

They serve as an example to the rest of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. I wish them continued success in their program.●

TRIBUTE TO ALISON NICHOLS,
BRITTANY SALTIEL AND SARA
SIEGAL

● Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, I speak today to recognize three gifted students from the State of Illinois: Alison Nichols, Brittany Saltiel, and Sara Siegal, all students at Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, IL.

These three students created a National History Day project on the Mississippi Burning legal case. Alison, Brittany, and Sara's efforts to examine the circumstances of this case have led to not only a reopening of the case but also the overdue indictment of Edgar Ray Killen for the murder of three young civil rights activists: James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner.

As a former civil rights attorney and constitutional law lecturer, I know firsthand the importance of ensuring that justice and the principles of our Constitution are always upheld. I am proud to represent Alison, Brittany, and Sara in the Senate as they serve as a reminder of why all of us have committed our lives to public service.

These students have demonstrated their tremendous potential in scholarship and leadership in public affairs. They serve as shining examples for our Nation's young people of how a small group of committed individuals can truly change a community, nation, and the world. Alison, Brittany, and Sara deserve not only our congratulations; they deserve our gratitude for making this country stronger.●

GRADING THE STATES ON GUN
SAFETY

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, last month the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, in partnership with the Million Mom March and a number of State gun safety groups, released its 8th Annual Report Card on State Gun Laws Protecting Children. I applaud the efforts of these organizations to keep the pressure on State and local legislators to enact sensible gun safety legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to review this report.

The Brady Campaign report assigns individual States a grade of A through F on seven types of laws that protect children from gun violence. "Extra credit" and "demerits" were also assigned for other State gun safety laws. The Brady Campaign includes in its analysis such questions as: Is it illegal for a child to possess a gun without supervision? Is it illegal to sell a gun to a child? Are gun owners held responsible for leaving loaded guns easily accessible to children? Are guns required

to have child-safety locks, loaded-chamber indicators and other childproof designs? Do cities and counties have authority to enact local gun safety laws? Are background checks required at gun shows? And, is it legal to carry concealed handguns in public?

Children around the country continue to be at great risk from gun violence. This year, the Brady Campaign awarded only six States an A rating in their report. Unfortunately, 31 States received grades of D or F. Only one State improved its grade from last year, while two others took actions that will make communities less safe from the threat of gun violence. However, I was encouraged that the number of "extra credit Sensible Safety Stars" for protecting children from gun violence more than doubled to 21, and that the number of "Time-Out Chair demerits" assigned for weakening State gun laws was cut from ten to six.

While some States have taken positive steps on the issue of gun safety in the last year, more than half are still receiving failing grades from the Brady Campaign. By passing legislation that reduces child firearm deaths, Congress can help to improve the grades of these States. I urge my colleagues to take up and pass common sense gun safety legislation that will close the gun show loophole, reauthorize the 1994 assault weapons ban, and improve child gun access prevention laws.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER
COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-664. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of State, Department of State, transmitting, a report regarding management and security accomplishments of the U.S. Mission in Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-665. A communication from the Executive Secretary and Chief of Staff, Agency for International Development, transmitting pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Administrator, Bu-

reau Management, received on February 7, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-666. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the Agency's Competitive Sourcing Activities for Fiscal Year 2004, received January 25, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-667. A communication from Chief, Aviation Civil Rights Compliance Branch, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reports by Carriers on Incidents Involving Animals During Air Transport" (RIN2105-AD48) received on February 2, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-668. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Bombardier Rotax GmbH Type 912F, 912S, and 914F Series Reciprocating Engines" (RIN2120-AA64) received on February 8, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-669. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Boeing Model 767-300 Series Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) received on February 8, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-670. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Boeing Model 757-200, 200 PF, and 200CB Series Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) received on February 8, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-671. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Garmin International Inc. GTX 33, GTX 33D, GTX 330 and GTX 330D Mode S Transponders" (RIN2120-AA64) received on February 8, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-672. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Gulfstream Aerospace LP Model Gulfstream 100 Airplanes; and Model Astra SPX and 1125 Westwind Astra Series Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) received on February 8, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-673. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: The New Piper Aircraft, Inc. Models PA 23 235, PA 23 250, and PA E23-250 Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) received on February 8, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-674. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: EXTRA Flugzeugbau GmbH Model EA 300 and EA 300/S Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) received on