

The Safety Board, the Senators will recall, was established by statute in 1988 for the purpose of providing the highest quality of technical oversight of the safe operations of the Nation's nuclear weapons complex—dozens of plants with very high risk radioactive material. To accomplish this very difficult task, the Safety Board has to attract and train the very best technical talent in the nuclear area. Chairman Conway's citation accompanying the award to Mr. Barton says in part:

Mr. Barton joined the Board in 1994, bringing with him more than 25 years of project management and engineering experience in the design, construction, and operation of nuclear reactors for commercial facilities. He became an indispensable leader for the Board's technical staff, and was key to the development of more than half a dozen technical reports, which continue to have an impact on operations in the defense nuclear complex today.

I have examined Mr. Barton's career, and I certainly agree with Chairman Conway. Mr. Barton not only brought his own expertise to the board, but he trained and developed a generation of young engineers to contribute to the admirable technical performance of the safety board, where a technical staff of about 60 oversees the safe operation of a complex of over 100,000 workers with a budget of over \$16 billion. This technical staff is superb, and Ron Barton helped build it, and then led it by example.

Now Ron must retire, much too early, because of his leukemia. We wish he were able to continue to serve, but we are grateful for the contributions he made to safety in the nuclear complex. For instance, Ron was the expert lead on at least six very complex and thorough technical studies, on such diverse areas as: DOE emergency management capabilities, confinement ventilation systems, fire protection, criticality safety, and documented safety analysis. This is an extraordinary list of achievements; these reports still guide the Department of Energy operations of these complex, hazardous facilities. We should be grateful to Ron for these contributions.

Ron Barton is the best of the best, and the Nation will miss his contributions. We wish him good health and a happy retirement.●

NETDAY STUDENT VOICES' SPEAK UP DAY ON OCTOBER 29

● Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to "speak up" and support "Speak Up Day," a national event where students of all ages and grades, from communities and schools across the country, will go online from their classrooms and share their opinions, ideas and thoughts about how technology should be used in schools. NetDay, a national non-profit organization dedicated to connecting every child to a brighter future through the use of technology, is hosting this inaugural event of student participation in the governmental process.

"Speak Up Day" is being held as the U.S. Department of Education works on the development of the Nation's third National Education Technology Plan as mandated by the No Child Left Behind Act. The Plan will establish a national strategy supporting the effective use of technology to improve student academic achievement and to prepare students for the 21st century.

Today's "Speak Up Day" activities will allow the student voice to be heard and involved in crafting this new Technology Plan. NetDay will summarize the student "Speak Up Day" comments into a written report that will be submitted for the National Education Technology Plan and will be available online for public discussion. This report will also be a call to action for national, State, and local education leaders to recognize the importance of student input in discussions about how schools and instruction impact their educational experiences.

I think we can all agree that using technology in schools has become a necessity. With the expansion and prevalence of the Internet in our society, it is critical that we teach our children how to use computers, the Internet, and the various other forms of interactive technology that exist today. Yet beyond the necessity of 'learning' technology, it is important that educators and communities understand that so many of our youth today are already 'one' with technology. The challenge lies in understanding how to connect this technological know-how with classroom instruction so that all our children have the best educational experience possible to prepare them for the future. "Speak Up Day" is a real life lesson on the impact of technology in the classroom, a forum for students to be civically engaged, and an outlet for our Nation's youth to express their empowerment when technology is paired with education.

Since October 1, over 1,000 schools from all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and over 25 Department of Defense schools have preregistered for NetDay's "Speak Up Day" initiative, with over 170,000 students planning to participate. I am pleased that schools across the State of Michigan have registered to take part in this event. Over 5,000 students from small rural schools in Middleville, MI, to suburban schools in West Bloomfield and high schools in Detroit will have the opportunity to express their thoughts on technology in schools. I highly commend NetDay for sponsoring this progressive event, and I look forward to hearing the outcome of the discussion.●

TRIBUTE TO GARRY NEIL DRUMMOND, SR.

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I pay tribute to a dear friend, Garry Drummond, of Birmingham, AL. Garry Drummond was recently named to the Alabama Business Hall of Fame.

Garry is the chairman and chief executive officer of Drummond Company,

Inc., one of Alabama's largest coal producers and a major national producer of foundry coke. The company was founded in 1935 by Mr. Heman Drummond, father of five brothers who are still associated with the company today. The company's executive and administrative offices are in Birmingham, with operational headquarters in Jasper, AL.

Garry was born in Sipsey, AL, on June 8, 1938. He earned his Associate degree from Walker College in 1959. He received his bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from the University of Alabama in 1961. He also holds an honorary doctorate of science from the University of Alabama, awarded in May 1983, and served on the University's board of trustees from 1983 to 2001.

Garry has been active in the coal industry and its State, national, and international organizations. He is the longest running board member of the National Mining Association and is a former member of the board of directors of the American Coal Foundation. He is a founder of the Mining and Reclamation Council of America, MARC, a national trade organization representing primarily surface miners that later merged with the National Coal Association in 1987. Garry served as MARC's first chairman. He is a member of the board of directors and past chairman of the Alabama Coal Association and a former member of the National Coal Council, an advisory group appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Energy. He is also a member of the board of directors of the Center for Energy and Economic Development.

I offer Garry my congratulations and best wishes as he becomes a member of the Alabama Business Hall of Fame.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 12938 WITH RESPECT TO WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION—PM 53

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee