

ideal, or act to improve the lot of others, or strike out against injustice, they send forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

When young students create such ripples and see their effects, they remember them all their lives. They remember their own ability to help others, and the joy and satisfaction it can bring. They develop a habit of service that follows them throughout their careers. And this is what makes service learning so very important.

Through community service, all of us have the opportunity to make our own lives better by helping others. And through strong service learning, schools are teaching generations of young people the joy of helping others. We are also doing much more. We are making our democracy stronger. Our democracy depends on the active involvement of citizens to shape our government and shape our communities.

There is no question that America needs students who are well-educated in every way. We are working to do better in this respect, but we need to do much more. We need students who grow up understanding what it is to serve, to give back to their community, to help others. Our nation will always draw strength from a committed and engaged citizenry. Service learning helps us build that better citizenry, one student at a time.

Seventeen years ago, I was the original sponsor of the National and Community Service Act of 1990. We reached across the aisle to recognize an important priority: to encourage and increase service in America. Among the many accomplishments of that legislation was the creation of Serve America, a new program to promote the practice of service learning in American schools.

That program, now called Learn and Serve America, has exceeded the high expectations we had for it. Last year, 1.4 million students participated in service learning nationwide through Learn and Serve. Since the creation of the program, over 14 million students have served their communities because of it. It's an impressive accomplishment to have touched so many lives. I congratulate all of those who have participated in Learn and Serve over the years, and especially those who have guided the program so successfully.

The Learn and Serve Challenge events taking place across America this week are an effective way to bring new and well-deserved attention to the program and to the benefits of service learning, and I look forward to even more impressive successes of this unique program in the years ahead.

PROJECTS SPONSORSHIP—S. 1745

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, as chairwoman of the Appropriations Sub-

committee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and related agencies, I rise today to clarify for the U.S. Senate the sponsorship of several congressionally designated projects included in the report accompanying S. 1745, the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008, S. Rpt. 110-124. Specifically:

The report should indicate that funding provided through the Department of Justice for the Presidential Candidate Nominating Conventions for 2008 was requested by Senators ALLARD, COLEMAN, KLOBUCHAR, and SALAZAR.

Senator LEVIN should be listed as having requested funding for Grand Rapids Public Schools, Grand Rapids, MI, for an academic prevention and workforce skills program funded through the Department of Justice.

Senator STABENOW should be listed as having requested funding for the Ruth Ellis Center, Highland Park, MI, for an outreach program funded through the Department of Justice.

Senators SCHUMER and BILL NELSON should not be listed as having requested funding for Regional Climate Centers funded through the Department of Commerce.

Finally, Senator MCCASKILL has withdrawn her request for the following activities funded through the Department of Justice: Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, RAINN, Partnership for a Drug Free America Meth360 Program, and Big Brothers, Big Sisters.

RETIREMENT OF GENERAL PETER PACE

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a true patriot and exceptional leader of our military, GEN. Peter Pace, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, for his more than 40 years of dedicated service to the U.S. Armed Forces and to our country.

General Pace has devoted his life to service of his country. For him, duty, honor, and commitment have been more than words. They have been a career and a way of life. America is great because of the service and sacrifice of Americans like General Pace. We are deeply grateful for his service.

General Pace has consistently put the military ideal of service to country before himself and has shown exceptional concern for the well-being of our men and women in uniform. Indeed, if there is one trait that can be said to define the character of General Pace, it is that he has been guided in all his decisions by an intense feeling of duty to the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who defend the freedoms we all enjoy.

This brave patriot is retiring October 1, marking the end of a long and distinguished military career.

GEN. Peter Pace began his service to America at the U.S. Naval Academy. In 1968, after completing officer training

at the Basic School in Quantico, Virginia, General Pace was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, of the 1st Marine Division in Vietnam.

In Vietnam, he served first as a rifle platoon leader and subsequently became an assistant operations officer. He joined the platoon during the battle for Hue City and was the unit's third platoon leader in as many weeks.

For his service and heroism, General Pace was decorated for valor during his tour in Vietnam. Yet what mattered most to him were the troops he led, some of whom, tragically, lost their lives for the country we love. General Pace holds as one of his most valued treasures the photo of LCpl Guido Farinaro, the first marine he lost in combat. The lance corporal's forever young likeness is under the glass on General Pace's desk, each day reminding him of the impact of his decisions as a military leader. General Pace has often been quoted as saying that it is the duty of every soldier to live his or her life in an exemplary way and take on an extra measure of responsibility for those fellow soldiers who have been killed and whose families now live without them. This dedication to the fallen, and to the survivors, is characteristic of General Pace.

Following Vietnam, General Pace was assigned to Marine Barracks, Washington, DC, where he served as security detachment commander at Camp David, a White House social aide, and platoon leader of Special Ceremonial Platoon.

Over the next two decades, General Pace held command at virtually every level and served our country throughout the world. While a brigadier general, he served as deputy commander of Marine Forces, Somalia, from December of 1992 to February of 1993, and as deputy commander of Joint Task Force—Somalia from October 1993 to March 1994.

On September 30, 2005, General Pace became the country's senior military leader when he was sworn in as the 16th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on September 30, 2005. General Pace also made history—he had the distinction of being the first marine to serve in this role and of being the first Italian American to do so.

I know from my personal conversations with him that General Pace took modest pride from that last fact. And believe that General Pace—whose name means “peace” in Italian—knew full well that his was a fitting name for a soldier because the path to achieving peace, and to preserving it, is through the kind of strong and capable a military to which he devoted his career.

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs is always a challenging job but never more so than at a time when the Nation is at war. He has been a respected source of military counsel for our country's leaders. He has worked to help transform the military so that it will be able to address the myriad of global challenges during this time of