

Page County and the Commonwealth of Virginia proud of their great achievements. Keep winning.●

DISTINGUISHED MONTANANS

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today with great pride to honor a group of distinguished Montanans. Alyson Mike and Thomas Andres, Montana's 2004 Milken Educator Award recipients deserve recognition for their outstanding work and service to our State and to the children they teach every day.

Public service is the most noble thing a person can do. Whether it is service to one's church, community or government, there is nothing more honorable. Alyson and Thomas are at the top of a lengthy list of quality teachers in Montana to stand among their fellow American teachers to receive this national award.

The Milken Educator Award provides public recognition and a \$25,000 honorarium to teachers, principals and other educators who have a proven record of excellence in education. Alyson, a natural science teacher at East Valley Middle School, and Thomas, a science teacher at St. Labre Catholic Indian School, both have strong records of excellence. In fact, I was recently honored to recognize Alyson as Montana's 2004 Teacher of the Year.

In Montana, there is little difference between our schools and our communities. This award highlights the great quality of teachers we have in Montana and spotlights the good things happening in our schools.

Alyson and Thomas are two of Montana's high quality teachers that are helping to shape our State's future. They are creating an environment that encourages learning, instilling a curiosity and a desire to learn—all of which will produce a more educated workforce. A better educated work force will spur job creation and translate into a stronger economy with more good-paying jobs. The best way to ensure Montana's future is through a well-educated work force.

We in Montana are very fortunate to be able to claim teachers like Alyson Mike and Thomas Andres as our very own. They are playing a vital role in our State's future. I commend Alyson and Thomas for all they have done and I am confident they will continue to serve their students well.

I would also like to recognize Polson High School as Montana's 2004 winner of the 'We the People' Competition. By winning the State competition, nineteen of our State's brightest government students and their teacher qualified to represent Montana in the National Civics Competition on the United States Constitution.

The names of the 19 students who are receiving this honor are as follows: Charlie Cooper, Chance Dupuis, Sky Fredrickson, Ashley Gilchrist, Kasey Harwood, Rosanna Ho, Chad

Hunsucker, Bonnie Klein, Brandon McCurdy, Kdee Meidinger, Zach Morrow, Candace Myers, Andrew Ofstad, Kiel Rafter, Chris Rossmith, Kai Smith, Kate Taylor, and Christine Woitke.

Pat Danley is the teacher whose expertise, guidance, and encouragement that helped these students receive this honor. Pat Danley is a veteran government and political science teacher at Polson High School. I commend Pat on his ability to prepare these students for this competition.

These students have demonstrated a strong understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Here in Congress, I think we can all recognize the value of fostering civic competence and responsibility. These students are Montana's future leaders, and I am proud to recognize their accomplishment.●

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLORENCE WOMAN'S CLUB

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate the Florence Woman's Club of Florence, KY on the recent celebration of its 50th anniversary.

The Florence Woman's Club was founded on April 20, 1954. Its goal was simply to make the city of Florence a better place to live. The causes that the club has lent its time to are almost too numerous to mention. They have been involved in raising money to fight cancer, working at local veterans' hospitals, and helping with the preservation of historic buildings in the area, to name just a few.

The citizens of northern Kentucky are fortunate to have the services of the Florence Woman's Club. This organization's example of dedication, hard work and compassion should be an inspiration to all throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

They have my most sincere appreciation for this work, and I look forward to their continued service to Kentucky. I have no doubt that they will be just as productive in their next 50 years as they have been in their first 50. Congratulations.●

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA SWIM AND DIVE TEAMS

● Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize the 2003-2004 University of Virginia Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving teams for their hard work in winning the 2004 ACC Championship.

These athletes, under the strong coaching of Mark Bernadino, devoted a tremendous amount of time and energy to studying, training and competing. It was through their endless drive and dedication that they were able to become ACC Champions this season.

As a former student-athlete at UVA, I understand the impact that athletics play in the development of an individual's character and life. Sports teach us important lessons of self-discipline,

perseverance, teamwork and sportsmanship. The benefits of participating in athletics can prove valuable in the daily lives of student-athletes whether at school or at work in their communities. Each of these student-athletes is a leader and a winner, not just in the water but also in the classroom.

I congratulate Coach Bernadino and the University of Virginia Swim and Dive teams on their 2004 ACC Championship and wish them continued success in the future. Keep winning.●

SAMUEL HOPKINS SHRUM

● Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize Mr. Samuel Hopkins Shrum, a native of Dayton, VA, who was honored this year for 55 years of perfect attendance by the Rotary Club of Harrisonburg, VA. Mr. Shrum's commitment to the Harrisonburg Rotary is just one example in a lifetime of dedication and hard work.

An architectural engineering graduate of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Mr. Shrum later attended Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ for post-graduate studies. He began his professional career with George E. Shrum & Son, eventually becoming a production engineer at Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company. Hard work and dedication led him to become President of Nielson Construction Company in 1962 where he served until his retirement in 1976. The company grew from a small operation of seven employees to nearly 300 while Mr. Shrum served as executive vice-president, general manager, treasurer and director, before being named its president.

Today, I congratulate Mr. Shrum for his dedication and commitment to service in the Harrisonburg community and wish him continued success.●

H. ODELL "FUZZY" MINNIX

● Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize Mr. H. Odell "Fuzzy" Minnix for his community service and leadership. Mr. Minnix recently retired after serving three terms on the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors, including several years as the board's chairman. During his 12 years on the Board of Supervisors, Roanoke County saw significant improvement in its quality of life; in recent years, the county was recognized as one of the best school systems in the Nation and the community's continued commitment to expansion and growth resulted in the creation of more jobs and opportunity in the region.

Throughout his life, Fuzzy Minnix has been a community leader and volunteer. He was the recipient of the Roanoke Valley Big Brother of the Year Award and has been an avid supporter of youth sports, having been Head Football Coach at Hidden Valley Junior High School. Mr. Minnix also served as Head Softball Coach, Assistant Varsity Football Coach and Assistant Varsity Track Coach at Cave Spring High