

involved in the education of their children.

I firmly believe that strong parental involvement is a cornerstone for academic success—for it is parents who know the special needs of their own children. Steve Constantino, principal of Stonewall Jackson, believes this also. To increase parental involvement at the high school, Mr. Constantino and his staff planned to put resources in the hands of those who know best how to improve the education of their children, parents. He first removed the counter in the main office to welcome parents and make them feel more comfortable.

But Mr. Constantino and the faculty went a step further by putting in place a program called ParentLink. Through a website and voicemail system, parents can receive up-to-date information regarding their child's grades, homework, attendance, and even the details about what was being taught that day in the classroom. Bridging the communication gap between parents, students, and staff extends beyond ParentLink to the community. Stonewall Jackson accommodates working parents' schedules by holding Saturday morning events and by encouraging parents to make evening use of the school's resources on college and career options.

While increasing parental involvement in education, Stonewall Jackson has also vigorously challenged its students through the International Baccalaureate Diploma program, a rigorous academic program based on international perspectives, an enriched curriculum, community involvement, and written and oral communication skills. An I.B. degree is often regarded as superior to the completion of advanced placement courses, and about 45 percent of the student body at Stonewall Jackson are enrolled in I.B. courses, with 86 percent scoring four or better on a five-point scale.

Over the period of 1995–1999, SAT scores at Stonewall Jackson have risen 61 points; the school has reduced the disparity between minority and non-minority scores by 18 percent; the dropout rate has decreased from 11 percent to 3 percent; and parent satisfaction has risen from 34 percent in 1995 to 59 percent in 1999.

I also would like to take this opportunity to personally congratulate Mr. Constantino on being named Prince William County Public School's "Principal of the Year" for 2001, as well as receiving The Washington Post's "Distinguished Educational Leadership Award." I also want to extend the highest commendation and congratulations to the teachers, faculty, and parents of Stonewall Jackson High School for their outstanding performance in educating our children and preparing them to thrive in the 21st Century. And last, but certainly not least, to the students of Stonewall Jackson; I salute you on the floor of the United States Senate, because without you, none of this would be possible.

As we all know, today's youth are tomorrow's leaders, and schools such as Stonewall Jackson are paving the way to a prepared and intelligent generation. Stonewall Jackson High School is an inspiration to everyone in the community of Manassas, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the United States of America, and should take great pride in the honor this recognition represents.●

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PHOENIX HOME LIFE

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise with my esteemed colleague, Senator CHRIS DODD, to offer congratulations to Phoenix Home Life Mutual Insurance Company, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary today.

Phoenix is actively engaged in so many facets of our society. This company embodies social leadership through charitable contributions and community involvement. The corporate infrastructure of Phoenix is permeated with a sense of compassion that looks beyond the bottom line and stresses to its employees the importance of investing in human capital as a means of promoting community development.

For example, Phoenix encourages employees to volunteer through a policy that allows them to devote 40 hours of company time per year to community activities, provided it is matched by the same amount of personal time. The company also rewards its top 20 professional advisors through its Donor's Award, a program that enables employees to designate up to \$2,000 to a local charity. Since its inception, the award has benefited many organizations, including the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Lou Gehrig Baseball, and the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

Through this emphasis on community commitment, Phoenix employees adopt their favorite charities, lending their expertise, their leadership, and their time to a variety of local outreach initiatives. The Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen is one such beneficiary. Each summer, Phoenix home office employees in Hartford team up with Foodshare to harvest vegetables donated by Connecticut farmers for area soup kitchens and shelters. Another example is the planning and organization, by a group of employees in 1999, of Connecticut's first Adoption and Foster Care Exposition, sponsored by Phoenix.

Additionally, Phoenix has spearheaded a three-million-dollar "Legacy Campaign" to sustain and promote the Doc Hurley Foundation. Through financial scholarships, mentoring from foundation trustees, and help with purchasing books, the campaign's endowment will help city high school students go to college. Phoenix will contribute a total of \$500,000 over the course of the campaign.

One of Phoenix's greatest investments in our communities and in soci-

ety has been its commitment to Special Olympics. In 1995, Phoenix made an eight-year commitment to Special Olympics International as its first Official Worldwide Partner, setting a standard for volunteerism few companies can match. Approximately 60 percent of home office employees volunteered at the Special Olympics World Games. Field offices also provided volunteers and raised money to assist local chapters with travel and lodging expenses, enabling athletes across the country to participate in a once-in-a-lifetime event.

Phoenix has proven itself to be an indispensable asset to Connecticut. By making community involvement a priority, Phoenix demonstrates that an alliance between the business sector and the community is not just possible, it is necessary.

At the end of the day, Phoenix is not a faceless multi-national corporation. Through its selfless endeavors within Connecticut's communities, it has proven itself to be the consummate good neighbor. Phoenix is a leader in the competitive world of business and a winner in the hearts of countless Connecticut residents. It is with great appreciation and honor that I ask my colleagues to join me in offering congratulations to Phoenix Home Life Mutual Insurance Company on its 150th anniversary.●

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise to make a few comments on the sesquicentennial anniversary of Christ Episcopal Church in St. Joseph, MO.

The first formal service of the Episcopal Church was held in the orchard of Mrs. Kate Howard's home at 5th and Francis on September 1, 1851. The Reverend John McNamara, Missionary to the Platte Purchase, celebrated the service. On April 14, 1852, Christ Church parish was organized and the small group purchased a log structure at the northwest corner of 3rd and Jules.

On July 30, 1877 Bishop Robertson of the Diocese of Missouri laid the cornerstone of the new church. The building is brick in the English Gothic style. It is the second oldest building in the city in continuous use as a place of worship by one congregation.

During the 1896 renovation an organ was purchased from a church in Connecticut. This Johnson organ was originally built in 1867. The women of the parish who sponsored three operettas at the Tootle Opera House raised the money for the organ. The original portion is the oldest organ in St. Joseph.

Christ Episcopal Church continues to be a presence in downtown St. Joseph. The members are involved in community outreach activities including the Open Door Food Kitchen, Downtown Partners Association, Ecumenical Corporation for Housing Opportunities, and a Mother's Day Baby Shower to benefit the Division of Family Services.