

the ISTEA legislation. Also, under the unanimous consent agreement, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m., the Senate will recess for the weekly policy luncheons to meet. It is hoped that Members will be prepared to offer amendments to this legislation so substantial progress can be made this week. All Members will be notified when votes on amendments to S. 1173 are ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order following the remarks of Senator ROBB.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ROBB addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, today marks what would have been the 94th birthday of the late Dr. Ted Geisel, better known to most of us as Dr. Seuss. Dr. Seuss has touched and continues to touch the lives of millions of people with books like "Horton Hears a Who," "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish," "The Cat in the Hat," "Green Eggs and Ham." Dr. Seuss' work continues to make reading fun for children and their parents.

While the good doctor is no longer with us, he left an invaluable gift: works which foster in our children a joy and appreciation for books and the wonderful treasures contained in them.

To honor Dr. Seuss and his legacy, today has been declared "Read Across America Day," a day when millions of students and parents, educators, many of our colleagues and others across the country have been engaged in hundreds of events to renew our Nation's commitment to literacy and to teach every child the importance and joy of reading.

Today, every child should be in the company of an adult who will read to him or her.

Last week, the Senate unanimously approved a resolution I submitted, along with Senator JEFFORDS, in recognition of this very special day, and I thank the Senator from Vermont for his comments this morning about this particular event, and several of our colleagues who participated actively in it.

In addition to my 92 colleagues on both sides of the aisle who cosponsored this resolution, I commend the efforts of groups like the American Library Association, the National Family Literacy Council, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, Reading is Fundamental, the International Reading Association, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the I Have a Dream Foundation and the National Education Association that have organized events across the country in support of this very special day.

In communities and schools in my home State of Virginia, there are at least 40 events that I know of to promote literacy and reading. Tonight in Culpeper County, dozens of families will attend an event called "Culpeper Reads," where parents and children will attend a community dinner dressed as their favorite storybook characters.

Parents will have the chance to sign their children up for library cards, and community members will read with families and explain how reading is used in their occupations.

In Hampton, VA, Cooper Elementary has planned an all-day event where individuals will read Dr. Seuss' books to children. And just across the river in Alexandria, Mt. Vernon Elementary School hosted hundreds of high school students and community volunteers as they read with elementary students there.

This morning, I visited Mt. Vernon Elementary School, where I read some of my daughters' favorite books to a class of first graders and to a class of fourth graders.

After that, I also had the pleasure of reading to about 50 third graders at Patrick Henry Elementary School in Arlington.

This morning, Mr. President, I was reminded of how much fun it is to see children's faces light up when you read to them. I was delighted to see so many individuals at each school committed to promoting literacy among our children.

It is my hope that today's activities will motivate individuals to read across America, not just today but every day.

Mr. President, the best way we can help a child learn to read and want to read is by reading to them and with them as often as possible. Time and again, research has shown that children who read aloud in the early years with their parents perform better in school.

Experts say that the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children. Likewise, the effects of illiteracy can be devastating. We know now that 85 percent of high school dropouts and 85 percent of those in juvenile courts are functionally illiterate. Just as alarming is the fact that 51 percent of American high school graduates are functionally illiterate as well.

In a country with resources as plentiful as ours, the fact that our literacy rates are so low is not only shocking; it is shameful.

Mr. President, the earlier in life we can interest children in books, the sooner we can get children into the habit of reading. When children have access to books, when their parents are involved, and when their communities are invested in education, children turn to books for information and enjoyment.

Reading means empowerment. Helping our children understand the value

and the pleasure of reading is one of the greatest gifts we can ever give them. Whether it is to obtain knowledge or to understand history, to experience adventure or gather inspiration, we need our children to love reading. But eager and competent readers are made, not born. By taking just a half hour every day to read with our children, we can foster a genuine interest in reading that will stay with our children throughout their lives.

In celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday today, Read Across America Day will generate new enthusiasm for reading nationwide. I urge every American today to spark and rekindle our children's and our communities' and our own interest in reading.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor and ask the Senate to proceed under the order already agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now stand adjourned until 10 a.m., Tuesday, March 3, 1998.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:17 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 3, 1998, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 2, 1998:

THE JUDICIARY

RICHARD L. YOUNG, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. ROBERT C. HINSON, 0000.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. GARY A. WINTERBERGER, 0000.

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. RUSSELL C. AXTELL, 0000.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. GARRY R. TREXLER, 0000.

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE, TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. LARRY K. ARNOLD, 0000.

BRIG. GEN. JAMES H. BASSHAM, 0000.

BRIG. GEN. GEORGE F. SCOGGINS, JR., 0000.

To be brigadier general

COL. JAMES F. BARNETTE, 0000.

COL. RALPH J. CLIFFT, 0000.

COL. HAROLD A. CROSS, 0000.

COL. THOMAS G. CUTLER, 0000.

COL. GILBERT R. DARDIS, 0000.

COL. THOMAS P. MAGUIRE, JR., 0000.

COL. BARBARA J. NELSON, 0000.

COL. AVRUM M. RABIN, 0000.

COL. GARY L. SAYLER, 0000.

COL. ANDREW J. THOMPSON IV, 0000.

COL. HARRY A. TROSCLAIR, 0000.