

by the Minnesota Department of Education for 2 years in a row. Schools receiving the five-star status are few and far between: Last year, 11 schools in the Twin Cities metropolitan area qualified for this status; this year, only 8 metro-area schools qualified. These scores show that top students continue to grow academically and also that all students continue to perform well above expectations.

Success at Woodbury High does not occur without the hard work and dedication of all students and staff. In addition to their classroom responsibilities, the teaching staff at Woodbury High are engaged in professional learning communities. Teachers meet in groups each week to study student learning and compare test scores and other objective data to determine areas of need. Then each group discusses best practices for teaching, in order to improve all students' learning. These professional learning communities have resulted in better course grades, as well as improved test scores on state and national measures of student proficiency.

Course work calls for high standards of performance at all levels. For advanced learners, Woodbury High offers advanced placement classes in English, mathematics, science, and social studies. The staff is working to develop more AP classes to meet students' needs. Each year, more than 250 AP tests are given in the school, with better than 75 percent of these students qualifying for college credit. This rigor translates into ACT scores above the State and national averages. Last year, Woodbury High students averaged a composite score of 23.5 on the ACT test. Students requiring more academic attention may enter the Program for Success in grades 10, 11, and 12 in order to earn credit for on-the-job experience along with academic credits. These classes are kept small and are taught by teachers who take personal responsibility for their students' success.

Woodbury High is working to fulfill the District goal of giving all students an opportunity for excellence. With championship athletic teams and arts programs generating high-quality productions, students are stretched to reach their potential inside and outside the classroom. The Woodbury High girls soccer team has won the State championship during 3 of the past 4 years. The adapted soccer team and girls basketball team have also won State championships during the past several years. Excellence in education is the daily goal of teachers, administrators, and students at Woodbury High School.

Much of the credit for Woodbury Senior High School's success belongs to its principal, Linda Plante, and the dedicated teachers. The students and staff at Woodbury Senior High School understand that, in order to be successful,

a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where students can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and students at Woodbury Senior High School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Woodbury Senior High School in Woodbury for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.

HONORING DAVID HERMANCE

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I take a moment to pay tribute to David Hermance, who died in a tragic plane crash on November 25. David was the North American executive engineer for Advanced Technology Vehicles at Toyota.

Many Americans may not know David's name, but they know his work. He was one of the most well-respected environmentalists in America. He was a pioneer—called the Father of the American Prius—who worked tirelessly to help explain the workings and benefits of hybrid and other advanced technology vehicles.

David was an outspoken and passionate advocate. He championed advanced technology vehicles throughout his career at General Motors and Toyota and he earned a well-deserved reputation for being the most authoritative voice in America on hybrid technology. He helped me and many others better understand this new technology and its potential for creating a more sustainable future and a healthier world.

David was instrumental in raising awareness about the importance of these new technologies to help protect our environment. His death is a loss for us all.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER CYNTHIA "CINDY" MAHONEY

• Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, today I ask that the Senate observe the recent passing of Sister Cynthia "Cindy" Mahoney and recognize her tireless service to this country. A former emergency medical technician, Sister Mahoney volunteered at Ground Zero in New York City on September 11, 2001, blessing victims and providing medical and spiritual attention to survivors. In the days following, Sister Mahoney helped set up a respite program for first responders at St. Paul's Chapel across from the World Trade Center. She also became an official Red Cross volunteer chaplain serving as a grief counselor at the Pier 91 Federal Emergency Management Agency center. In October 2001 Sister Mahoney joined the Red Cross Medical Examiner's Fatality Team as a chaplain

working out of the morgue to bless human remains excavated from Ground Zero. She served on the Fatality Team well into 2002.

In September 2002 Sister Mahoney moved to South Carolina to establish a spiritual practice but was unsuccessful. By this time, Sister Mahoney was experiencing symptoms consistent with exposure to toxic materials like asbestos. Sadly she soon became homeless, and her physical condition continued to deteriorate. Last summer she was diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, COPD. Sister Mahoney died on November 1, 2006, from complications related to her pulmonary condition. I ask that the Senate join me in commemorating Sister Mahoney for her actions at Ground Zero on September 11 and in the months that followed that fateful day. •

RECOGNIZING THE CIVIL AIR PATROL

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, as a member of the Civil Air Patrol for more than two decades and now commander of its Congressional Squadron, I am proud to speak to you today about CAP, an all-volunteer organization celebrating 65 years of service to the United States of America.

CAP was created on Dec. 1, 1941, to assist the U.S. military. During World War II, when Nazi U-boat submarines had infested our coastal waters, volunteer aviators of CAP's Coastal Patrol distinguished themselves valiantly. It was a time when the U.S. military was unable to effectively counter these submarines. Flying small single- and twin-engine aircraft armed with 50 and 100-pound bombs, these brave men and women flew more than 24 million miles during 86,000 over-water missions—a total of 244,600 flight hours to help win the battle against U-boats that were preying on coastal shipping.

Despite the risk of death, they spotted 173 subs, attacked 57, hit 10 and sank 2. The Coastal Patrol aircrews also called in aid for 91 ships in distress, saved 363 survivors of sub attacks, discovered 17 floating mines, and flew 5,684 special convoy missions.

Fifty-nine members of these courageous aircrews died, 26 were lost at sea, and 7 others were seriously injured. They were inspired by the highest sense of patriotism, and they served with pride.

Today, CAP continues that tradition as one of the most unique volunteer organizations in America, consisting of everyday heroes from pilots, teachers, and youth counselors to technology experts, communicators, and more. These volunteers, most employed at a paying job, perform 95 percent of inland search-and-rescue missions in the continental United States.

Whether performing search and rescue missions or helping communities