

sense of family pride that goes into each and every job," Mike said. "We may have to work a little harder at getting our raw materials such as paper, plates, and ink, but we make up for it with the satisfaction that we are able to live and work in the place we love, here in eastern Kentucky."

Mike Whitaker's sentiments are echoed by his sons, Paul and Nick, who both work in the business. Paul is a U.S. Army veteran with two tours of duty in Iraq behind him and is anxious to spend the remainder of his adult life near his home. Nick is a recent graduate of Eastern Kentucky University who chose to stay in the area to be near family as well. Both plan to raise their families much the same way they were raised in Letcher County.

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TAIWAN'S PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, on the occasion of his upcoming inauguration for his second term in office, I am pleased to commend Republic of China, Taiwan, President Ma Ying-jeou. President Ma has shown himself to be a dedicated public servant, continually electing to serve his nation even through difficult times.

During his first term, President Ma—like many world leaders had to struggle with the worldwide economic crisis. His stewardship during this difficult time helped Taiwan avoid some of the worst disasters that other countries have faced and also helped Taiwan recover more quickly than many other countries.

Taiwan has been a great economic partner for Alaska in the past years under President Ma's leadership, and we are fortunate to have such a relationship. Taiwan has remained in Alaska's top 20 export markets for the past 15 years. Alaska's exports to the country have totaled more than \$22 million in sectors such as energy, forest products, machinery, and seafood products. In addition, Taiwan is one of Alaska's three sister states or provinces, and it is my hope that we will continue this sister-state exchange for many years to come.

We witnessed during President Ma's first years in office his diligence in dealing with economic and international challenges, and the upcoming 4 years for President Ma will continue to be challenging. I am confident President Ma will overcome difficulties and serve his nation to the best of his ability.

Once again, I offer my congratulations to President Ma, and I wish him all the success in his future endeavors, and for the future of Taiwan.

NATIONAL SCHOOL NURSE DAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor National School Nurse Day. Today we recognize the contribu-

tions that school nurses make every day to improve the health and learning outcomes of our Nation's children, especially as our children face more challenging chronic health issues than ever before. A top priority of this Nation should be ensuring that our children have a healthy and successful future. School nurses make this vision a reality each day. Quite simply, healthy children learn better and are more likely to become successful members of society.

In New York there are about 3,700 school nurses who are serving our students out of the more than 76,000 nationwide. School nurses provide a non-negotiable value to schools, families, communities, and this Nation as a whole. By keeping children healthy, in school, and ready to learn, school nurses save money and save lives. Every teacher deserves to stay in the classroom and focus on educational outcomes, and every parent deserves to be able to go to work and send his or her child to school with a nurse who will keep his or her child safe and healthy. School nurses have the knowledge, skills and judgment to manage potentially emergent situations and provide daily care for students with increasing chronic health conditions, ranging from asthma to childhood obesity to Type-2 diabetes to severe food allergies. Research shows that when a full-time school nurse is present, student attendance rates increase and hospital utilization rates decrease. The school nurse also plays a vital role in promoting prevention and wellness, from detecting outbreaks of communicable diseases, such as H1N1, and taking action to prevent cases from developing to administering immunizations and ensuring students are compliant with regulations. Every day, school nurses are on the front lines, providing access and delivering health care services to our Nation's children.

In 1897, after several outbreaks of infectious diseases that affected the New York City schoolchildren, the city's department of health appointed the first doctors to examine students for contagious diseases. With the concerns over uneducated and unhealthy youth growing, Lina Rogers Struthers became the Nation's first school nurse. The impact of nursing services proved dramatic, and after only 1 month the city voted to set aside money to employ trained nurses in its schools.

Today, the National Association of School Nurses celebrates the specialized practice of school nursing, acknowledging that school nurses advance the well-being, academic success and life-long achievement and health of students. The American Academy of Pediatrics has also reaffirmed the crucial role of school nurses "in the seamless provision of comprehensive health services to children and youth." "The Role of the School Nurse in Providing School Health Services," AAP, Pediatrics, Vol. 121, No. 5, May 1, 2008, pp. 1052-1056.

National School Nurse Day highlights the need for a full-time nurse in every school, every day—which is why I have introduced a bill, the Student-to-School Nurse Ratio Improvement Act of 2012, S. 2047. This legislation would help lower the ratios of students to school nurses and evaluate the correlation between access to professional student health services and improved educational outcomes. This Nation must invest in programs and services that seek to improve the health and well-being outcomes of children, which include supporting school nurses.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing today as National School Nurse Day so we may continue to honor school nurses and the care they provide to students day in and day out, paving the path for a healthier and more successful future for all of our Nation's children.

COMMENDING OHIO HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor 369 high school seniors in eight northeast Ohio counties for their commendable decision to enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces. Of these 369 seniors from 128 high schools in 87 towns and cities, 83 will enter the Army, 174 will enter the Marine Corps, 25 will enter the Navy, 30 will enter the Air Force, 4 will enter the Coast Guard, and 53 will enter our Ohio Army National Guard. In the presence of their parents/guardians, and high school counselors, military leaders, city and business leaders, all 369 will be recognized on May 10, 2012 by "Our Community Salutes of Northeast Ohio."

Later this month, these young men and women will join many of their classmates in celebration of their high school graduation. At a time when many of their peers are looking forward to pursuing vocational training or college degrees, or are uncertain about their future, these young men and women instead have chosen to dedicate themselves to military service in defense of our country.

Naturally, many may be anxious about the uncertainties that may await them as members of the Armed Forces. But, they should rest assured that the full support and resources of this Chamber, and the American people, are with them in whatever challenges may lie ahead.

It is thanks to the dedication of an untold number of patriots like these 369 that we are able to meet here today, in the U.S. Senate, and openly debate the best solutions to the many diverse problems that confront our country. It is thanks to their sacrifices that the United States of America remains a beacon of hope and freedom in a dangerous world. We are grateful to them, their parents and their communities for instilling the character, values, discipline and mental and physical abilities of these outstanding young men and women.