

son, Lt. Shane Osborn, the Navy pilot whose leadership and piloting skills saved the lives of the crew detained in China for the first part of April.

Even at three years of age, Shane exhibited a fascination with planes. Shane's family lived on a farm near Rapid City, South Dakota, where the farmer owned a small, two-seat aircraft. The hangar wasn't far from the house, and Shane would often climb into the plane and pretend to take to the skies in flight. This lifelong interest led Shane to the Navy where he trained as a pilot and was commissioned an officer in 1996.

Shane eventually was transferred to Whidbey Island Naval Station in Washington where he was trained to fly naval reconnaissance. As his Navy EP-3E plane recently flew a routine mission near the Chinese coast, it is reported that a Chinese F-8 fighter plane made two passes near the American aircraft, flying within three to five feet of the plane. On the third pass, the Chinese pilot apparently ran into the American plane's propeller, sending Shane and his crew into a steep dive.

With two of the four propellers out of commission, a smashed nose cone, and destroyed navigational instruments, the American plane dropped nearly 7,500 feet toward the China Sea. With sheer will and brute force, Shane managed to bring the plane under control and land safely on the Chinese island of Hainan.

During the ensuing days as Shane and his crew were held by Chinese officials, I spoke with the Chinese Ambassador and urged his government to release the American crew as quickly as possible. I also passed along to the Ambassador an email message Shane's father, Doug, wrote to his son. As the parent of a son in the military, I understood the fear and uncertainty one feels when their child is suddenly placed in harm's way. However, when I spoke with Doug Osborn, I was reminded also of the immense pride and love that a parent feels for their son or daughter in the military.

I commend Lt. Shane Osborn for his heroism in safely landing the disabled American plane and his leadership as mission commander during the 11 days the American crew was detained in China. Shane symbolizes the very best that we have come to expect from the men and women in our military. I will continue to be an advocate on military issues in Congress and make sure that military personnel like Shane receive the "quality of life" benefits they and their families deserve. After the numerous sacrifices the men and women in our military make for our country, we in Congress can be expected to do no less.●

HONORING CADET CHIEF PETTY OFFICER THEA I. PECK AS NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS CADET OF THE YEAR

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I would like to extend my most sincere

congratulations to Cadet Chief Petty Officer Thea I. Peck. On April 28, 2001, she will be awarded the Willis E. Reed Cadet of the Year Award, which recognizes the Naval Sea Cadet who has excelled in all areas of Naval Sea Cadet Corps, NSCC, training. She was initially selected as Mid-Atlantic Cadet of the Year for 2000 out of six states including Pennsylvania, which then lead to her selection as the program-wide Cadet of the Year. This recognition is outstanding as it exemplifies Cadet CPO Peck's leadership, maturity, dedication, and patriotism.

The NSCC was established in 1958 in part of the Department of the Navy to develop an appreciation for the United States' naval history, customs, traditions, and its significant role in national defense. Its purpose is also to develop patriotism, confidence, and pride in our nation's youth and help them to develop strong moral character and good citizenship. It also gives participants a real-life look at military opportunities.

Cadet CPO Peck has been a member of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps Program for over five years. She has completed several training courses over her tenure in the program including time spent at the Foreign Exchange Program with the United Kingdom and Medical Staff Training at Bethesda Naval Hospital. In all of her training periods, Cadet CPO Peck earned the highest performance marks illustrating her dedication to the program and the United States Navy.

In addition to excelling in the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Cadet CPO Peck is an impeccable student. With a high school grade point average of 3.95, and as a student in all advanced classes, she has mastered time management and the ability to balance academics and outside activities. She has received a number of achievements for her work in various science fairs, and she is also an outstanding athlete, lettering in indoor track, swimming, lacrosse and soccer.

Cadet CPO Peck is a superior, well-rounded young adult who has chosen to take advantage of all that life has to offer. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I am grateful to Cadet CPO Peck for her dedication to the United States Navy through the Naval Sea Cadet Corps. With so many opportunities ahead after high school, I am confident that whichever avenue she chooses to pursue, she will bring great energy and leadership to it.

I ask my Senate colleagues to join with me in congratulating this fine young leader as she is recognized as the 2001 NSCC Cadet of the Year and recipient of the Willis E. Reed Award.●

HONORING REVEREND DR. KENNETH L. SAUNDERS, SR.

● Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues a great man in the State of New Jersey, Reverend Dr. Kenneth L. Saunders, Sr.

Reverend Saunders is a man of integrity who is committed to the spiritual, mental, social, civil and economic well-being of his congregation and residents of the City of Piscataway.

Reverend Saunders has dedicated his life to public service. As Council President of the City of Piscataway, he insures that everyone has a voice. Reverend Saunders is also an outstanding advocate for children and their families.

Reverend Saunders is a true American, who believes that all people should have access to America's Promise. He has the enviable gift of being able to bring people together to work for a common cause. Reverend Saunders is an unselfish man whose motivation is not self-gratification. He possesses a higher calling.

This week, Reverend Saunders is celebrating 12 wonderful years of pastoral ministry at North Stelton A.M.E. Church in Piscataway. Under his unparalleled guidance, North Stelton A.M.E. Church has experienced enormous growth and is a warm congregation filled with joy and love.

I want to also mention his wife, Mrs. Shirley Saunders and want you to know that they make an exceptional team. Her devotion to the community is very well-known, and the State of New Jersey is a better place because of the leadership of Reverend and Mrs. Kenneth L. Saunders, Sr.

Lastly, I am a better man today because of my friendship with Reverend and Mrs. Saunders, and it is an honor for me to bring them to your attention.●

PIKE COUNTY INDIANA SCHOOL CORPORATION

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I am delighted to rise today with my colleague Senator BAYH to congratulate the Pike County School Corporation located in Petersburg, IN on being named "One of the Best 100 School Districts in the United States" for the year 2000 by the Wall Street Journal and Offspring magazine. The Pike Country school administrators, teachers, and students should take great pride in this outstanding accomplishment. This award is based on academic excellence in standardized testing such as the SAT, ACT, Indiana's ISTEP+ test, the number of National Merit Scholars produced by the district, community living costs, and dollar expenditures per student.

In October 1996, I had the distinct honor of meeting with the student body at Pike Central Middle High School. I was able to address the student body and saw first hand the hard work and dedication of the school's administrators and teachers. After addressing the student body I had the pleasure of going for a run with a group of Pike County students. It's a high honor to be standing on the floor of the Senate today reflecting on that visit and recognizing Pike County schools for their outstanding achievements.