to implement a sweeping overhaul of State government. Russ Peterson is known to Delawareans as the father of the state's landmark Coastal Zone Act, just as he is renowned nationally as one of our country's leading environmentalists.

I will go into more detail of his many accomplishments, however, the reason I pay tribute to him today is for his recognition—not only as a statesman, environmentalist and civil rights leader—but as a grandfather! Delaware's Creative Grandparenting, Inc. has awarded Russell W. Peterson its first-ever "Lifetime Achievement Award." Peterson, a grandfather of 17 and father of four, deserves every accolade bestowed upon him.

When Russ Peterson was elected Governor of Delaware in 1968, the National Guard patrolled the streets of Wilmington. As he promised, the day Peterson was sworn in as Governor, the National Guard was pulled from the streets. As a 27-year-old New Castle County Councilman first elected that same year in 1968, I assure you Governor Peterson's leadership and steady stewardship made a lasting impression upon me. I am proud to call him a friend.

As Governor, he bucked resistance and reformed Delaware's arcane Commission form of Government into a Cabinet form of government. He convinced the General Assembly to streamline 112 Commissions into ten department leaders. It was nothing short of a revolution!

His greatest accomplishment came in June, 1972, when he single-handedly pushed through the landmark Coastal Zone Act, which forever prohibits development along Delaware's precious coastal zone. Yes, he's the man who proclaimed "to hell with Shell," as he fought efforts by oil refineries to further develop on the Delaware River. The Coastal Zone Act shall forever stand as a monument to Russ Peterson in my State.

Governor Peterson also signed Delaware's Fair Housing Act into law and appointed the first female to the Delaware bench—Family Court Judge Roxana C. Arsh. And in July, 1972, he signed into law a major revision of the Delaware Code, which is important for what was not included. The Whipping Post! From 1669-1952, more than 1,600 men were flogged at the whipping post. Delaware was the last State to eliminate this barbaric punishment, thanks to Russ Peterson.●

After leaving office in 1972, Russ served as an advisor to Presidents and held numerous prestigious environmental positions. He was named Vice-Chair of Governor Nelson Rockefeller's National Commission on Critical Choices of America. Then, he chaired President Ford's Council on Environmental Quality. In 1976, Peterson became President of New Directions, a world-wide citizens' lobby group. In 1978, he was tapped to be the director of the congressional Office of Technological Assessment. He secured his worldwide reputation as an environmentalist as the President of the National Audubon Society.

Mr. President, I consider myself very fortunate to call him a friend. I am honored that just last week, Governor Peterson took the time to write me a handwritten note to say he was "proud that you are my Senator." That sort of praise from such an accomplished man is humbling.

Russ Peterson, my friend, you have a lot of living yet to do and more accomplishments yet to come. Today, though, we honor your lifetime of achievements.●

#### NATIONAL SAVE SCHOOLS FROM VIOLENCE DAY

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I have spoken several times this year about the need for our Nation to address juvenile violence. Today, I would like to commend another group that has joined the call to end violence. The American Medical Association Alliance has designated today as National SAVE Schools from Violence Day, and I would like to praise their efforts.

The AMA Alliance SAVE (Stop America's Violence Everywhere) campaign began in 1995 and comprises a grassroots effort of 700 local and state-level projects to curb violence. Through the campaign, the Alliance has created unique workbooks and activities for use as conflict resolution tools in classrooms across the country. One of their themes, Hands are not for hitting, catches children's attention by challenging them to come up with other uses for their hands. Rather than seeing their hands as weapons, children are reminded that their hands can be used for hugging, collecting bugs or coloring with crayons.

Another campaign theme, I Can Choose, teaches children that they can choose their attitudes and behavior. Other projects including I Can Be Safe and Be a Winner have been distributed nationwide.

Using its Hands are not for hitting campaign and others like it, the AMA is working to call attention to school safety and the way children interact. Nationally, the AMA hopes to reach 1 million children by the year 2000 with activities that help them manage anger and build self-esteem. This type of private sector involvement represents a key building block in our nation's commitment to providing a safe learning environment for our children.