

the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 29, 1996, to hold a hearing to review the operations of the Secretary of the Senate, the Sergeant at Arms and the Architect of the Capitol, and to receive testimony on the establishment of a criteria for the Architect of the Capitol.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 29, 1996 at 2:00 p.m. to hold a closed briefing on intelligence matters.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE RETIREMENT OF ADM. WILLIAM OWENS AND JROC

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Adm. William A. Owens and his extraordinary efforts in developing the military's Joint Requirements Oversight Council, better known as JROC. Admiral Owens retires today after 33 years of service to our Nation, and as our military's third Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff—the second highest ranking officer in our Armed Forces.

As Vice Chairman, Admiral Owens defined the role of the JROC in the defense requirements planning process—a process that has seen little change from the cold war planning process instituted by former Defense Secretary McNamara in the 1960's. The JROC as a forum, and a process, is little known and even less understood. But I believe it is essential to leveraging the tremendous capabilities that can be gained through joint planning and operations. I believe it also signals the need for a fundamental change in the way America plans for its future defense. This need for change is not a challenge limited to the Defense Department, but rather will provoke many of us to reflect what means to be pro-defense today—in a daunting era of emerging new technologies, uncertainly over future threats, an expanding continuum of military operations, and scarce and competing resources.

The JROC evolved in response to these challenges. But the JROC was also largely motivated by the Goldwater-Nichols' Defense Reorganization Act of 1986. Goldwater-Nichols required the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to conduct net assessments to determine our military capabilities. The act also required that the Chairman provide the Secretary of Defense with alternative program recommendations and budget proposals—recommendations alternative to decisions derived from business as usual.

To assist the Chairman in this role, Goldwater-Nichols created the position

of the Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. As Vice Chairman for the past 2 years, Admiral Owens has chaired the JROC and its members—the Air Force and Army Vice Chiefs of Staff, the Vice Chief of Naval Operations, and the Assistant Commander of the Marine Corps. These senior military leaders now devote 10 to 15 hours each week to review issues generated by various joint warfighting capability assessments, or JWCA's. The JWCA's, which Admiral Owens initiated, comprehensively evaluate 10 distinct warfighting capabilities across military service lines. The purpose of these assessments is to enhance interoperability among programs and services, and to identify those new technologies, organizational changes, as well as deficiencies and redundancies, that will improve our military's warfighting capabilities.

Through his leadership and vision, Admiral Owens transformed the JROC into what it is today—a forum where our military's senior leadership undertakes the critical process of reviewing, debating and planning our military's future warfighting capability. The JROC has given our military service members a greater awareness of other services' programs, requirements and operations, as well as the capabilities required by each of the warfighting commanders. Because it comprehensively assesses the overarching military capability as a whole—compared to the well-rooted program by program review of the past—the JROC can better assess how much warfighting capability is enough and how much redundancy is acceptable.

The JROC is in a state of evolution and its recommendations will not always be popular. But what's remarkable about the JROC is its ability to address military requirements across service lines—across the lines of parochialism that have, in the past, inhibited the military's move toward greater jointness, to greater effectiveness and to greater efficiencies. Admiral Owens and the JROC have been a catalyst for moving defense planning away from business as usual—shifting the focus of the defense debate away from defense spending levels, and move toward a process that collectively addresses a kaleidoscope of defense challenges, and will ensure that defense investment decisions and force structure changes are wise, attainable and affordable.

At one of our last meetings, Admiral Owens left with me a booklet entitled "New York Habits for a Radically Changing World." There is one particular quote in this book which perhaps best captures Admiral Owens' concern and vision for the future of our armed forces. I quote:

Organizations can't stop the world from changing. The best they can do is adapt. The smart ones change before they have to. The lucky ones manage to scramble and adjust when push comes to shove. The rest are losers, and they become history.

Our Nation owes a debt of gratitude to Admiral Owens for effecting change

before it was compelled, and for his stewardship in ensuring our Armed Forces are well-equipped, well-trained, and well-prepared in this century and beyond.●

TAYLOR MIDDLE SCHOOL NAMED BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of Taylor Middle School in Albuquerque, NM. On February 8, 1996, U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley named Taylor Middle School a blue ribbon school, the highest honor for a school in our Nation. One of 266 recipients nationwide and the only recipient in New Mexico, Taylor Middle School deserves to be commended.

Taylor Middle School, a charter school, uses an interdisciplinary team approach in which both the teachers and the parents are catalysts for the educational development of their children. The school is using a revolutionary middle school philosophy in which the students are learning and the teachers are being taught. Taylor is using both special education and regular education teachers to work with the entire student body enabling a more supportive learning environment.

Secretary Riley recognized that Taylor Middle School offers a challenging and rigorous academic approach to learning in a safe, disciplined and drug-free environment. This school is an outstanding example of an academic institution that is using its own resources to work toward the National Education Goals. Taylor Middle School is an outstanding model for New Mexico's schools and schools across our Nation.

Mr. President, I would like to commend Taylor Middle School, its students, its staff, and the parents who have formed a partnership to create a healthy and effective learning environment.●

CONGRATULATING PAULINE D. GATT ON BEING NAMED SECRETARY OF THE YEAR BY THE MACOMB CHAPTER OF PROFESSIONAL SECRETARIES

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to Pauline Gatt for receiving the Macomb Chapter of Professional Secretaries [PSI] Secretary of the Year Award. Ms. Gatt started her secretarial career after graduating from high school. She then went on to obtain her stockbroker and insurance licenses and earn her certified professional secretary designation. Currently, she is executive secretary to Joseph R. Grewe, president of Masco Tech Sintered Components in Auburn Hills.

Pauline joined PSI in 1994 and has been a very active member of the Macomb Chapter. She has served on several committees, both as leader and

a member. Pauline is currently team leader of the certified professional secretary [CPS] membership committee and spearheading the seminar and publicity committee for the Michigan division annual meeting. She also serves as proctor for the biannual CPS exams at Macomb Community College in Fraser.

Throughout such a busy career, Pauline has found time to marry Mr. William Gatt and raise their 4-year-old son, James Gatt. Her example should serve as an inspiration to all of us concerning what we can accomplish. On behalf of all Michigan residents, I would like to wish Pauline all the best and congratulations.●

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, as Black History Month, 1996, draws to a close, we have had an extraordinary opportunity to remember African-Americans who have changed America. We find our Nation more culturally enriched in the arts, in film and theater, in literature and music, in the humanities, the sciences, in our military and political history, in education, communications, and civil rights because of the contributions of African-Americans. But the most compelling stories are of the earliest African-American leaders who are among America's greatest heroes. They struggled and succeeded in the face of slavery and against the odds, and rose above the extraordinary prejudice and hatred of the 19th century to have a lasting impact on the cultural, social, and spiritual fabric of America. To name just a few: poets like Phillis Wheatley, a Massachusetts native and the first African-American woman to have her poetry published; Crispus Attucks, said to be the first person killed in a Boston battle that presaged the Revolutionary War; and the soldiers of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment, the first African-American unit in the Civil War who were memorialized in the film, "Glory," and in a statue on Boston Common are not heroes to just African-Americans, but heroes to every American.

Their stories are part of this Nation's lexicon and should be as commonly known as the story of another Massachusetts native, Paul Revere, but they are not. That is one of the reasons that, 20 years ago, Black History Month formalized a 70-year-old celebration begun in 1926 by Dr. Carter Woodson, the father of black history. Dr. Woodson set aside a special time in February to celebrate the achievements and contributions of African-Americans and the rich traditions and proud heritage of those who contributed so much to the building of this Nation.

But, as we celebrate we must also recognize that the contributions of African-Americans serve as a bridge over the troubled waters of economic insecurity. Their struggle and achievements in the face of incredible odds give us hope when we see that struggle

for freedom, and equal justice has become an economic as well as a social struggle that finds hard working, self-reliant, responsible African-Americans looking for a good job at a liveable wage. The economic disparity between African-Americans and the rest of America is disproportionate. I know that African-Americans in Massachusetts—from Roxbury to Lowell, from New Bedford to Springfield—are working harder and harder, like all Americans, without receiving a raise, struggling to get the skills they need, and trying to educate themselves and their families, and some are falling further and further behind.

So, this month, in recognizing the importance of African-American heroes and their contribution to the history of America, we must not only reaffirm our commitment to civil rights and equal opportunity but to building an opportunity economy that provides for a better paying job, decent benefits, and a chance for their children to make more and do better in a world that judges them as Martin Luther King said, "on the content of their character." Black History Month is one more important step in tearing down the economic, social, and cultural walls that divide us and bridging the racial gaps between us. As we approach the 21st century, this will be one of our greatest challenges.●

TRIBUTE TO BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

● Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I am here today to celebrate the achievements of the 27 schools from my State that were awarded the Department of Education's prestigious Blue Ribbon Award. The Blue Ribbon Award signifies excellence in education and calls attention to remarkably successful public and private schools.

Blue ribbon schools display the superior qualities that are necessary to prepare our young people for the challenges of the next century. The recognized schools serve as models for other schools and communities seeking to provide high quality education for their students. This year 266 secondary, junior high, and middle schools will be presented with the Blue Ribbon Award.

After a vigorous screening process by each State Department of Education, a panel consisting of 100 outstanding educators and other professionals reviews the nominations, and selects the most promising schools for a site visit. After the schools have been visited, the panel considers the reports and forward its final recommendations to Secretary Riley, who then reveals the names of the schools selected for recognition.

It is my honor and privilege to identify the following 27 Texas schools selected to receive a Blue Ribbon Award: Klein Oak High School, Plano Senior High School, Renner Middle School, Forest Meadow Junior High School, Strickland Middle School, Forest Park Middle School, Mayde Creek High

School, Groesbeck Middle School, Lawrence D. Bell High School, Grapevine Middle School, Spring Forest Middle School, Spring Oaks Middle School, Northbrook Middle School, James E. Taylor High School, Westwood High School, Noel Grisham Middle School, Travis Middle School, Socorro High School, Lubbock High School, Lackland Junior-Senior High School, Georgetown High School, Coppell Middle School West, Edward S. Marcus High School, Booker T. Washington High School for Performing and Visual Arts, Crookett Middle School, Carroll High School, and Carroll Middle School. They are clearly among the most distinguished schools in the Nation with a persistent commitment to excellence in education.

I am elated that of all the schools selected from the entire United States, 10 percent are in Texas. Their achievements stand as positive testimony to the dedication, pride, and devotion to responsibility of the students, teachers, administrators, and parents at each of these blue ribbon schools.●

CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, in my home State of Connecticut and across the Nation, something very positive is happening. Every day we hear about crime and violence committed by youth, teenage pregnancy, falling test scores and a host of other indications that the fabric of our society is fraying. These are problems that certainly need to be addressed. But today I would like to talk about Character Counts, a program that has committed itself to the children of this Nation in an affirmative way that conveys the faith and optimism we have in our youth and the high expectations we have for them. I am very proud to be a part of this growing endeavor.

On yesterday, I joined with my colleagues in the introduction of a resolution to designate October 13-19, 1996 as this year's National Character Counts Week. Character Counts Week will focus attention on the importance of character education and mobilize participation in the program. Last year in Connecticut, almost 3,000 students and teachers from 75 towns attended a rally in Hartford kicking off Character Counts Week, and I know many other States have had an equally enthusiastic response to the promise of character education. I invite all Americans to join us in taking part in the character education of our young people as it is everyone's duty.

Character Counts emphasizes six values—trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. These are values that we all hold in common; these values transcend religions, cultures, socio-economics, and generations. But these values need to be explicitly taught to our children and reinforced and reflected in the way we live and in the way we shape our society. Character Counts does exactly