

young age, he showed vibrant entrepreneurial skills by turning his love for music into his own business. During his High School years his experience in parish youth groups and spiritual retreats began to foster his great love for the Church and its mission. Hearing his calling, Father Albert entered the Seminary in 1987 and was ordained on May 13, 1995.

Since his ordination, countless individuals have benefitted from Father Albert's love and guidance. Not only does he continue to reach out to individuals, families, the sick, and those in need, but he works diligently to give the youth of our society a better future.

We are truly fortunate to have an individual such as Father Albert as a member of our society. I am confident that our future is much brighter thanks to the efforts of Father Albert and other young Americans like him.●

RECOGNITION OF OUR LADY OF PROVIDENCE JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL IN CLARKSVILLE, INDIANA, WINNER OF THE PRESTIGIOUS BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS AWARD

● Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise proudly today to congratulate Our Lady of Providence Junior/Senior High School in Clarksville, Indiana for its selection by the U.S. Secretary of Education as one of the Nation's outstanding Blue Ribbon Schools. Our Lady of Providence is one of only two Indiana schools, and of only 198 schools across the country, to be awarded this prestigious recognition.

In order to be recognized as a Blue Ribbon School, Our Lady of Providence met rigorous criteria for overall excellence. The teachers and administration officials demonstrated to the Secretary of Education the qualities necessary to prepare successfully our young people for the challenges of the new century, and proved that the students here effectively met local, state and national goals.

Hoosiers can be very proud of our Blue Ribbon schools. The students and faculty of Our Lady of Providence have shown a consistent commitment to academic excellence and community leadership. Our Lady of Providence has raised the bar for educating our children and for nurturing strong values. This Hoosier school provides a clear example as we work to improve the quality of education in Indiana and across the Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO JAN GORDON

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, as the Senate nears adjournment I want to pay a special tribute to a special member of the Armed Services Committee's Minority staff. After a long and successful career in both the Executive

and Legislative Branch, but mostly here in the United States Senate, Jan Gordon will be leaving our staff on November 30. Speaking not only for myself, but on behalf of the entire Committee and our staff, I can tell you that Jan will be sorely missed.

A native North Carolinian, in 1972 Jan Gordon was recruited by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to come to Washington, D.C. to work as an executive secretary in their Intelligence Division. While her heart always remained in North Carolina, her feet became firmly planted in Washington.

After four years at the FBI, Jan began her Senate career, working first on the staff of the Joint Atomic Energy Committee, and then nine and a half years for the Secretary of the Senate in the Office of National Security Information, which later became what is now the Office of Senate Security. Countless numbers of my colleagues and staff who attended classified briefings or conferences up in S-407 of the Capitol during that period have first hand knowledge of Jan Gordon's superior administrative abilities and organizational skills.

In 1987, Chairman Sam Nunn of the Armed Service Committee appointed Jan Gordon as a staff assistant, and she was charged with the very demanding task supporting the staff and work of the Strategic Subcommittee. Not surprisingly, Jan rose to the occasion. She met all of the needs of the Subcommittee, while at the same time she had sole responsibility for the processing and printing of typically 20-25 hearing transcripts per year, many of which were classified. Because her work was so excellent, Jan Gordon was the person Committee's Chief Clerk turned to when new staff assistants needed to be taught "how to do things the right way."

When I became Ranking Minority Member of the Committee in 1997 following Senator San Nunn's retirement from the Senate, one of the quickest and easiest decisions I made was to ask Jan to continue working for me and the rest of the Committee's Minority Members and staff. I was delighted that she accepted my offer, because Jan is a valuable and key member of the Minority Staff of the Armed Services Committee.

Jan Gordon's service on the staff of the Armed Services Committee has been remarkable. She has an uncompromising work ethic and a strong dedication to duty. Of the over 5,000 days she will have worked for the Armed Services Committee when she retires, she has only had seven sick days. Being late to work, cutting any corner for the sake of moving a project forward, or not being totally cooperative and responsive are foreign and unacceptable concepts to Jan. Her steadfast attention to detail is legendary around the Committee, as is her com-

mitment to meeting the highest standards in everything she does.

Jan Gordon has always given completely of herself each and every day of the nearly fourteen years she has served on the staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee. When she departs the Committee staff, all of us will remember her for her professionalism, her enthusiasm, and the consistently high standard she set for herself. We are grateful for her service to the Senate and the Nation, and we wish her many years of health and happiness in the future.●

GEORGIA EARLY LEARNING INITIATIVE

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, with a focus on the horizon and a knowledge of where we've been, I come before you today to laud a group that has dedicated its time and resources to Georgia's youth in attempts to secure a brighter future for us all. Throughout its existence, The Georgia Early Learning Initiative, a collaboration of business and labor leaders, health and human service providers, educators, and legislators, has sought to increase access to, and funding for, early education throughout our state.

As a reflection of today's fast-paced society, households increasingly boast two working parents who can neither afford to miss work nor pay the often exorbitant cost of childcare in our country. In fact, while only forty percent of children are cared for by a parent all day, sixty-seven percent of Georgia mothers with children under age six are in the workforce. Increasingly, many parents want to stay home, yet have no choice but to work. However, it takes a dedicated and selfless group of people to bring about results; there is no greater champion of Georgia's children and investment in the future than The Georgia Early Learning Initiative.

A child's pre-school years are more important than we have previously acknowledged. With 554,430 Georgia children currently enrolled in preschool, and the knowledge that ninety percent of human brain functions develop during the first three years of life, early learning and improved childcare are perhaps more important than ever before. It is our responsibility as a nation and leaders to support activists who are willing to fight for worthy causes, especially when those causes will benefit generations to come. We owe it to our children to provide equal access to early learning options which will place them on a secure footing and will allow them to excel in life. It is the mission of the dedicated men and women who comprise the Georgia Early Learning Initiative to increase childcare choices for parents and to extend the opportunity to succeed to all of America's children, no matter what their family's

station in life. In the future, we will only be as strong as our children. As Pearl Buck said, "If our American way of life fails the child, it fails us all."

As I think back to where we have been and once again focus on the glorious horizon, I cannot help but feel optimistic about our future knowing that men and women like those working with the Georgia Early Learning Initiative continue to fight for a better tomorrow for all of our children.●

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE JUDGE JULIO FUENTES

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize one of New Jersey's extremely talented and humble public servants, the Honorable Judge Julio Fuentes. This distinguished member of my State is being honored with the dedication of the 25th Hispanic-American Parade of New Jersey Annual Banquet in his name, and it gives me great pleasure to recognize his accomplishments.

Judge Fuentes is a man of great intellect and a distinguished record of public service. He is constantly seeking to improve himself, as can be attested to by his pursuit of master's degrees in Latin American affairs and liberal arts during his time as a sitting judge. Those who have had the opportunity to work with Judge Fuentes universally praise his integrity as well as the depth and breadth of his knowledge of the law.

Through a great internal drive and determination, Judge Fuentes has risen from Newark Municipal Court Judge to his current post of judge for the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Fuentes also has the distinction of being the first Hispanic-American to sit on this prestigious court, an honor he has truly earned.

Judge Fuentes is a good, honest, decent man. He is an exemplar of the coveted American ideal of public service. It was truly an honor to be able to recommend his nomination to President Clinton. We are truly fortunate to have someone of his immense capabilities and desire for public service sitting as a judge on the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

##### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:10 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1295. An act to designate the United States Post Office located at 3813 Main Street in East Chicago, Indiana, as the "Lance Corporal Harold Gomez Post Office".

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1795. An act to require that before issuing an order, the President shall cite the authority for the order, conduct a cost benefit analysis, provide for public comment, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2346. An act to authorize the enforcement by State and local governments of certain Federal Communications Commission regulations regarding use of citizens band radio equipment.

H.R. 3100. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit telemarketers from interfering with the caller identification service of any person to whom a telephone solicitation is made, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5272. An act to provide for a United States response in the event of a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4365) to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to children's health.

##### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message also further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills and joint resolutions:

S. 1324. An act to expand the boundaries of the Gettysburg National Military Park to include the Will House, and for other purposes.

H.R. 999. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to improve the quality of coastal recreation waters, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4700. An act to grant the consent of the Congress to the Kansas and Missouri Metropolitan Culture District Compact.

H.J. Res. 72. An act granting the consent of the Congress to the Red River Boundary Compact.

The enrolled bills were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

At 12:57 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the report of committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4733) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

##### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 5:18 p.m. a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, an-

nounced that the Speaker has signed following enrolled bills and joint resolutions:

S. 1295. An Act to designate the United States Post Office located at 3813 Main Street in East Chicago, Indiana, as the "Lance Corporal Harold Gomez Post Office."

H.R. 2647. An Act to amend the Act entitled "An Act relating to the water rights of the Ak-Chin Indian Community" to clarify certain provisions concerning the leasing of such water rights, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 109. A joint resolution making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

#### MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 5272. An act to provide for a United States response in the event of a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state.

#### ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, September 28, 2000, he had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1324. An act to expand the boundaries of the Gettysburg National Military Park to include the Wills House, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-10949. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the notice of delay relative to the report on secondary inventory and parts shortages; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-10950. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "Human Rights Abusers Act of 2000"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-10951. A communication from the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "National Flood Insurance Act Amendments of 2000"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-10952. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a copy of a report entitled "Audit of the Accounts And Operations of the Washington Convention Center Authority for Fiscal Years 1997 Through 1999"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-10953. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 1999; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.