

Scholarship Award." A student of Clinton County High School, Edward also finds time to pursue academic and cultural interests such as political science, music, and art.

The Albany Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1952 and its Ladies Auxiliary can be proud to sponsor Mr. Edward Brown. Being recognized by this organization is truly an honor. I congratulate Edward for his hard work and achievement.●

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN D. WASON

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional officer of the United States Army, Lieutenant Colonel John D. Wason, upon his retirement after more than 20 years of distinguished service.

Throughout his career, Lieutenant Colonel Wason has personified the Army values of duty, integrity, and selfless service across the many missions the Army provides in defense of our Nation. During his time as—a Congressional Legislative Liaison Officer in the office of the Secretary of the Army, many of us on Capitol Hill have enjoyed the opportunity to work with Lieutenant Colonel Wason on a wide variety of Army issues and programs, and it is my privilege to recognize his many accomplishments. I commend his superb service to the U.S. Army and this great Nation.

Lieutenant Colonel John D. Wason was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, Field Artillery, after graduating from California State University-Sacramento in 1985. His first assignment was as a Company Fire Support Officer, Battery Fire Direction Officer, and Battery Executive Officer for the 3rd Battalion, 19th Field Artillery, 5th Infantry Division at Ft. Polk, LA from 1985 to 1989. He commanded B Battery, 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery in the Federal Republic of Germany from 1990 to 1992. Following his assignment in Germany, LTC Wason spent 28 months as a Recruiting Company Commander in Northern California from 1992 to 1994. In 1994, LTC Wason was selected as a member of the Army Acquisition workforce. From 1994 to 2001 LTC Wason served in a variety of Army Acquisition positions at White Sands Missile Range, NM and Picatinny Arsenal, NJ working on major Army weapons programs such as the Army Tactical Missiles System, Crusader, and the LW 155 Artillery system.

In 2001, LTC Wason was selected as a Department of Defense Congressional Fellow. His selection was followed by a 1 year assignment working on my personal staff. Following his Fellowship, LTC Wason served in Programs Division, Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison. Lieutenant Colonel Wason maintained a constant liaison with Professional Staff Members of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees on issues relating to Army

Procurement programs focusing on Army Aviation, Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles.

Throughout these varied and demanding assignments, Lieutenant Colonel Wason provided outstanding leadership, advice, and sound professional judgment on numerous critical issues of enduring importance to both the Army and Congress. John's counsel and support were invaluable to Army leaders and Members of Congress as they considered the impact of their decisions on these important issues.

On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I thank Colonel Wason, his wife Betsy, and his entire family for the commitment, sacrifices, and contribution that they have made throughout his honorable military service. I congratulate Lieutenant Colonel John Wason on completing an exceptional and extremely successful career, and wish him blessings and success in all his future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. MARY CLUTTER, NSF

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise to honor Dr. Mary E. Clutter who will be retiring in August from the National Science Foundation, NSF. To say that Dr. Clutter has had a distinguished career at the NSF would be an understatement due to her countless achievements in the area of biological science. Today's biological science has not only been assisted by Dr. Clutter but in many respects, it has been defined by Dr. Clutter, and her leadership in this important scientific area.

Dr. Clutter personifies the model public servant with a career at the NSF that spanned almost three decades. Dr. Clutter began her career as a temporary program officer at the NSF. Over the ensuing years, she has served with distinction in many important leadership roles at NSF: as the division director of Cellular Biosciences, Senior Science Advisor to the NSF Director, acting deputy director, and assistant director for the Directorate for Biological Sciences. She has served four Presidential administrations beginning with President Ronald Reagan to our current President George W. Bush. As a member of the Senior Executive Service, Dr. Clutter has received numerous awards, including the Meritorious and Distinguished Executive Presidential Rank Awards from Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and William Clinton.

During her career, Dr. Clutter has worked to develop a long-term and forward-thinking strategic vision for the biological sciences within NSF covering plant biology, environmental biology, computational biology, biodiversity research, long-term ecological research, and nonmedical microbiology. Further, these areas of research have influenced other scientific research areas and will continue to influence the biological sciences for years to come.

In my opinion, Dr. Clutter's most important achievement has come in the area of plant genome research. It is without question that what we now know and will know about plant genome research would not have occurred without Dr. Clutter's vision, leadership, and hard work. In 1997, I asked the Office of Science and Technology Policy, OSTP, to create an interagency working group to develop a new national plant genome initiative. OSTP wisely appointed Dr. Clutter to cochair the working group and, under her leadership, a plan for the national plant genome program was born in June 1997. Under the new National Plant Genome Initiative, Dr. Clutter brought together key Government research personnel from NSF, the Department of Agriculture, the National Institutes of Health, and others to develop and implement the plant genome program.

The plant genome research program at NSF has grown from an initial \$40 million in fiscal year 1999 to \$95 million today and Dr. Clutter has ensured that every penny has been spent wisely and, with this investment, the United States is the world leader in plant genome research. The plant genome program has already yielded tremendous results that will eventually contribute to better agricultural products that will improve human health and nutrition. For example, Dr. Clutter's leadership has contributed to the completion of the Multinational Arabidopsis Sequencing Project. This project was completed 3 years ahead of schedule and produced the first complete sequence of a higher organism. This work has further contributed to the sequencing work of other plants such as maize, soybeans, and other economically significant crops.

With this research, scientists are now beginning to understand the basic mechanisms underlying important plant traits such as cold tolerance, disease resistance, and seed development. Dr. Clutter's leadership has created a new scientific foundation on plant biotechnology that will eventually yield major breakthroughs in our understanding of plants, which will eventually lead to the development of new advances in agriculture, energy, and the environment. I strongly believe that the impressive research being done with plant genomics, led by Dr. Clutter, can eventually be a very powerful tool for addressing hunger in many developing countries such as those in Africa and Southeast Asia.

While Dr. Clutter's contributions to plant biology and genomics are extremely distinguished and too numerous to list in this tribute, I do want to emphasize the role she has played in broadening the participation of women and minorities in the fields of science. Countless number of today's scientists and our future scientists have been positively influenced by Dr. Clutter. She has promoted and emphasized international research collaboration between U.S. and foreign scientists and