

is one of only two Indiana schools, and one of only 198 schools across the country, to be awarded this prestigious recognition.

In order to be recognized as a Blue Ribbon School, Clifford Pierce Middle School 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 at Clifford Pierce Middle School effectively met local, state and national goals.

Hoosiers can be very proud of our Blue Ribbon schools. The students and faculty of Clifford Pierce Middle School have shown a consistent commitment to academic excellence and community leadership. Clifford Pierce Middle School 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.●

HONORING A COLUMBINE HERO, BOY SCOUT EVAN TODD

● Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise today to share with my colleagues a pair of statements I recently received from an exceptional young man in Colorado, Mr. Evan Todd of Littleton. Evan was one of the many unfortunate victims of the horrific shooting that took place at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999. Evan was the first student shot in the library at Columbine High School, and despite his injuries he assisted other students and administered first aid to a seriously wounded peer until emergency services could arrive. Evan, an active Boy Scout, was awarded the prestigious Boy Scouts of America Honor Medal for his inspiring actions. Still a Columbine student, Evan has dedicated a tremendous amount of time to speaking to other students and adults around the nation concerning the problems of youth violence and the cultural influences on American youth. I am honored that Evan took the time to write to me and I ask that a copy of Evan Todd's letter to his fellow Scouts and a copy of a speech he delivered at "The Gathering," a meeting of victims of school violence, be printed in the RECORD.

LITTLETON, CO.

DEAR FELLOW SCOUTS: I have been told that into each life some rain must fall. Some get rained on more than others. The rain that came down on us at Columbine High School was a cloudburst of epic proportions. This act was senseless, tragic and without justification, whatsoever. 13 murdered 25 wounded and 1,951 students youth destroyed. As a student who was shot and wounded in the library, it has changed my life, forever.

I believe that the children of a society are nothing more than the reflection of the soci-

ety that they are brought into. The event here at Columbine in Littleton Colorado, and the events at Moses Lake Washington, Pearl Mississippi, Jonesboro Arkansas, Edinboro Pennsylvania, Fayetteville Tennessee, Springfield Oregon, Richmond Virginia, Conyers Georgia, Los Angeles California and elsewhere indicate to me that our nation has a serious character flaw. Since the Columbine tragedy, I have tried to stay abreast of the "adult society" debate as to the "why" and "how" of these terrible incidents. The adults debate and argue over what constitutes good and what constitutes evil; what is right and what is wrong. At the time of the Columbine tragedy, our national leader, the President, stated the youth of this nation need to learn to resolve our differences with words, not weapons. At the time this statement was made, we as a nation, were bombing Yugoslavia. They tell us that the youth of this nation need to be more tolerant, kinder, gentler, more understanding. Yet our entertainment, music, TV, movies, games (and actions of) the adult world provides for our consumption are all too often filled with violence, sex, death and destruction. If we were to take into our lives what is provided to us by our society, our actions would also violate the Scout Oath & Law. Other solutions to school violence have been nametags to be carried around our neck as millstones, metal detectors, increased video surveillance, etc. Our nation has always had guns. Our nation has always had children. What our nation hasn't always had is children murdering children and their parents, and parents murdering their children. The ingredient that has made America different is the last couple of 'adult generations', and their changes towards what is right & wrong, good & evil. It appears to me that our society is confused. The adult world seems as a ship with no rudder being cast around by the wind and storms of our times, with no control or understanding as to why. Many of these storms appear to have been caused by their own accord. It's as if our adult society has no compass, no bearing, no standards for our society. I have found them confused. Even at our age, we can discern the difference between what you say and what you do . . .

In regard to the solution of watching what comes out of us by monitoring closely our world with surveillance cameras, what we say, how we look, etc., our society needs to watch carefully what goes into us. In my room is a picture of the Grand Teton mountain range in Wyoming. Below the picture is the following:

THE ESSENCE OF DESTINY

"Watch your thoughts, for they become words. Choose your words, for they become actions. Understand your actions, for they become habits. Study your habits, for they will become your character. Develop your character, for it becomes your destiny."

The good news for those of us that are Scouts is that we are privileged to be a part of an organization that provides us the tools and instructions to put into us that which builds a better person, a better nation. Those tools are called the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Robert Gates, former Director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and our current President of the National Eagle Scout Association (NESA) recently stated that there is a war going on for the souls of our boys and young men in this nation. He sees clearly. If you are to be a scout, don't be a scout in word only. Learn and practice the Oath & Law in everything you think, say and do. I understand well how hard that can be,

but "Do Your Best." To the Boy Scouts of America, thank you for defending our 90-year record and not allowing the Oath & Law to be redefined. As you say, it has stood the test of time. The generation that wants to change the Oath & Law has not stood the test of time. To all the scouts across America that sent me & my troop cards, letters, posters, your thoughts and prayers, thank you from the bottom of my heart. To you here tonight, I bid you vaya con Dios mi amigos, God Bless you and God Bless the work you do.

Thank You.

EVAN TODD,
Eagle Scout Troop 989.●

REMARKS BY EVAN TODD AT "THE GATHERING"

I have been told that into each life some rain must fall. Some get rained on more than others. The rain that came down on us at Columbine and at Moses Lake Washington, Pearl Mississippi, Jonesboro Arkansas, Edinboro Pennsylvania, Fayetteville Tennessee, Springfield Oregon, Richmond Virginia, Conyers Georgia, Los Angeles California and elsewhere were cloudbursts of epic proportions. All of these acts were senseless, tragic and without justification, whatsoever. As a student who was shot and wounded in the library at Columbine, who was literally trapped while 10 of my classmates were murdered, 4 of them my friends and 16 more of us were wounded, crippled, disfigured and paralyzed, it has changed my life, forever.

I believe that the children of a society are nothing more than the reflection of the society that they are brought into. These events indicate to me that America has a serious character flaw. Since the Columbine tragedy, I have tried to stay abreast of the "adult society" debate as to the "why" of these terrible incidents. The adults debate and argue over what constitutes good, . . . and what constitutes evil; what is right and what is wrong. Our nation has always had guns. Our nation has always had children. I believe what our nation hasn't had—is children murdering children—and their parents, . . . and parents murdering their children. The ingredient that has made American different is the last couple of "adult generations" of Americans, and their changes towards what is right & wrong, good & evil. Is God now sending forth demons to America in the form of its children, or have the demons occupied our adult society, by invitation? How are we as kids treated differently than the kids before us? As a generation, we are unique. We have been slaughtered on our way into this world, we are murdered as we live and try to grow in this world, and we are molested, assaulted, sexualized and drugged. The adult society has responded by creating entire new industries and professions to repair their damage to us. Even as I speak to you our adult society is setting the stage to murder us when we become old. We are even taught that we evolved from slime. (An interesting item that the public is not fully aware of is that the two cold-blooded murderers in Littleton used the theory of evolution as their foundation, "Survival Of The Fittest." You've all heard of their uniforms, the black trenchcoats, but the real uniform that day was the T-shirt Eric Harris had on that said "NATURAL SELECTION" Has our adult society banned that?) It appears to me that we have willingly become a culture of death and violence. Some adults blame the jocks like me, the cheerleaders and others, . . . even the trenchcoats, . . . and some even say if our country only offered 9 round ammo

clips instead of 10 or more, things would be better.

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In regard to the solution of watching what comes out of us by monitoring closely our world with surveillance cameras, what we say, how we look, etc., our society needs to watch carefully what goes into us. In my bedroom is a picture of the Grand Teton mountain range in Wyoming. Below the picture is the following:

THE ESSENCE OF DESTINY

"Watch your thoughts, for they become words. Choose your words, for they become actions. Understand your actions, for they become habits. Study your habits, for they will become your character. Develop your character, for it becomes your destiny."

Even before Columbine, my father told me that when a society opens the gates of hell for the pursuit of its' happiness, for its' pleasures and for its' economy, the devil will come out and have his dance with us. We here today were the unfortunate ones who had to dance.

I believe I have found the problem within America. Each and every citizen can too. All they have to do is look into the mirror every day to find the demon. They can also find the solution in that same mirror. Ask yourself daily, "what am I thinking, saying and doing in my life to call out the demons on the youth of my nation?" In the final analysis, a nation is judged on how it treats its' young and its' old. Until we return to respecting life as sacred, prepare yourself for more dances, more heartbreak, more death, and more destruction. It also would be wise to look into the future of America. It's not that hard. The character a nation instills into its youth today, will be the destiny of our nation tomorrow. ●

TRIBUTE TO TIM JOHNSON

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I rise to tell you about a man I have known for many years now who is a credit to his profession and to his community. He is a consummate professional and an even finer human being. Tim Johnson has been bringing the news to Brattleboro, VT and beyond for

more than 20 years now. It is clear that Vermonters know a good thing when they hear it.

Tim, now the news director at WTSA, is a Brattleboro institution. In these times of huge media conglomerates and syndicated radio programs, Tim Johnson knows Brattleboro—he is a graduate of Brattleboro Union High School—and residents have come to rely on him for the news they care about. Time, on a typical day, will report on everything from lost pets, to school closings and national affairs. As Vermont's Senator for more than 20 years, I have had the pleasure of working with Tim throughout the years and I have come to appreciate his keen insights and his dogged pursuit of the facts. Tim has demonstrated an unflinching commitment to keeping his community informed and Brattleboro has been the better for it. While we hear so much about what is wrong with the media today, Tim Johnson is a shining example of what is right.

I ask to have printed in the RECORD a profile of Tim Johnson from The Times Argus, dated October 1, 2000.

The article follows:

[From the Sunday Rutland Herald, Oct. 1, 2000]

TIM JOHNSON: RADIO JOURNALIST KEEPS AN EAR ON BRATTLEBORO
(By Susan Smallheer)

BRATTLEBORO.—The studios of WTSA in Brattleboro are on the second floor of an old Victorian home on Western Avenue. It's Tim Johnson's home away from home, sometimes for as long as 18 hours a day. He's even slept on a pull-out futon at the station.

When he's home, though, he's in bed by 10 p.m.—unless there's a close Red Sox game—and up by 4 a.m., and at the station before 5 to prepare for the morning newscast.

Johnson is the news director of Brattleboro's dominant radio station, WTSA-AM and FM. He works exhausting hours, both locked in the studio and then out on the streets getting the news.

This is a radio newsman who gets a tan. (Well, a little tan.)

Johnson, 43, has been on the air since he was a teenager at Brattleboro Union High School, working at WTSA's cross-town competition, WKVT. He was 17 and making \$1.60 an hour when he started working weekend shifts at the station, and gradually left behind disc jockey chores for the newsroom.

Johnson is a self-taught radio expert who never went to college, whose first broadcast challenge was to overcome a stutter. Friends say he overcame it by simple determination. "The first word I stumbled over was Episcopal," he said. "I mispronounced it three times."

His own name, Arsenault, and the problems he has pronouncing it, helped persuade him to choose something simpler for on-air.

Johnson has been chasing the news in southern Vermont for more than 20 years. No Rolodex for him. He has a memory for telephone numbers, perhaps a 1,000 or more. He goes to house fires, car accidents, board meetings, governor's appearances and homecoming football games.

"It's the personal pride of putting a good product out there," said Johnson, who puts the emphasis on community.

"We're one of the few radio stations that still do lost dog announcements," said John-

son, who fields telephone calls on such topics "Is there softball tonight?" and "Is there school?" and "Is Brattleboro Bowl open tonight?"

He is also the technical wizard at the station, and the 'scanner head.' He taught himself as the station switched to cyber. There is no such thing as a piece of tape in radio now; it's all digital.

The high and mighty came calling at Western Avenue, or rendezvous on the road. His "Live Mike" van allows him to get news on the spot and broadcast it first. In the competitive Brattleboro news market, WTSA rules.

"You don't know how many people call me Mike," laughs Johnson over soup and salad at the Jolly Butcher, a popular see-and-been restaurant a mile from the station.

With his distinctive deep voice, people instantly recognize Johnson, and his relaxed personality invites conversation. "You can't brush anybody off; they might think you're a snob and word gets around fast in a town like Brattleboro," said Johnson, who seems to enjoy the attention.

At The Jolly Butcher, the jolly chef teases Johnson about the station's recent lobster-eating contest, which raised money for the Winston Prouty Center, a school and day care center for handicapped children. As he leaves, Johnson is hugged by Windham County Side Judge Trish Hain, who once worked for him as an assistant news editor at WKVT. Everybody, it seems, knows him.

He's chairman of the board of directors of BCTV, Brattleboro's heavily watched community television station. He's moderator for his hometown, serving Vernon as a steady hand during marathon town meetings. He's also the Windham County director of the emergency alert system, which accounts for the second of two beepers on his belt. And he recently became the moderator for the Brattleboro Union High School district.

He's also a justice of the peace and Vernon's representative to the Windham Regional Commission.

Johnson relishes the pace, but health problems have forced him to scale back to 55-60 hour work weeks. He's devoting more time now to his wife, family, and three grandchildren, not to mention their dog Loretta. Both he and Sue, the activities programmer at the special needs unit at the Vernon Green Nursing Home, were married before, he said, and family means a great deal to both of them.

Johnson divorced in his 20s, and his only child, 3-year-old son Jeremiah, was murdered 18 years ago in Texas by his ex-wife's drunken half-brother. Johnson says his grief almost destroyed him.

But his renewed interest in his Christian religion has made him forgive his former brother-in-law, who is out of prison after serving most of a 10-year sentence. "I forgive him. In God's eyes he's forgiven. But do I think he's a nice person? No.

"I don't believe in the death penalty. I'm a death penalty opponent," he says.

Religion helps him, he says, deal with his personal tragedy and job stress. And he uses his voice—"I sing tenor"—in the choir of the South Vernon Advent Christian Church, where both his grandfathers were pastors.

Back after lunch, Johnson makes a few calls to get the proverbial sound bite to flesh out a story from the AP about an issue in the governor's race relating to homosexuality and public education.

This afternoon, he will even do double duty, cueing up CDs for a missing DJ,