

students are required to take the advanced placement test at the end of the term. Students scoring three or better on the test automatically earn college credit. Last year, 70 percent of all Duluth East students who took the advanced placement tests scored three or above.

In addition to the advanced placement classes, Duluth East offers College in the School classes and honors classes in English, biology, chemistry, physics, and anatomy/physiology.

Two Duluth East teachers received significant recognition last year. Peg Zahorick, a special education teacher, was designated Teacher of the Year by Arc of Minnesota. She was honored for her work on behalf of persons with developmental disabilities and their families. Cindy Grindy, a chemistry teacher at Duluth East, was named the 2005 Star of American Teaching for Minnesota. That award is given by the U.S. Department of Education.

Much of the credit for Duluth East High School's success belongs to its principal, Laurie Knapp, and to the dedicated teachers. The students and staff at Duluth East High School understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success. It must also provide a nurturing environment where students can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and students at Duluth East High School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Duluth East High School in Duluth for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

MAYOR MARK ZEIGLER OF
STURGIS, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the work of a distinguished public official in my home State of South Dakota. On September 4, Mark Zeigler will step aside as mayor of Sturgis to become the president of Northwestern Health Science University in Bloomington, MN.

Mark and his wife Gae, an elementary school teacher, arrived in Sturgis on the last day of the 1980 Sturgis motorcycle rally. Mark quickly established his chiropractic practice. Later he began his political career by completing the term of Maurice LaRue on the Sturgis City Council.

For the next 14 years, Mark served on the Sturgis City Council. He left the council in 1997 and was elected mayor in 2001. During the past 5 years as mayor, and his nearly 20 years of community service to the residents of Sturgis, Mark has worked to make the community a better place to work, live, and raise a family.

During Mayor Zeigler's tenure, the city developed a state-of-the-art library and city hall complex that will serve the community and area residents for many years into the future.

He also worked towards the construction of a new fire hall that will provide expanded services to the Sturgis community and area.

Mayor Zeigler has been especially successful in promoting economic development. Not so many years ago, it appeared the city lacked the means to expand its industrial base. But Mayor Zeigler succeeded in working with city officials to design and expand the city's industrial park complex. Through his leadership, Sturgis has developed a niche among gun and ammunition manufacturers. In addition, he has made Sturgis a more attractive place to live and work by expanding and beautifying the city's greenway and bike path areas.

During his years of community service and as mayor of Sturgis, the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Classic has grown and expanded in popularity. Sturgis is a community of roughly 6,000 citizens that hosts this annual event that brings up to a million visitors each year. Hosting an event of this magnitude takes considerable effort and skill, which Mayor Zeigler and his team of local partners have shown in abundance. In addition, they have hosted other established and expanding events such as Cavalry Days, the national Sheep Dog trials and competition, and the Meade County Gas and Threshing Bee.

I have had the privilege of working with Mayor Zeigler during his terms as mayor. His dedication and commitment to his community and its citizens are to be applauded, and I congratulate and commend him on his years of service, his leadership, vision, and work ethic. Mark and Gae will be greatly missed by the residents of Sturgis, and I want to wish them all the best as they open a new chapter in their lives. The mayor's accomplishments in Sturgis will long be remembered fondly by the city's residents and by those of us who had the pleasure of working with him.●

HARRIET BEECHER STOWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, DULUTH, MINNESOTA

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I honor Harriet Beecher Stowe Elementary School, in Duluth, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Harriet Beecher Stowe Elementary School is truly a model of educational success. For past 12 years, the school has embraced an environmental education emphasis, with a 100-percent commitment to recycling, breakfast and lunch waste reduction, an integrated environmental education curriculum, a composting shed, an alternative-energy tower, and annual environmentally themed service-learning projects at all grade levels. Stowe Elementary was one of six Minnesota schools to receive last year's Spotlight

Award from the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation.

Improving pupils' achievement is also a primary focus at Stowe Elementary. The teachers and administrators establish annual goals relative to student achievement in reading, math, and writing, in addition to a goal related to the school's overall learning environment. The goals are comprehensive, including individual goals for every staff member. It has a summer "Jump Start" EXCEL Program for pupils determined to be at risk for maintaining their grade-level performance. Last year, Stowe Elementary received four stars in both reading and math from the Minnesota Department of Education.

Much of the credit for Harriet Beecher Stowe Elementary School's success belongs to its principal, Terry Cottingham, and to the dedicated teachers. The pupils and staff at Harriet Beecher Stowe Elementary School understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where students can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and pupils at Harriet Beecher Stowe Elementary School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Harriet Beecher Stowe Elementary School in Duluth for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

STATEMENT ON THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF WILMOT, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the founding of the progressive city of Wilmot, SD. It is my pleasure to recognize the citizens of Wilmot on reaching this milestone.

Wilmot is the oldest town in Roberts County and was named after Mr. Wilmot, a director of the Milwaukee Railroad. Wilmot was first settled in 1880 and filed for a town charter with the territorial government on June 3, 1881. In the early years of Wilmot, the community was located in Grant County but was shortly thereafter included in the newly created Roberts County, where it served as county seat for a number of years. The Milwaukee Railroad, which helped bring Wilmot into existence, still runs through the town today.

The community has endured its share of hardship. For example, on June 17, 1944, much of the agricultural area surrounding Wilmot was destroyed by a tornado. Like many rural areas, the community came together to help one another, cleaning off farmland and rebuilding buildings. This incident shows the strength of the bonds that hold this rural community together.

According to the 2000 census, Wilmot has 543 people. Small towns like