

Last year, the Energy Committee moved forward with legislation that utilizes the Department of Energy and its national labs to train our teachers and rekindle interest in math and science. We called that bill the PACE—Protecting America's Competitive Edge.

At the end of last session, and again this year, we were able to partner with our leaders, Senator REID and Senator MCCONNELL, and our colleagues on the Commerce and HELP Committees, to put together the comprehensive America COMPETES Act.

Less than 6 percent of high school seniors have plans to study engineering, but 50 percent of our current U.S. science and engineering workforce is approaching retirement age.

By bringing our national labs into the classroom, we can begin to address this problem.

Since the Augustine report emphasizes the need for a renewed focus on basic science and research, this bill authorizes doubling the funding for DOE's Office of Science.

I look forward to working with the House in conference to pass a strong, bipartisan bill that will allow America to rise above the gathering storm and compete once again.

With that, Madam President, once again, I thank Senator BINGAMAN. It has been a pleasure to get another bipartisan bill through with you. If we keep doing this, they are going to be mentioning the Senator from New Mexico so much—mentioning you and then me—they are going to think the whole place is full of Senators from New Mexico. We do not have to worry about that. We will take what we can get and do the best we can with it.

I say to the Senator, thank you, LAMAR, for coming to me and asking: Could I push this with you all? It was a pleasure—and under my chairmanship—to push it with you and for you. It came out very well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASEY). The Senator from New Mexico.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JACK HICKMAN'S RETIREMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, prior to this job as Democratic leader, I basically lived on the floor for 6 years. I was here from the time the Senate came into session until we went out every day. During that period of time, I got to know staff up here very well because I basically lived with them.

One of the people whom I certainly have gotten to know over that period of time is a man by the name of Jack

Hickman. Since 1996, Jack has worked in the Senate Document Room, has been the executive communications clerk, and is now the morning business editor. When he is here, he sits at the table right in front of me.

Jack is physically a giant of a man, very big. He has a wonderful sense of humor and is very easy to get along with. He loves his alma mater, the University of Wisconsin. One of his sad times was when UNLV beat them once, which was unexpected in a lot of quarters. He follows Wisconsin basketball and all of their sports teams very closely.

Jack has two sons, Paul and Brian. His wife's name is Margaret, and he brags about her all the time.

I want the RECORD to be spread with the fact that it has been an enjoyable experience for me to be able to work with someone of Jack's caliber, to be able to joke with him and make fun of each other in a respectful way on some of our idiosyncracies.

Jack Hickman is going to retire. Tomorrow is his last day here. He and his wife had purchased a place in Florida some time ago. He has been going down there on vacation in our off times. Now he will live there full time.

Jack does, as do all of the Senate personnel, invaluable work for us. He makes sure what we say goes in the right place in the RECORD. He works with the court reporters and the rest of the staff. His work, even though it is not very noteworthy to the public, is essential to the Senate functioning properly.

I will really miss Jack a lot. He is someone with whom I have a real strong comfort level. I look forward, in the years to come, to being able to visit with him again and talk about some of the times we have had. We have spent many hours together on the Senate floor. During those years, I didn't control what we did; I was just here on the floor. We waited for long periods of time for the leader—whether it was a Democratic or Republican leader—to come and take us out at the end of the day. We complained to each other, saying, "I wonder what they are doing." Well, since I got this job, I have a better picture of that. Even though it appears there is nothing going on out here, a lot of times, in the respective leaders' offices, a lot is going on.

Mr. President, I speak about Jack, but in the process I speak of all these people who do so much for us and make us look good.

I wish Jack good luck in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES A. SCHOLZ

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I congratulate my good friend Charles A. Scholz. On April 29, he will be honored by the Mississippi Valley Council, Boy Scouts of America and presented with the 2007 Distinguished Citizen Award. This commendation recognizes the im-

portant contributions of American men and women to scouting and their community. Charles A. Scholz is certainly deserving of such an award.

Charlie has spent most of his life in Quincy, IL. At 80, he retains fond memories of his years as a Boy Scout in Quincy. Charlie attended St. Francis Grade School and Quincy Notre Dame High School.

Beginning in July of 1944, he served in the Navy V-12 Program, a unique initiative designed to recruit commissioned officers during World War II and allow young men to pursue college degrees while serving on active duty. Charlie continued his education at Mercer University, ultimately receiving his juris doctorate degree.

After graduation, Charlie returned home to Quincy. On June 10, 1950, he married the late Nancy Wright. Together they raised seven children in Quincy, instilling in each a desire to serve the community. The success achieved by the Scholz children, serves as a testament to Charlie and Nancy's characters, as well as their dedication to the family and their faith.

Charlie has been a successful attorney in Quincy for years; but he is known equally well for his continuing efforts to give back to the community.

For 25 years, Charlie served on the board of directors of the Quincy Free Public Library. During his tenure as president of the library board, volunteers carried out a successful campaign to raise funds for a new library. Charlie also served board of trustees of the former St. Mary's Hospital in Quincy, first as a member and then as the board's president.

Charlie founded the Quincy Notre Dame Foundation to help support his alma mater. He served on the board of governors of the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor Foundation, Inc. and served as a member of the Board of Land of Lincoln Legal Services Foundation. In addition, Charlie was a past member of the Board of directors of the Community Foundation of Quincy.

The late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve." Well, Charlie Scholz has taken that declaration to heart. He lives a life committed to his family, his faith, and his community. I congratulate him on receiving this award and thank him for his years of service.

VIRGINIA TECH TRAGEDY

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I wish to express my heartfelt condolences to the family of 35-year-old Christopher James "Jamie" Bishop, one of the victims of the tragic Virginia Tech shooting rampage that occurred this week. He was teaching an introductory German language course in Norris Hall when the shooting occurred.

Jamie Bishop grew up in Pine Mountain and attended the University of Georgia, where he earned a bachelor's