HONORING MS. MARY MORAN AND MS. VICTORIA METZ

Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I am pleased to honor the service of Ms. Mary Moran and Ms. Victoria Metz, the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) co-presidents at the Arlington Traditional School, a public alternative elementary school in Arlington, Virginia.

For the past two years, both Mary Moran and Victoria Metz have dedicated themselves to educational achievement by assisting the students, parents, teachers and administration of Arlington Traditional School. They have appeared on numerous occasions before the Arlington County School Board to discuss educational issues and sustain support for the Arlington Traditional School. Ms. Moran and Ms. Metz have also frequently met with individual members of the School Board to answer questions and have reached out to other local PTA presidents.

During the tenure of Mary Moran and Victoria Metz as co-presidents, the Arlington Traditional School PTA has played an integral role in the following activities: Math Night, Science and Technology Night, the DARE Program for 5th Graders; Black History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, Asian Pacific Heritage Month, Native American Month, the Fall Family Get-Together, Holiday Open House, Parent-Teacher Conference Luncheon and Dinner, Summer Reading Challenge, Back to School Night and Staff Appreciation Week. The PTA generously purchased computers for student use at the Arlington Traditional School.

Mary Moran and Victoria Metz were also responsible for the Arlington Traditional School PTA’s outreach efforts into the community. The PTA made significant contributions to the Arlington County Temporary Shelter, the Animal Welfare League of Arlington, UNICEF and the Red Cross’s International Relief Fund.

Mary Moran and Victoria Metz have truly made a difference at the Arlington Traditional School. Their success illustrates that our public schools benefit and prosper when parents take active leadership roles in supporting education.

A TRIBUTE TO THE BELLES OF INDIANA ON THEIR 45TH REUNION

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise before you today to recognize the Belles of Indiana, a choral group comprised of Indiana University students, who were the first singing group to perform overseas. The Belles of Indiana who are celebrating their 45th Reunion this summer. The Belles of Indiana answered their nation’s call to duty and diligently performed their responsibilities at the University of Alabama football player was former President George W. Bush, a former member of the Glee Club. Mr. Moran and Victoria Metz have dedicated themselves to educational achievement by assisting the students, parents, teachers and administration of Arlington Traditional School. They have appeared on numerous occasions before the Arlington County School Board to discuss educational issues and sustain support for the Arlington Traditional School. Ms. Moran and Ms. Metz have also frequently met with individual members of the School Board to answer questions and have reached out to other local PTA presidents.

During the tenure of Mary Moran and Victoria Metz as co-presidents, the Arlington Traditional School PTA has played an integral role in the following activities: Math Night, Science and Technology Night, the DARE Program for 5th Graders; Black History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, Asian Pacific Heritage Month, Native American Month, the Fall Family Get-Together, Holiday Open House, Parent-Teacher Conference Luncheon and Dinner, Summer Reading Challenge, Back to School Night and Staff Appreciation Week. The PTA generously purchased computers for student use at the Arlington Traditional School.

Mary Moran and Victoria Metz were also responsible for the Arlington Traditional School PTA’s outreach efforts into the community. The PTA made significant contributions to the Arlington County Temporary Shelter, the Animal Welfare League of Arlington, UNICEF and the Red Cross’s International Relief Fund.

Mary Moran and Victoria Metz have truly made a difference at the Arlington Traditional School. Their success illustrates that our public schools benefit and prosper when parents take active leadership roles in supporting education.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH A. MEZZO

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Mr. Joseph A. Mezzo of New Jersey and the 4th Regiment of the United States Marine Corps, whose gallant actions in 1955 prevented an already tumultuous conflict from destabilizing further. The 4th Marines were deployed near the Soochow Creek in China to diffuse tensions that emerged after Japanese forces penetrated Chinese boundaries. Further intensifying the situation, a Chinese officer killed two members of the Japanese military, creating a hostile climate that culminated in armed conflict. Amidst heavy gunfire from both sides, Robert J. Mezzo and the 4th Marine Regiment demonstrated tremendous fortitude and resolve as they assisted in the stabilization of the Soochow Creek, halting what could have been a major international battle.

After all other American forces withdrew, the 4th Marines remained in the Soochow Creek, accepting an even greater challenge of returning a Chinese rice barge that had been captured by the Japanese to its rightful owner. Mr. Mezzo and his fellow Marines executed this risky maneuver, thereby diffusing a situation which could have added fuel to an already volatile situation. The 4th Marine Regiment courageously exhibited the Marine Corps standard of Semper Fidelis, which saving the lives of many people.

Although Mr. Mezzo and his comrades acted with bravery and selflessness, their efforts, and the efforts of many gallant veterans, have gone virtually unrewarded and unappreciated. What they experienced is found in history books, the services with which these veterans have provided our country are invaluable. I would like to recognize Mr. Mezzo, the 4th Marine Regiment, and all veterans who have risked their lives for the welfare of our country. Their willingness to accept these dangerous missions is a testament to their senses of duty, honor and patriotism. For this, I salute our veterans to whom we owe the debt of gratitude and our ceaseless appreciation, for they exemplify what it means to be American.

Good morning. I’d like to begin with a brief story that I recently read that illustrates the theme of my message today. A successful business executive and former University of Alabama football player was asked “what was the first thing coach Bear Bryant said to you and the other scholar-ship athletes after arriving on campus?” Surprisingly, at the first team meeting, Coach Bryant asked the group “Has anyone called your folks yet to tell them about your success?” After hearing those words, the players looked confused—most had their mouths open. They