

Time's Schools of the Year were judged on their approaches to the most pressing challenges in education; educating children of the poor; consolidating schools in rural areas; making effective use of technology in teaching; and getting parents and communities involved in the education of their children.

I firmly believe that strong parental involvement is a cornerstone for academic success—for it is parents who know the special needs of their own children. Steve Constantino, principal of Stonewall Jackson, believes this also. To increase parental involvement at the high school, Mr. Constantino and his staff planned to put resources in the hands of those who know best how to improve the education of their children, parents. He first removed the counter in the main office to welcome parents and make them feel more comfortable.

But Mr. Constantino and the faculty went a step further by putting in place a program called ParentLink. Through a website and voicemail system, parents can receive up-to-date information regarding their child's grades, homework, attendance, and even the details about what was being taught that day in the classroom. Bridging the communication gap between parents, students, and staff extends beyond ParentLink to the community. Stonewall Jackson accommodates working parents' schedules by holding Saturday morning events and by encouraging parents to make evening use of the school's resources on college and career options.

While increasing parental involvement in education, Stonewall Jackson has also vigorously challenged its students through the International Baccalaureate Diploma program, a rigorous academic program based on international perspectives, an enriched curriculum, community involvement, and written and oral communication skills. An I.B. degree is often regarded as superior to the completion of advanced placement courses, and about 45 percent of the student body at Stonewall Jackson are enrolled in I.B. courses, with 86 percent scoring four or better on a five-point scale.

Over the period of 1995–1999, SAT scores at Stonewall Jackson have risen 61 points; the school has reduced the disparity between minority and non-minority scores by 18 percent; the dropout rate has decreased from 11 percent to 3 percent; and parent satisfaction has risen from 34 percent in 1995 to 59 percent in 1999.

I also would like to take this opportunity to personally congratulate Mr. Constantino on being named Prince William County Public School's "Principal of the Year" for 2001, as well as receiving The Washington Post's "Distinguished Educational Leadership Award." I also want to extend the high-

est commendation and congratulations to the teachers, faculty, and parents of Stonewall Jackson High School for their outstanding performance in educating our children and preparing them to thrive in the 21st Century. And last, but certainly not least, to the students of Stonewall Jackson; I salute you on the floor of the United States Senate, because without you, none of this would be possible.

As we all know, today's youth are tomorrow's leaders, and schools such as Stonewall Jackson are paving the way to a prepared and intelligent generation. Stonewall Jackson High School is an inspiration to everyone in the community of Manassas, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the United States of America, and should take great pride in the honor this recognition represents.●

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PHOENIX HOME LIFE

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise with my esteemed colleague, Senator CHRIS DODD, to offer congratulations to Phoenix Home Life Mutual Insurance Company, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary today.

Phoenix is actively engaged in so many facets of our society. This company embodies social leadership through charitable contributions and community involvement. The corporate infrastructure of Phoenix is permeated with a sense of compassion that looks beyond the bottom line and stresses to its employees the importance of investing in human capital as a means of promoting community development.

For example, Phoenix encourages employees to volunteer through a policy that allows them to devote 40 hours of company time per year to community activities, provided it is matched by the same amount of personal time. The company also rewards its top 20 professional advisors through its Donor's Award, a program that enables employees to designate up to \$2,000 to a local charity. Since its inception, the award has benefited many organizations, including the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Lou Gehrig Baseball, and the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

Through this emphasis on community commitment, Phoenix employees adopt their favorite charities, lending their expertise, their leadership, and their time to a variety of local outreach initiatives. The Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen is one such beneficiary. Each summer, Phoenix home office employees in Hartford team up with Foodshare to harvest vegetables donated by Connecticut farmers for area soup kitchens and shelters. Another example is the planning and organization, by a group of employees in 1999, of Connecticut's first Adoption and Foster Care Exposition, sponsored by Phoenix.

Additionally, Phoenix has spearheaded a three-million-dollar "Legacy Campaign" to sustain and promote the Doc Hurley Foundation. Through financial scholarships, mentoring from foundation trustees, and help with purchasing books, the campaign's endowment will help city high school students go to college. Phoenix will contribute a total of \$500,000 over the course of the campaign.

One of Phoenix's greatest investments in our communities and in society has been its commitment to Special Olympics. In 1995, Phoenix made an eight-year commitment to Special Olympics International as its first Official Worldwide Partner, setting a standard for volunteerism few companies can match. Approximately 60 percent of home office employees volunteered at the Special Olympics World Games. Field offices also provided volunteers and raised money to assist local chapters with travel and lodging expenses, enabling athletes across the country to participate in a once-in-a-lifetime event.

Phoenix has proven itself to be an indispensable asset to Connecticut. By making community involvement a priority, Phoenix demonstrates that an alliance between the business sector and the community is not just possible, it is necessary.

At the end of the day, Phoenix is not a faceless multi-national corporation. Through its selfless endeavors within Connecticut's communities, it has proven itself to be the consummate good neighbor. Phoenix is a leader in the competitive world of business and a winner in the hearts of countless Connecticut residents. It is with great appreciation and honor that I ask my colleagues to join me in offering congratulations to Phoenix Home Life Mutual Insurance Company on its 150th anniversary.●

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise to make a few comments on the sesquicentennial anniversary of Christ Episcopal Church in St. Joseph, MO.

The first formal service of the Episcopal Church was held in the orchard of Mrs. Kate Howard's home at 5th and Francis on September 1, 1851. The Reverend John McNamara, Missionary to the Platte Purchase, celebrated the service. On April 14, 1852, Christ Church parish was organized and the small group purchased a log structure at the northwest corner of 3rd and Jules.

On July 30, 1877 Bishop Robertson of the Diocese of Missouri laid the cornerstone of the new church. The building is brick in the English Gothic style. It is the second oldest building in the city in continuous use as a place of worship by one congregation.

During the 1896 renovation an organ was purchased from a church in Connecticut. This Johnson organ was

originally built in 1867. The women of the parish who sponsored three operettas at the Tootle Opera House raised the money for the organ. The original portion is the oldest organ in St. Joseph.

Christ Episcopal Church continues to be a presence in downtown St. Joseph. The members are involved in community outreach activities including the Open Door Food Kitchen, Downtown Partners Association, Ecumenical Corporation for Housing Opportunities, and a Mother's Day Baby Shower to benefit the Division of Family Services.

I commend the congregation of Christ Episcopal Church on their continued commitment to maintain high standards of worship, music and fellowship for a church of 220 parishioners. I am pleased to join with the St. Joseph community and the State of Missouri in congratulating the congregation and wishing them continued growth and success for the next 150 years.●

HONORING CURTIS GIBSON

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise to recognize a young man who represents the best of Montana, Curtis Gibson. Curtis has distinguished himself as an intelligent, self-motivated Eagle Scout from troop nine in Billings and I am proud to speak about his accomplishment today. I would like to begin by stating that Curtis is the son of Robert and Linda Gibson and the brother of Kelly Gibson, who is also an Eagle Scout.

As you may know, a Boy Scout is called to follow a strict code of conduct. He must be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind and brave. I am proud to say that Curtis Gibson embodies all of these attributes. While upholding the principles of the Scout oath and law, a potential Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges and prove to be a capable and effective leader. Moreover, he must also show that he has planned, developed, and led others in various service projects. I am here to affirm that Curtis has met these criteria and has recently been awarded the rank of Eagle Scout.

Along the way to becoming an Eagle Scout, Curtis organized 20 scouts from Troop Nine to improve Montana's park system. They designed and constructed covered information kiosks at the entrances to Two Moon Park and Norm Schoenthal Island to benefit the Yellowstone River Parks Association and the Yellowstone County Parks Department. These scouts volunteered more than 100 hours during the school year to complete the project and I am grateful for his dedication to the greater Billings community. Curtis's project certainly benefits our park systems, but it also serves Troop Nine and those who gave their time for service and leadership.

I am proud to say that Curtis has been involved in scouting for more than ten years and that he has spent six of those years with Troop Nine. Even though Saint Bernard's Parish in the Billings Heights is their home, Curtis has allowed his scouting activities to take him to Minnesota, Wyoming, South Dakota, the Florida Keys and Canada. In addition, Curtis recently joined Venture Crew Seven. This group joins together experienced Boy Scouts in the Billings area for extensive outdoor activities and service projects. However, Curtis has not limited himself solely to scouting. He is an active member of the student body at Skyview High School where he competes on the varsity swim team. Last year Curtis was named to the Montana all-state swim team.

Once again, I would like to express my appreciation to Curtis for his dedication to the state of Montana and his service to the city of Billings. Curtis has prepared himself well for a lifetime of leadership. The youth of our communities will certainly one day, direct the future greatness of our Nation. It gives me great joy to see that Curtis has taken an active role to ensure the continued success and triumph of Montana and the United States.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT "BUD" CLAY

● Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a World War II veteran who brought hope to an occupied people.

On May 24th for more than half a century, the residents of the former German-occupied Als Island off the coast of Denmark celebrated Robert "Bud" Clay as a hero. However, until recently, Bud was unaware of this honor.

Robert B. Clay was a Lieutenant Colonel in the 351st Bomb Group stationed in Polebrook, England during World War II. He was leading a B-17 bombing raid when things went terribly wrong. The plane's engines started failing one by one. Bud steered the plane toward neutral Sweden, but with the failure of an additional engine, it was clear that they would be unable to escape enemy territory. After ensuring that eight of the ten crewmen had safely bailed out of the plane, Clay and his copilot attempted a crash-landing in a nearby grassy clearing on Als Island.

Als Island was first occupied by German troops in 1939. The crashing of the B-17 on May 24, 1944 was seen by the people of the island as a symbol of approaching liberation. In fact, the plane was such a beacon of hope to them that the people of Als Island kept pieces of the wrecked B-17 not only as souvenirs but also as near-sacred tokens. One woman even made her wedding dress using fabric taken from one of the pilot's parachutes.

All the crewmen in Lieutenant Colonel Clay's plane survived the flight, but

were taken as prisoners-of-war. Clay was held captive as a POW for one year in camps near Sagon, Nuremberg, and finally Mooseburg, Germany.

Then on the 28th of April, 1945, Bud saw the stars and stripes being flown from a tall building in an adjacent town. He suddenly realized that liberation was on its way. An experience uncannily like the Danes who viewed his plane's crash as a harbinger of freedom.

For 40 years Clay did not speak of his experience. He was the pilot of the mission and harbored feelings of guilt and responsibility, for the crash, for his crew being taken as POWs, and for not being able to finish out other missions.

However, as he was looking through a war-reunion newsletter two years ago, Clay recognized a photograph of the plane wreckage and the hills and farmhouses surrounding it. An islander had taken the picture as a boy and published the photo and story in hopes of finding the Americans whose crash-landing has been celebrated for decades.

This year will be the first year that Clay will be part of that celebration. He and five others from his bomber crew have been invited to personally attend the ceremonies that have been held in their honor for 56 years.

Clay will forever live as a hero in the memories of Als Island people. He has received e-mails and letters from them expressing their thanks. They have told him that seeing his plane helped them realize for the first time that help was on the way. I am very proud that this great man, who continues to serve in his local community, will finally receive the personal recognition he earned so long ago.●

MIAMI EDISON MIDDLE SCHOOL

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to share with you a remarkable story.

As sweeping a statement as this is, the story of Miami Edison Middle School is truly the story of America in the 20th Century.

It is the story of immigration, with all its challenges, and all its rewards.

It is the story of hard work, of culture differences, and cross-cultural understanding.

It is the story of a city, and a neighborhood and how each generation that passes through leaves behind a layer to build on.

With its Art Deco auditorium and full-sized gymnasium, Miami Edison High School, originally called Dade County Agricultural High, was as magnificent a structure as you could imagine when it was built in 1928.

Through the school, one can trace the growth and transformation of the face of Miami, and indeed, the country.

When it opened in what was then Lemon City, a swath of land surrounded by lemon and orange groves, the entire student body was white.