

her fight against this devastating disease by supporting such worthy organizations like the Lymphoma Research Foundation of America.

Despite the fact that Ellen is not here physically, her spirit will continue to live on through her family and friends. Thank you Ellen for what you gave to persons everywhere. You will truly be missed.●

#### NOVI HIGH SCHOOL NAMED BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL FOR 1999-2000

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, in 1982, the United States Department of Education initiated its Blue Ribbon Schools Program. In each year since, the Department has recognized schools throughout the country which excel in all areas of academic leadership, teaching and teacher development, and school curriculum. In other words, Blue Ribbon Schools are the finest public and private secondary schools our Nation has to offer. They are the schools that set the standard for which others strive. I am very proud to report that 9 of the 198 Blue Ribbon Schools named by Secretary Richard W. Riley for 1999-2000 are located in the State of Michigan, and I rise today to recognize Novi High School in Novi, Michigan, one of these nine schools.

In the past 30 years, enrollment at Novi High School has grown from approximately 360 students to 1,577 students. This is representative of the changing shape of the City of Novi during this time period, as it has evolved from a rural crossroads to a thriving Detroit suburb. To deal with the influx of students, in 1996 Novi High School concluded a renovation which had lasted for 30 months and added over 40 percent to the original facility. The school now covers 382,000 feet on three levels, and includes state of the art instructional areas, science labs, a media center, physical education and fine art complexes, and telecommunications systems. All classrooms have e-mail and Internet access as well as voice communications and two-way interactive video within and between district buildings.

The administrators and faculty of Novi High School are committed to providing their students with a well-rounded educational program, including a rigorous academic schedule, a variety of extra-curricular and athletic programs, and an active student leadership program. This commitment led to a two-year, teacher-led initiative of research and review of outstanding international high schools. Following this process, Novi High School restructured into a four-block class schedule so that students would be allowed access to a broader range of curriculum and would also be able to take advantage of the new technology available for their use. Perhaps more importantly, the review and realignment of

the curriculum led to a transformation of instructional strategies, from traditional lecture to interactive, higher-order thinking and application-assessment which have redefined the entire education program of Novi High School.

Novi High School has received many awards, including the "What Parents Want" award from SchoolMatch for seven consecutive years (1993-99), a Gold Medal District Rating by Expansion Management Magazine for three years (1996-98), and in 1999 U.S. News and World Report selected it as one of the top 96 "Outstanding American High Schools." Being named a Blue Ribbon School for 1999-2000 is reflective of a desire on the part of administration and faculty to continue to provide a better education to the students of Novi High School. The staff firmly believes that a quality education program is never static; rather, it continually needs to be adapted and improved as new resources and different methods of teaching become available. This willingness to adapt has been instrumental in the success of Novi High School, and I am sure will continue to be instrumental as the school leads other high schools, not only in the State of Michigan but throughout the country, into the future.

I applaud the students, parents, faculty and administration of Novi High School, for I believe this is an award which speaks more to the effort of a united community than it does to the work of a few individuals. With that having been said, I would like to recognize Dr. Jennifer Putnam Cheal, Principal of Novi High School, whose dedication to making her school one of the finest in our Nation has been instrumental in creating this community. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I congratulate Novi High School on being named a Blue Ribbon School for 1999-2000, and wish the school continued success in the future.●

#### IN PRAISE OF FRED WILBER, BUCH SPIELER AND CYBERSELLING IN VERMONT

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to congratulate Fred Wilber from my hometown of Montpelier, Vermont on his cyberselling success.

For the last twenty-seven years, Fred Wilber has owned Buch Spieler, a music store in downtown Montpelier. Recently the New York Times reported on Buch Spieler's growing sales from its Internet site at <http://www.bsmusic.com>. Mr. President, I ask that the full text of the New York Times article of September 22, 2000, titled "The Opposite of Amazon.com," be printed in the RECORD at the end of my remarks.

The success of Fred Wilber is a shining example for all Vermont small business owners to follow. By taking

advantage of the new markets offered by the Internet for its goods and services, Buch Spieler has increased overall sales by 10 percent and expanded its customer base by 20 percent in the last year and a half. For years we Vermonters have complained about not having access to a major market to sell our goods. Now through the Internet, we can sell our goods in the blink of an eye to anyone in the world as Fred Wilber and Buch Spieler have shown.

I commend Fred Wilber for being a cyberselling leader and tapping into the Internet's world markets.

The article follows:

[From the New York Times; Sept. 22, 2000]

THE OPPOSITE OF AMAZON.COM

(By Leslie Kaufman)

For 27 years, Fred Wilber has run a quirky music store called Buch Spieler in downtown Montpelier, Vt., population of roughly 8,000. The store, which sells out-of-print movie soundtracks, among other goodies, has had its ups and downs, but in 1998, as Internet music distributors like CDNow and MP3.com exploded in popularity, Mr. Wilber began to worry that the Web would be his Waterloo.

His answer was to build his own Web site ([www.bsmusic.com](http://www.bsmusic.com)). Designed by his brother and lacking time-saving features like one-click shopping, it is hardly slick. But it has been successful.

In the year and a half since the site went into service, Mr. Wilber says overall sales have jumped 10 percent. Just as important, he estimates, the Internet has expanded his customer base by some 20 percent. It turns out that Mr. Wilber's peculiar tastes have been strengths on the Web. When the site was recently sent an e-mail message requesting the score from "Gordy! The Little Pig That Hit It Big!" a 1995 movie, he simply took it off the shelf and shipped it.

"It is not easy e-commerce," Mr. Wilber said of his Web site. "But we are not trying to compete with Amazon. We focus on our own niche."

To many experts, the advent of the Internet seemed to signal a grim future for mom-and-pop retailers. Increased competition and the availability of a diverse array of merchandise to populations that had been essentially captive audiences threatened to erode their customer base.

But a survey of more than 1,500 businesses in 16 downtown commercial districts nationwide, released earlier this month by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, indicates that the Internet can spur sales in storefront retail businesses. Just as they compete in the brick-and-mortar world against big-box enemies like Wal-Mart Stores and Home Depot, small retailers seem to do best in the virtual world by focusing on unusual products or aiming to give excellent, personalized customer service.

The National Trust is a nonprofit organization that develops programs to support and maintain historic downtown areas. And because the survey canvassed only merchants in towns where some revitalization of historic downtown areas is under way, the National Trust said its results probably overstate the positive impact of the Web on all small businesses. Even so, the news was surprisingly upbeat.

The trust's survey, one of the first in the nation to examine the impact of e-commerce on small retailers, found that some 16.4 percent of Main Street businesses it polled were