RECOGNITION OF EDGAR LEE NEWTON

- Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable person from my home state of Michigan, Mr. Edgar Lee Newton. On May 23, 1999, Mr. Newton will be honored upon his retirement after 18 years as the president of the Bay City branch of the NAACP.

As president of the Bay City NAACP, Edgar Newton has fought many difficult battles for equality and civil rights. Although his tireless efforts on behalf of the NAACP are worthy of recognition in their own right, Mr. Newton has not confined his community service to the NAACP. He has also served with distinction in leadership roles with organizations like the American Red Cross, the United Way, Habitat for Humanity and the Kiwanis Club.

Edgar Newton’s departure from the NAACP will mark a new chapter in his life. I can only hope it is as successful as his civil rights career. Though I am sure he will remain active in the Bay City community, he will enjoy spending more time with his wife Shirley and his two children and grandchild. I am pleased to join his colleagues, friends and family in offering my thanks for all he has done.

Mr. President, Edgar Newton can take pride in the many important achievements of his tenure with the NAACP. He has truly exhibited a dedication to justice and equality for all people. I know my colleagues will join me in saluting his commitment to civil rights and in wishing him well in his retirement.

MELISSA YORK, WINNER OF JAMES MADISON MEMORIAL FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP

- Mr. GORTON. Today, I would like to recognize Melissa York, a teacher from Tyee High School in Seatac. She has

In addition to meeting with Alex and his MATHCOUNTS teammates on the Senate steps prior to the competition, by coincidence, I was on Alex’s flight back to Vermont on the Sunday following his competition. I had a chance to talk with Alex and compliment him on his tremendous achievement. He was holding the trophy he had received and when I admired it, although it was clear that he was happy with it, he was especially pleased with the college scholarship. I praised him as any Vermonter would, but I was impressed with his modesty and his pride in his family and school. This is a young man who has done remarkably well in life and we Vermonters should be proud that he is one of us.

I ask that the editorial detailing Alex’s achievement, which appeared in the Burlington Free Press, be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

FROM THE BURLINGTON FREE PRESS, MAY 19, 1999

WHAT ALEX KNOWS

Imagine a 13-year-old boy who finished second in the nation in an athletic event. Vermont would know exactly how to celebrate: His parents and coaches would be praised, he would be held up as a role model for other kids, his community would be proud.

Alex Xue of Essex Junction deserves the same response, for scoring second in a nationwide math contest last week.

This remarkable performance is a tribute to his school, though schools are rarely praised these days. This success requires effective instruction year after year.

His award is an accolade that also belongs to his parents, who support his studies. Would that more parents lavished as much time on their children’s academics as they do on their sports.

The high finish is also a sign that he is a smart kid, very smart, and that is worth a great deal in the life Alex and his classmates have ahead of them.

Of course, schools cannot fix their attention solely on top students, because they must serve everyone who enters their doors. But they can recognize talent and reward performance, because it motivates other students, and because it serves as a reminder of what school is for: to learn, to strive, to fail at times and gain by the experience, and to achieve.

For his knowledge of math, statistics, geometry and more, Alex receives a $4,000 college scholarship—a fitting prize. Learning offers rewards for every student, though, not just the smartest, and education level is the clearest indicator of a student’s future wages.

Won’t it be fun to see what becomes of Alex and his abilities? Wouldn’t it be something if society thought of every child’s potential that way?

“FRIENDS OF ROMAN LEE HRUSKA”

- Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I ask that the attached comments made by the Honorable Charles Thone at the memorial service for former Senator Roman Lee Hruska, be printed in the RECORD for Monday, April 26, 1999, immediately following my remarks entitled, “Tribute to U.S. Senator Roman L. Hruska.”

The comments follow:

FRIENDS OF ROMAN LEE HRUSKA

Friends all:

First, let me, and all of you here today, recognize two special people, Millie and Carl Curtis. Senator Curtis served all 22 years with Roman, and Senator Hruska always acknowledged that no U.S. Senator ever had a more caring, a better and more cooperative colleague anywhere—anytime. Thank you, Senator Curtis.