

standard in our area. During her tenure, Dr. Kaplan has reinforced this perception and continually raised this standard.

I have come to admire and respect Dr. Kaplan, who has never been shy about giving me very good advice on education issues and legislation. I know how much good schools mean to my constituents, so I have always heeded her expertise and guidance.

The Shawnee Mission district includes older suburban areas and is surrounded by newer, fast growing areas. Under Dr. Kaplan's leadership, and thanks to confidence in the district, Shawnee Mission patrons have passed a series of school bond issues which allowed the district to renew its building stock, while combining some elementary school populations.

During the past 16 years, Dr. Kaplan and Shawnee Mission schools have:

Brought rigorous International Baccalaureate programming to area high school students since 1996, and greatly increased advanced placement classes; Strengthened the district's Center for International Studies and further developed the languages offered through the program; Transformed career and technical education courses and programs with award winning programs in culinary arts, commercial baking, graphic design, multimedia, and computer training; Brought in engineering technology, biotechnology, and biomedical health science programs; Introduced the Open Court reading program; and Continually produced students who outperform their Kansas and US peers on standardized tests, including the ACT and the SAT. For several years, Shawnee Mission produces about 20 percent of the Kansas National Merit finalists, despite having only 6 percent of the state's population.

Although a talented administrator, Dr. Kaplan has made it a point to substitute teach in every building throughout the school year. Perhaps because of this, her teachers and administrators know how much she cares, and understands their difficulties and joys at the classroom level. Educators today face new challenges, with increasing numbers of children who do not speak English at home and with problems of school funding and federal education programs. Despite it all, this district has continued to succeed.

Madam Speaker, thank you for allowing me the time to pay tribute to an outstanding educator who I am proud to call a friend, Dr. Marjorie Kaplan.

RECOGNIZING DULUTH CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE 2008 WE THE PEOPLE NATIONAL FINALS

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, from May 3–5, 2008, more than 1200 students from across the country visited Washington, D.C. to take part in the National Finals of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, one of the most extensive educational programs in the country developed to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education

by act of Congress. It is important to note that results of independent studies of this nationally acclaimed program have shown that We the People students have gained a greater political tolerance and attained an excellent understanding of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. With many reports and surveys indicating the lack of civic knowledge and civic participation, I am pleased to support such a superb program that is producing an enlightened and engaged citizenry.

I am proud to announce that the state of Minnesota was represented by a class from Duluth Central High School at this prestigious national event. These outstanding students, through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, won their statewide competition and earned the chance to come to our nation's capital and compete at the national level. The names of these outstanding students from Duluth Central High School are: Leanna Albertson, Sharlene Balik, Krista Benko, Gregory Bongey, John Brakke, Whitney Buck, Jessica Churchill, Kylie Dalager, Alissa Elke, Chad Erlmeier, Zack Filipovich, Jordan Foschi, Nicholas Foucault, Robert Gitar, Daniel Gunderson, Matthew Harold, Elizabeth Hauschildt, Garth Heikkinen, Amy Hietala, Grace Larsen, Joseph Makynen, Marina McCuskey, Jason Michalicek, Hannah Olson, Liza Pierre, Jessica Primozich, Molly Prudden, Matthew Roberts, Eric Stokes, and Joseph Von Rueden.

While in Washington, the students participated in a three-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which they "testified" before a panel of judges. Students demonstrated their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles as they evaluated, took, and defended positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues.

I also wish to commend the teacher of the class, Ethan Fisher, who was responsible for preparing these young constitutional experts for the National Finals. Also worthy of special recognition is Jennifer Bloom, the state coordinator, who is responsible for implementing the We the People program in the great state of Minnesota.

I applaud the exceptional achievements of these students.

FISA COURT IS DOING ITS JOB

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, as Congress has debated how to update the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, FISA, some have said that law is completely outdated.

I support revisions to reflect changes in technology since FISA was enacted, but I think it is important to recognize that the basic law is sound and does not prevent the Government from acting to protect Americans.

That point was well put in a recent editorial in the Rocky Mountain News, noting that the Justice Department has reported that in 2007 the special FISA court approved some 2,370 warrants authorizing surveillance of people in the United States believed to be in contact with international terrorist organizations while denying only 3 requests for such warrants.

This led the newspaper to conclude that "The great number of warrants granted, compared to just three denied, indicates that the spy court is no great impediment to national security" and, with regard to the Bush administration's proposals to rewrite FISA, "The suspicion here is that the Bush administration simply doesn't want any checks on its eavesdropping powers."

I think that is a pretty accurate appraisal. For the information of our colleagues, here is the full text of the editorial:

[From the Rocky Mountain News, May 2, 2008]

SPY COURT KEEPING UP WITH WIRETAP REQUESTS

The Bush administration has been asserting the right to wiretap without seeking a warrant from a special court set up for that purpose under the 30-year-old Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

However, a Justice Department report on the court's wiretap approvals suggests it is not quite the hurdle the administration made it out to be. Last year, the court approved 2,370 warrants seeking wiretaps of people in this country believed to be in contact with international terrorist organizations.

The court denied just three warrant applications and partially denied another; 86 times the court asked the government to amend its applications before granting approval. The year before, the court denied only one application and that just partially. This hardly sounds like an onerous approval process.

Since the number of warrants being sought has more than doubled since 9/11, it also sounds as if the court is having no problem keeping up with the workload. The suspicion here is that the Bush administration simply doesn't want any checks on its eavesdropping powers. And in seeking a rewrite of the surveillance law, the administration did in fact seek to greatly expand its powers to wiretap without warrants.

The great number of warrants granted, compared to just three denied, indicates that the spy court is no great impediment to national security.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JADE ANDERSON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor Jade Anderson by entering his name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today I pay tribute to Jade Anderson, owner and CEO of Capstone Brokerage, Inc., for his small-business achievements throughout the Las Vegas community.

Jade Anderson is a graduate from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas with a degree in Business Administration. He began Capstone Brokerage Inc. shortly after graduation, first as a part-time venture for about five years. He shifted gears in 2002 deciding to put all of his energy into growing his company. His company also serves as a connection to other successful entrepreneurs and business minds around the globe. In addition to running Capstone, Jade is a member of the Las Vegas