

talk about private schools—you better be watching the handwriting on the wall.

Some years ago I traveled down to the old Biblical city of Babylon by the side of the Euphrates River and I visited a place where it was said that Belshazzar feasted with 1,000 of his lords. And as he feasted, blind and dying, there appeared on the wall near the candlestick, a hand. That hand wrote on the wall. And Belshazzar summoned all of his magicians and his wise men and asked them to interpret the handwriting that appeared on the wall. It seems to me the handwriting said: mene, mene, tekel, upharsin. I hope that is right. It has been a while since I read it: Mene, mene, tekel, upharsin. And the queen said, this young man who can interpret that writing, his name is Daniel. And so the king who was trembling, his knees were shaking, summoned Daniel.

Daniel was asked to interpret the writing. And he interpreted the writing to mean: God, thou art weighed in the balances and art found wanting. God hath numbered thy kingdom and finished it.

That night, Belshazzar was slain and his kingdom was taken over by the Medes and Persians. So we should see the handwriting on the wall. We better learn that the public school system needs to shape up. We spend billions on it. Parents need to back up their teachers and participate in the PTAs, and we should pay teachers, good teachers, salaries that are commensurate with their worth.

No football player was ever equal to the worth of a good teacher. No television anchorperson was ever worth more than a good teacher. That may sound like an extremist talking, but there is something to what I am saying. You better believe it. And I might say this, too. There is no politician who is ever worth more than a good teacher.

When American students do so poorly in international mathematics assessments that they score 19th out of 21 nations, the handwriting should be on the wall. It is clear that it is not vouchers that threaten our public schools. It is the inadequate education that our public schools offer and parental frustration that threaten to undermine confidence in public education. And it is high time that we realize that.

There are many public schools that are great schools. There are a lot of good schools in this country, and a lot of good teachers. But we need to lift the level of all the boats.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, nearly 1 million children have been pulled out of public schools and are being educated at home by their parents. That number is sure to grow.

Yes, parents are concerned by the violence that is occurring in the schools, concerned by the falling grades of their children, concerned by the lack of discipline in the public schools, concerned

that for the money spent we are turning out worse students, generally speaking, than it used to be when we were spending far less money.

It is up to us who do believe in public schooling to see what is happening and to do whatever it takes to restore confidence in public education. We owe that to our kids. We owe that to their parents. And we owe it to the country we all claim to love.

FLAG DAY

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President:

Hats off!
 Along the street there comes
 A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums,
 A flash of color beneath the sky:
 Hats off!
 The flag is passing by!
 Blue and crimson and white it shines,
 Over the steel-tipped, ordered lines.
 Hats off!
 The colors before us fly;
 But more than the flag is passing by.
 Sea-fights and land-fights, grim and great,
 Fought to make and save the State:
 Weary marches and sinking ships;
 Cheers of victory on dying lips;
 Days of plenty and years of peace;
 March of a strong land's swift increase;
 Equal justice, right and law,
 Stately honor and reverend awe;
 Sign of a nation, great and strong
 To ward her people from foreign wrong;
 Pride and glory and honor, all
 Live in the colors to stand or fall.
 Hats off!
 Along the street there comes
 A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums;
 And loyal hearts are beating high:
 Hats off!
 The flag is passing by!

Mr. President, today is Flag Day. It is the birthday of our Stars and Stripes. It was on June 14, 1777, that the Second Continental Congress passed the resolution authorizing the creation of a flag to symbolize the new Nation, the United States of America.

This is not a federal holiday, but to me it is one of the most important days of the year. Flag day is our nation's way of honoring, celebrating, and paying our respects to the very symbol of our nation. As the poem says: "more than the flag is passing by."

Henry Ward Beecher explained that "a thoughtful mind when it sees our nation's flag, sees not the flag, but the nation itself."

More than this, Old Glory represents the values and principles of our nation. It commemorates our nation's glorious past, and it offers hope for an even more glorious future.

Born at the beginning of the American Revolution, the Stars and Stripes is a celebration of our independence and our freedom as well as our strength and our security. It was there, being raised and saluted during some of the proudest moments in our nation's history as in Iwo Jima in 1945 and on the Moon in 1969. And it has been there in every major conflict in American history as millions of young Americans

have marched off to battle under the flag. It was at Fort McHenry during the War of 1812. It was there at Gettysburg, at San Juan Hill, and at Normandy.

But more than soldiers have been inspired and guided by our Nation's colors.

I can't begin to explain what a thrill it is for me to visit a school and see young children putting their chubby hands on their hearts and pledging allegiance to "the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands." When I see such a sight, I feel confident for the future of our great land. Whatever our current troubles might be, I somehow know that everything will be all right. Our flag, as it has throughout our history, continues to transcend our differences, and affirm our common bond as a people and our solemn unity as a great Nation.

The United States Senate now begins each morning by pledging allegiance to the flag. Speaking those few, but stirring, words, while looking at Old Glory, still inspires me and reminds me of how fortunate I am to be an American, to be a West Virginian, and to be a United States Senator.

On Flag Day, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson noted: "though silent it [our flag] speaks to us" and indeed it does.

It speaks to us of great events—of our liberty; of our history; of our future. It speaks to us of the freedom that is the basis, and the enduring promise, of our Republic.

"Hats off," Mr. President, "the colors before us fly; But more than the flag is passing by."

I close by citing those memorable, moving lines from the second stanza of our national anthem:

Tis the Star-Spangled Banner. O long may it
 wave
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the
 brave.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further proceedings under the quorum call be dispensed with, and that I be allowed to proceed in morning business for 4 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Michigan.

IN MEMORY OF VERNA "SUZY"
 JOYCE, DEDICATED PUBLIC
 SERVANT, WIFE AND MOTHER

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise tonight to pay tribute to Suzy Joyce who passed away today Thursday, June 14, 2001. Her sudden and untimely death leaves a void that for those who knew and loved Suzy will never be filled.

Born Verna Joyce, but called Suzy by those who knew her, in North Carolina on

September 15, 1957, Suzy began work in the United States Senate over two decades ago as a cashier in the Senate Restaurants. Since 1986, I had the privilege of having Suzy on my staff. During her tenure on my staff, she was a model employee whose expertise, dedication, diligence and attention to detail enabled my office to respond to constituents efficiently and effectively.

Suzy played a vital role in advancing and modernizing our office's mail system. She arrived in the era of carbon copies and mimeograph machines, but she helped implement a new mail system that responds to the needs of the computer era when letters are as likely to arrive by email as they are by the US Postal Service. While my constituents may have never had the opportunity to personally meet Suzy, tens of thousands of them received constituent services, United States flags flown over the Capital and heard from me by mail because of her organization and efforts.

Suzy was more than a dedicated employee. She was a warm and friendly woman whose infectious smile, sense of humor and love for the Pittsburgh Steelers filled our office, and earned her friends throughout the Senate. It seems as if everyone knew Suzy. She was the one who welcomed interns and told my staffers, who are prone to working long days, to remember to call their parents. When members of my staff went to the Senate Printing Office or the Architect of the Capitol, they were often admonished with orders to say "Hello to Suzy."

I wish that more of my constituents had the opportunity to meet Suzy and her husband Rick. The two of them worked together in the United States Senate, and this is a better place because of them.

Suzy and Rick's dedication extended far beyond work. They were dedicated to each other, their three children, their family and their God. Together, they embodied the American values of hard-work, faith and loyalty. Suzy and Rick, both natives of North Carolina, recently celebrated another anniversary together. Their love for each other was evident to all. Rick works as the Facilities Supervisor under the Office of the Superintendent, and Suzy would

come into work with him, hours before our office opened so that she could ride to and from work with him. After work, Suzy frequently volunteered at her church where she was a regular attendee and an important contributor. She is survived by three wonderful daughters: Andrea, Candice and Dawn of whom she was extremely proud and talked about frequently.

One never is able to prepare for the death of a friend or loved one. However, I trust that the friends, family and faith that were so important to Suzy in her life will continue to sustain her family in the days, months and years ahead. I and my staff will keep Suzy Joyce and her family in our thoughts and prayers. I know that the Senate family joins me in offering their condolences to the family of Verna "Suzy" Joyce on the occasion of their great loss.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 1 P.M. MONDAY, JUNE 18, 2001

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 1 p.m. Monday, June 18, 2001.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 8:30 p.m., adjourned until Monday, June 18, 2000, at 1 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate June 14, 2001:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FRANCES P. MAINELLA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, VICE ROBERT G. STANTON, RESIGNED.

JOHN W. KEYS, III, OF UTAH, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF RECLAMATION, VICE ELUID LEVI MARTINEZ, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DANIEL C. KURTZER, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CA-

REER MINISTER, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO ISRAEL.

RUSSELL F. FREEMAN, OF NORTH DAKOTA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO BELIZE.

CLARK KENT ERVIN, OF TEXAS, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, VICE JACQUELYN L. WILLIAMS-BRIDGES, RESIGNED.

RICHARD J. EGAN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO IRELAND.

VINCENT MARTIN BATTLE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF LEBANON.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. JAMES C. RILEY, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM S. WALLACE, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. LARRY R. JORDAN, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. BENJAMIN S. GRIFFIN, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. LEON J. LAPORTE, 0000

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 14, 2001:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

JAMES LAURENCE CONNAUGHTON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

STEPHEN L. JOHNSON, OF MARYLAND, TO BE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

THE ABOVE NOMINATIONS WERE APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEE'S COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CHARLES A. JAMES, JR., OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL.