

need for greater flexibility for rural counties with teacher qualification requirements in NCLB. The superintendent of White Pine County, Bob Dolezal, concurred and shared the challenges of ensuring that his high school teaching staff of five, who each have taught multiple subjects, would be considered "highly qualified" to teach all subjects.

Make no mistake about it: The issue is not whether teachers in rural areas should be qualified to teach multiple subjects—they should. However, requiring them to attain "highly qualified" status in all subjects simultaneously is unreasonable.

In other counties, like Douglas County, they have actually seen enrollment decline, as housing costs drove families to less expensive areas. Yet the district has had increased expenses because of onerous NCLB requirements. The superintendent, John Soderman, said he appreciates the accountability principles in the law but also talked about the negative implications of the law's punitive nature.

Mary Pierczynski in Carson City cited NCLB's effect on thinking and creativity. They have over 200 days of curriculum to teach but with only 180 days of school. And standardized testing is taking up more 10 days of that time.

In Humboldt County, it is difficult to get qualified paraprofessionals, and additional requirements will leave many of the schools without aides. Superintendent Charlotte Peterson said that the only other option would be to bring them in from many miles away.

In Eureka County, where there are just a few hundred students, Ben Zunino talked about a feeling of inevitability for schools to be labeled as failing and how one student's performance can often make the difference between a school being labeled as high achieving or needs improvement. To improve this, Lincoln County Superintendent Rick Hardy suggested counting the percentage of students who move into proficiency as a way of recognizing improvement and the hard work of teachers and students.

In Storey County, Rob Slaby is fretful about the time for history and arts that has been lost to testing and preparation for these tests and suggested some kind of credit for these important subjects.

Dottie Merrill from Washoe County, the State's second largest school district, suggested that students who are English-learners not be included in testing until they have been in the United States for a few years, as opposed to 1 year, as is currently in the law. This would give schools the time necessary to help these students transition to school in the United States.

Nearly all superintendents mentioned the struggle to pay for the basics, like school buses and supplies, with the ever-increasing costs of NCLB requirements. If the Federal Government would fully fund NCLB, as it had

promised, it would alleviate some of these hardships.

As an example, many of the districts mentioned the cost to provide transportation for their increasingly scattered student population. In many rural counties, where some students travel up to 150 miles a day for school, transportation expenses can be upwards of 70 percent of the budget. Many districts have had to cut some special events because of rising transportation costs, and all were concerned about the amount school bus costs and high gas prices will cut into their overall budgets.

I have touched on just a few of the problems with the No Child Left Behind Act and some of the ways educators in Nevada have suggested to improve it. It is going to take a lot of hard work to make it what it promised to be: a tool that will help the teachers and students in every public school in America.

Today, as we honor the Nation's teachers for their work and dedication, we must ensure that we keep our promise to America's students. We can't afford to leave them behind.

#### RECOGNITION OF CHUCK FULKERSON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I rise to honor one of the true heroes for Nevada's veterans, retired COL Charles "Chuck" Fulkerson. This man is a Reno native, a war hero, and a dedicated public servant.

I have known Chuck for many years, and I have always appreciated his dedication to improving the lives of veterans in our State. When Chuck spoke about veterans issues, he spoke from a position experience.

In 1955, Chuck enrolled in the Army Reserve while an undergraduate at the University of Nevada-Reno. The Korean war had ended, but our world was still a very unstable place. A few years later when the United States found itself involved in another crisis in Southeast Asia, Chuck answered his Nation's call to service. He went to Vietnam, not once but twice, for tours of combat. After the war, Chuck served his country in Europe before returning home to serve in the Nevada National Guard.

While maintaining his military obligations, Chuck served the citizens of Nevada in a variety of government positions. Gov. Bob List appointed Chuck to be the director of the Nevada Selective Service in 1979. After almost 6 years of service in that role, Gov. Dick Bryan recalled Chuck to active duty when he appointed Chuck to be the director of the property and fiscal officers for the Nevada National Guard.

After almost 40 years of military service, Chuck retired in 1991. He taught military history at the University of Nevada-Reno, but his public service to our State was not yet complete. Gov. Kenny Guinn appointed Chuck to be the executive director of

the Nevada Office of Veterans Services in 2000, an office he faithfully served until this March.

Chuck presided over the Nevada Office of Veterans Services at a critical point in our State's history. Since 1990, Nevada's veterans population has increased by more than 40 percent. This unprecedented growth put strain on many resources in Nevada, but Chuck was never discouraged.

Instead, he worked tirelessly for more staff and additional resources to help Nevada veterans.

Under Chuck's watch, Nevada modernized their veterans services including the completion of a new Veterans Nursing Home in Boulder City. Chuck presided over the construction of this facility, which is home to more than 162 of America's heroes. Another key part of Chuck's work was his effort to improve veterans cemeteries through Nevada, including cemeteries at Boulder City and Fernley. I was pleased to work with Chuck to secure Federal appropriations to expand these cemeteries.

The Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education has awarded Chuck their highest award, naming him a Distinguished Nevadan. With his long list of accomplishments for Nevada's veterans, Chuck is most deserving of this high honor, and I am pleased to recognize his accomplishments today before the Senate.

#### PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the brave men and women who lost their lives while serving as law enforcement officers and to thank them for making the ultimate sacrifice.

Today is Peace Officers Memorial Day, a day to honor all the law enforcement officers in our communities who have been killed or disabled in the line of duty. I was proud to join Senator PATRICK LEAHY on S. Res. 472, a Senate resolution, which passed the Senate last week, commemorating this important day.

This past Saturday, thousands of people from across the country gathered at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial here in Washington, DC, for a candlelight vigil to honor these fallen officers. And today, there was a Peace Officers Memorial Service in front of the U.S. Capitol for these brave men and women. I am proud that we had a dedicated group of Michigan officers in attendance, representing their fellow officers from around the State.

The names of 466 fallen officers were added to the memorial on Saturday, including 8 officers from Michigan: Lavern Steven Brann, Battle Creek, Michigan; William A. Daniels, Cassopolis, Michigan; Owen David Fisher, Flint, Michigan; Dale Francis Bernock, Dearborn, Michigan; Scot Andrew Beyerstedt, Mattawan, Michigan; Benjamin Lewis Carpenter, Newaygo,