

people like him all across the government. People serving people. People willing to do what it takes—and then some.

In closing, let me recognize the men and women of the Postal Service, and every government employee, from the smallest villages, to the largest cities; from every county, every state and every federal agency.

You make our nation and your community a better place with all that you do. You have earned the recognition you are receiving this week. I salute you and I am honored to be one of you.

Thank you.●

#### CONGRATULATING THE WINNERS OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS

● Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the 2006 recipients of the New Hampshire Excellence in Education Awards. These prestigious awards, commonly called the EDies, are presented each year to individuals and schools who demonstrate the highest level of excellence in education.

The recipients of the EDies are chosen based on certain criteria, including student achievement, leadership, and decisionmaking; community and parental involvement; school climate, curriculum, and instruction; and the teaching and learning process. I am proud to recognize the 34 individuals, 3 schools, 1 department, and 1 school board who will receive this distinctive honor on June 10, 2006.

The EDies awarded in various categories, including school board, principal, and superintendent of the year, as well as schools of excellence at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. In addition, individuals are recognized for their contributions in specific subject areas, such as social studies, music, and business education. There is also an award in memory of New Hampshire's own Christa McAuliffe, whom we lost 20 years ago as she courageously embarked on her journey to be the first teacher in space.

As an elected official, parent, and former student of the New Hampshire public school system, I have had the opportunity to meet and learn from many educators across the Granite State, including some of this year's award recipients. Their dedication to providing students with the tools they need to become productive and engaged citizens is commendable and the basis for the superior achievement of New Hampshire's schools. I am personally grateful to the teachers at every level of my own education who provided me with the guidance necessary to succeed.

The EDies provide us with an opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous contributions of our State's educational community. I am pleased to recognize them here today and to convey the gratitude of my State for the role each of this year's recipients have played in the lives of New Hampshire's children.

Mr. President, I ask that the list of the 2006 New Hampshire Excellence in

Education Award winners and school finalists be printed in the RECORD.

The list follows.

#### 2006 NEW HAMPSHIRE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

Rebecca Albert, Deborah Boisvert, Norma J. Bursaw, Marcia B. Connors, Meaghan B. Cronin, Richard Dunning, James N. Elefante, Nancy Frantz Clough, Kathleen Frick, CarolAnn Gregorious, Kimberly Kenney, Phillip K. Martin, Kathleen C. McCabe, Carole A. Smart, Emily K. Spear, Linda A. Vincent, Bruce R. Wheeler, David Alcox, Gregg M. Brighenti, Jaffrey Caron, W. Michael Cozort, Elizabeth M. Curran, Carol A. Dupuis, Mary E. Fay, Deborah Franzoni, Rick Glatz, Esther Kennedy, Lisa MacLean, Dr. Dennise Maslakowski, Thomas Prive, Deanne Soderberg, Gregory S. Superchi, Richard C. Walter, Jr., Doris E. Williams.

Academy of Learning and Technology: Nashua High School North, Pennichuck Middle School Technology Department, Lafayette Regional School, Oyster River Coop. School Board.

#### SECONDARY SCHOOL FINALISTS

Goffstown High School, Pembroke Academy, Prospect Mountain High School.

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL FINALISTS

Indian River School, Oyster River Middle School.

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FINALISTS

Hollis Primary and Upper Elementary School, South Londonderry Elementary School.●

#### TRIBUTE TO THOMAS W. TAYLOR

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Thomas W. Taylor, the Senior Deputy General Counsel of the Army, for his exceptionally meritorious service to our country. Mr. Taylor will retire on June 3, 2006, having completed 36 years of superb military and Federal civilian service with the Department of the Army, the last 19 of which have been as a member of the Senior Executive Service. As such, he has been at the forefront of the most critical issues affecting our Nation and the military today. His commitment to upholding the rule of law in the service of the national defense has been the bedrock grounding many of the Army's mission successes. We owe him a particular debt of gratitude for the genuine and enduring concern he has demonstrated for the welfare of our men and women in uniform and their families, particularly in the face of the many sacrifices our Nation has demanded of them over the last decades.

Mr. Taylor's remarkable career as a selfless and committed servant of the public trust culminated in his appointment in 1997 as Senior Deputy General Counsel, the Department's senior career civilian attorney. Mr. Taylor has long been the foundation of strategic leadership, vision, and continuity for the Army legal community. Over the course of his distinguished career, he has provided sage policy and legal advice to six Secretaries of the Army, seven Army General Counsel, and numerous other senior officers in the Army Secretariat, and Headquarters, Department of the Army, on a wide va-

riety of operational issues, including military support to civilian authorities; during special events of national significance, such as the Olympic Games and Presidential Inaugurals; in responding to domestic disasters and civil disturbances; and in fighting drugs and weapons of mass destruction. His personnel law portfolio covered the full range of military and civilian personnel law: mobilization, recruitment, promotions, discharges, medical care issues, sexual harassment, and equal employment opportunity. Other practice areas included select aspects of criminal law, implementation of the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act as applied to the Army, Secretarial and command authority, and application of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act, as well as policies governing the release of information under the Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts in response to public, Congressional, and media requests for information about Army activities and investigations. Further, Mr. Taylor discharged the Department's legal responsibility for intelligence oversight, monitoring Army intelligence and counterintelligence operations worldwide and overseeing legal and policy aspects of special access programs and intelligence support to other Federal agencies. In 2001, he was the senior Army lawyer at the Pentagon site on September 11, providing advice enabling immediate on-scene military support to security and recovery operations. He has represented the Army and DoD in matters with Congress and other Federal agencies, as well as to foreign countries. Beginning in the Reagan administration and during extended transitional periods between successive administration appointees, Mr. Taylor often has been selected personally by Secretaries of the Army to discharge the duties of the General Counsel. Most recently, he has served in that capacity since July of 2005.

Mr. Taylor was raised in Pilot Mountain, NC, and is a graduate of public schools in North Carolina. He earned a B.A. in history with high honors from Guilford College, Greensboro, NC, in 1966, and a J.D. with honors in 1969 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was inducted into the Order of the Coif and a staff member of the law review, which published three of his notes. After graduating from law school, he was commissioned as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General's Corps of the Army. He first served at Fort Wainwright, AK, followed by tours at Fulda and Darmstadt, Germany. Returning to the United States, Mr. Taylor taught from 1975 to 1978 in the law department of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, serving as professor to many of the Army's future leaders. Later, after tours of duty in the office of the Judge Advocate General in the Pentagon and in a nominative position as an Assistant to the Army General Counsel, he