

Medal. But the medals and certificates do not say it all. Like all Sergeants Major in their day-to-day activities and accomplishments, Randy Taft has served as a positive role model for a whole generation of the Army's finest soldiers. Whether he was serving as a personnel specialist, a platoon sergeant, a recruiter, a member of the Army's premier Honor Guard, or as the Senior Enlisted Advisor for the 44,000 person Defense Logistics Agency, he has led by example. His greatest accomplishments are the young soldiers he has helped mold into the kind of citizens this country can be proud to call our Army.

Mr. President, I am proud and honored to congratulate Sergeant Major Randy Taft upon the occasion of his retirement from the United States Army.●

SET A GOOD EXAMPLE

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, these are difficult times for our nation's children as they watch their peers turn to violence, drugs, truancy and gang membership. If one were to believe the evening news, there appears to be little good news coming from our schools. But I rise before my colleagues today to share with them some good news. Thunderbolt Elementary School in Savannah, Georgia, has been recognized by the Concerned Businessmen's Association of America as violence-free and the "Best Example in America" of what a safe and drug-free school should be.

Thunderbolt Elementary is the only school out of the 10,600 which enrolled in the national "Children's Set a Good Example" Competition during the past 12 years to win the national award three times in a row. Additionally, Thunderbolt has also been chosen this year by the judges of the first "Best of the Best" competition, which will be held just once every ten years, as the best of the best elementary schools in America.

The war against drug abuse, violent crime, illiteracy and intolerance is a multifaceted battle being fought in every sector of our community. It is a war that ravages our streets and has kids killing other kids. Too many of our children have become casualties of this epidemic. We as a society must apply proven, workable methods if we are to salvage our youth and rid our cities of those social ills. Positive counter peer pressure could be more effective than authoritarian efforts when it comes to influencing youth away from drug abuse and gang involvement and I am so proud of Thunderbolt Elementary for showing this to be true.

The work that the students at Thunderbolt have done is inspiring and I hope that they will be an example to other students around the country.●

RUSSELL W. PETERSON HONORED WITH FIRST-EVER "LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD" BY CREATIVE GRANDPARENTING, INC.

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the lifetime achievements of a man with truly a lifetime of achievements.

Russell W. Peterson served as Governor of Delaware from 1968-1972, restoring peace on the streets of Delaware's largest city in the wake of the tumultuous 1968 summer riots—as he overcame decades of resistance to implement a sweeping overhaul of State government. Russ Peterson is known to Delawareans as the father of the state's landmark Coastal Zone Act, just as he is renowned nationally as one of our country's leading environmentalists.

I will go into more detail of his many accomplishments, however, the reason I pay tribute to him today is for his recognition—not only as a statesman, environmentalist and civil rights leader—but as a grandfather! Delaware's Creative Grandparenting, Inc. has awarded Russell W. Peterson its first-ever "Lifetime Achievement Award." Peterson, a grandfather of 17 and father of four, deserves every accolade bestowed upon him.

When Russ Peterson was elected Governor of Delaware in 1968, the National Guard patrolled the streets of Wilmington. As he promised, the day Peterson was sworn in as Governor, the National Guard was pulled from the streets. As a 27-year-old New Castle County Councilman first elected that same year in 1968, I assure you Governor Peterson's leadership and steady stewardship made a lasting impression upon me. I am proud to call him a friend.

As Governor, he bucked resistance and reformed Delaware's arcane Commission form of Government into a Cabinet form of government. He convinced the General Assembly to streamline 112 Commissions into ten department leaders. It was nothing short of a revolution!

His greatest accomplishment came in June, 1972, when he single-handedly pushed through the landmark Coastal Zone Act, which forever prohibits development along Delaware's precious coastal zone. Yes, he's the man who proclaimed "to hell with Shell," as he fought efforts by oil refineries to further develop on the Delaware River. The Coastal Zone Act shall forever stand as a monument to Russ Peterson in my State.

Governor Peterson also signed Delaware's Fair Housing Act into law and appointed the first female to the Delaware bench—Family Court Judge Roxana C. Arsh. And in July, 1972, he signed into law a major revision of the Delaware Code, which is important for what was not included. The Whipping Post! From 1669-1952, more than 1,600 men were flogged at the whipping post. Delaware was the last State to eliminate this barbaric punishment, thanks to Russ Peterson.

After leaving office in 1972, Russ served as an advisor to Presidents and held numerous prestigious environmental positions. He was named Vice-Chair of Governor Nelson Rockefeller's National Commission on Critical Choices of America. Then, he chaired President Ford's Council on Environmental Quality. In 1976, Peterson became President of New Directions, a world-wide citizens' lobby group. In 1978, he was tapped to be the director of the congressional Office of Technological Assessment. He secured his worldwide reputation as an environmentalist as the President of the National Audubon Society.

Mr. President, I consider myself very fortunate to call him a friend. I am honored that just last week, Governor Peterson took the time to write me a handwritten note to say he was "proud that you are my Senator." That sort of praise from such an accomplished man is humbling.

Russ Peterson, my friend, you have a lot of living yet to do and more accomplishments yet to come. Today, though, we honor your lifetime of achievements.●

NATIONAL SAVE SCHOOLS FROM VIOLENCE DAY

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I have spoken several times this year about the need for our Nation to address juvenile violence. Today, I would like to commend another group that has joined the call to end violence. The American Medical Association Alliance has designated today as National SAVE Schools from Violence Day, and I would like to praise their efforts.

The AMA Alliance SAVE (Stop America's Violence Everywhere) campaign began in 1995 and comprises a grassroots effort of 700 local and state-level projects to curb violence. Through the campaign, the Alliance has created unique workbooks and activities for use as conflict resolution tools in classrooms across the country. One of their themes, Hands are not for hitting, catches children's attention by challenging them to come up with other uses for their hands. Rather than seeing their hands as weapons, children are reminded that their hands can be used for hugging, collecting bugs or coloring with crayons.

Another campaign theme, I Can Choose, teaches children that they can choose their attitudes and behavior. Other projects including I Can Be Safe and Be a Winner have been distributed nationwide.

Using its Hands are not for hitting campaign and others like it, the AMA is working to call attention to school safety and the way children interact. Nationally, the AMA hopes to reach 1 million children by the year 2000 with activities that help them manage anger and build self-esteem. This type of private sector involvement represents a key building block in our nation's commitment to providing a safe learning environment for our children.

Many of my colleagues know that I introduced the Safe Schools Act of 1999 to provide resources to public schools so they can remain safe and strong cornerstones of our communities. As we move into the 21st century, we must adapt our approach to education to meet the changing needs of students, teachers and parents.

Although I am one of the youngest members of the Senate, I grew up in Helena, Arkansas during what seemed to be a much simpler time. Our parents pulled together to make everyone's education experience a success. Students came to school prepared to learn. Teachers had control of their classroom. The threat of school violence was virtually non-existent.

Now, more than twenty years later, things are different—very different. Our children are subjected to unprecedented social stresses including divorce, drug and alcohol abuse, child abuse, poverty and an explosion of technology that has good and bad uses.

These stresses exhibit themselves in the behavior of teenagers, as well as in our young children. Increasingly, elementary school children exhibit symptoms of substance abuse, academic underachievement, disruptive behavior, and even suicide.

Although school shootings will probably not occur in a majority of our schools, each time we witness a tragedy like Jonesboro or Littleton, it makes us wonder if the next incident will be in our own home towns.

This is a very complex problem and there is no one single answer. It will take more than metal detectors and surveillance cameras to prevent the tragedies occurring in our schools. I believe the Safe Schools Act reflects the needs and wishes of students, parents, teachers and school administrators.

Unfortunately, there are not nearly enough mental health professionals working in our nation's schools. The American School Health Association recommends that the student-to-counselor ratio be 250:1. In secondary schools, the current ratio is 513:1. In elementary schools, the student-to-teacher ratio exceeds 1000:1.

Students today bring more to school than backpacks and lunchboxes—many of them bring severe emotional troubles. It is critical that schools be able to help our troubled students by teaching children new skills to cope with their aggression.

So, I commend the AMA Alliance for designating today as National SAVE Schools from Violence Day and encourage students, teachers, parents and the community to work together to make our schools safe.●

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT 106-14

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the Injunction of Secrecy be removed from the following conven-

tion transmitted to the Senate on October 13, 1999 by the President of the United States:

Food Aid Convention 1999, Treaty Document 106-14.

I further ask that the convention be considered as having been read the first time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

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

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Food Aid Convention 1999, which was open for signature at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, from May 1 through June 30, 1999. The Convention was signed by the United States June 16, 1999. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Convention.

The Food Aid Convention 1999 replaces the Food Aid Convention 1995. Donor members continue to make minimum annual commitments that can be expressed either in the quantity or, under the new Convention, the value of the food aid they will provide to developing countries.

As the United States has done in the past, it is participating provisionally in the Food Aid Committee. The Committee granted the United States (and other countries) a 1-year extension of time, until June 30, 2000, in which to deposit its instrument of ratification.

It is my hope that the Senate will give prompt and favorable consideration to this Convention, and give its advice and consent to ratification by the United States at the earliest possible date.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, October 13, 1999.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 1000

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to H.R. 1000, FAA reauthorization, the Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGEL) appointed, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. BURNS, Mr. GORTON, Mr. LOTT, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. KERRY, and for the consideration of title IX of the bill, from the Committee on the Budget, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. CONRAD conferees on the part of the Senate.

CONVEYING CERTAIN PROPERTY FROM THE UNITED STATES TO STANISLAUS COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 356, just received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 356) to provide conveyance of certain property from the United States to Stanislaus County, California.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent the bill be read the third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 356) was read the third time and passed.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF JOHN E. COOK

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 202, submitted earlier today by Senator DOMENICI.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 202) recognizing the distinguished service of John E. Cook of Williams, Arizona.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, it is my honor today to introduce a Senate resolution honoring a wonderful man and public servant, John E. Cook. The National Park Service recently celebrated its 83rd birthday, and for more than half that time—43 years—John served the Service with distinction, grit and integrity.

John E. Cook most recently served as Director of the Intermountain Region of the National Park Service, which stretches from Canada to Mexico and covers eight states, including Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Wyoming. There he oversaw 87 diverse park units, including national parks, national monuments, national preserves, and national recreation areas. Since I have been a Senator from New Mexico, John and I have worked on various, and sometimes contentious, park issues. I have always appreciated our relationship, and his frankness and competence in dealing with issues.

Anyone who knows John would agree he is a great guy. Before starting his work for the National Park Service, he worked as a farm and ranch hand—and I've even heard a few good stories from his days as a rodeo cowboy. John began his Park Service career as a mule skinner at what is now Saguaro National