

trend the state has experienced since 1989. We also have the highest number of teachers who've proven their expertise by earning certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Voucher proponents do make one point that needs to be taken seriously—vouchers can contribute to diversity and innovation in the system. It is true that we have moved well beyond the point where one-size-fits-all education is adequate. We need to encourage schools to offer a variety of approaches. But this can readily be achieved, as is already happening, within the public system through the design and promotion of magnet, subject-focused and other alternative schools that meet the specific interests of students and their parents while meeting high standards.

Let's also not assume, as has been implied by Mr. Reich, that where parents live determines their level of interest in schools. An expensive home in the suburbs doesn't guarantee a parent is passionate about where their children are learning. We need to make sure every parent is active and involved with his or her child's education.

AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY SERVICES

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the establishment of African American Family Services.

This inspirational organization has spent the past 25 years providing culturally specific services to the Minnesota African American community. Since 1975, it has expanded its services from solely dealing with chemical dependency to providing critical services in chemical health, family preservation, domestic violence, and adolescent violence prevention and anger management.

In addition to these programs, African American Family Services provides its clients with two other invaluable services—a resource center, which includes a resource library and a cross-peer education mentoring project, and a technical assistance center, which creates training programs to educate human and social service professionals on enhancing service delivery to African American clients.

Twenty-five years after its founding, this organization is still searching for new and innovative ways to serve Minnesotans. Currently, African American Family Services is attempting to work more directly with the children of its clients, hoping that this will help to break the cycle of self-destructive behavior that many families experience.

As the leading provider of human services to the Minnesota African American community, this organization has served countless individuals and families. By providing an effective network of dedicated staff and volunteers who have worked hard to serve every person who walks through its doors, African American Family Services truly has been able to make a difference in the lives of its clients.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with this wonderful organization, and am proud to commend its outstanding record of success and service to the community on the floor

of the United States Senate. Please join me in honoring all of the people who have made the success of the African American Family Services possible.

UNHCR DEATH IN GUINEA

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the tragic events that occurred over the weekend in the West African country of Guinea. West Africa is a very rough neighborhood, and for years Guinea has borne a heavy refugee burden, as Liberian and Sierra Leonean people have fled into its borders to escape violence in their home countries. In fact, Guinea hosts more refugees than any other country in Africa—nearly half a million of them.

The region's tensions have, unfortunately, spilled over to affect the welfare of refugees. Recently, a crisis erupted when a series of armed incursions into Guinea from Liberia and Sierra Leone provoked a violent reaction on the part of Guinean authorities who rounded up and arrested thousands of foreigners, including refugees, accusing them of aiding the attackers.

On Sunday, in the town of Macenta, Mensah Kpognon, a Togolese employee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was killed, and another UNHCR worker from the Ivory Coast, Sapeu Laurence Djeya, was abducted by unidentified attackers. Reports indicate that dozens of civilians were also killed in the raid.

This terrible tragedy marks the fourth murder of a UNHCR worker in less than two weeks. Three others, including an American citizen, Carlos Caceres, were murdered on September 6, 2000 in Atambua, West Timor by a militia mob while Indonesian armed forces and police failed to stop the violence.

These terrible crimes, committed against individuals who dedicated their lives to helping others in need, must not continue. All responsible members of the international community must work together to provide security for the humanitarian workers laboring in difficult conditions around the globe. Governments in the region must ensure that those responsible for these acts must be held accountable for their actions. Cross-border raids into Guinea must be stopped. And most urgently, the governments of West Africa must work to find Sapeu Laurence Djeya and to ensure her safety and freedom.

THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the International Academic Opportunity Act introduced by Senator's LUGAR, FEINGOLD, COLLINS and me. This bill provides \$1.5 million in scholarships to low income college students to finance their study abroad. It is estimated that this program will help over 300 students in its first year. I believe that this legislation will pro-

vide needed resources to help low income students compete in today's global marketplace.

In this era of globalization, it has become imperative for America's students to be prepared to operate in an international environment and economy. By studying abroad, students will be exposed to different languages and cultures that will help them become the successful leaders in the future.

This scholarship, otherwise referred to as the Gilman Scholarship Act, because it was developed by the Hon. BENJAMIN GILMAN of New York, will provide up to \$5000 per student for their study abroad. Mr. GILMAN targeted these scholarships to low income students who otherwise would not have been able to consider a study abroad program. I believe that by increasing the number of students that will benefit from an international education we can only enhance the capacity of our citizens to participate in a global society.

This legislation passed unanimously in the House and I hope that we will be able to pass it in the Senate before the end of session. I urge leadership and my fellow Senators to support a swift and unhindered passage.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, September 19, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,658,234,946,688.07, five trillion, six hundred fifty-eight billion, two hundred thirty-four million, nine hundred forty-six thousand, six hundred eighty-eight dollars and seven cents.

Five years ago, September 19, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,965,955,000,000, four trillion, nine hundred sixty-five billion, nine hundred fifty-five million.

Ten years ago, September 19, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,232,292,000,000, three trillion, two hundred thirty-two billion, two hundred ninety-two million.

Fifteen years ago, September 19, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,823,102,000,000, one trillion, eight hundred twenty-three billion, one hundred two million.

Twenty-five years ago, September 19, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$550,758,000,000, five hundred fifty billion, seven hundred fifty-eight million which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,107,476,946,688.07, five trillion, one hundred seven billion, four hundred seventy-six million, nine hundred forty-six thousand, six hundred eighty-eight dollars and seven cents during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JOAB M. LESESNE, JR.

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, now here is one thing with which I can

agree, and not be in a minority. Dr. Joab M. Lesesne, Jr. has not only headed Wofford College with distinction for 28 years, but he has brought luster to the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities as its Chairman. A man of many talents, Joe served as a general in the South Carolina National Guard and is presently Chairman of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Governing Board. Dr. Shi, the eminent President of Furman University, cites this record better than I in a recent editorial in the Greenville News. I ask that the editorial be reprinted in the RECORD.

The material follows:

[From the Greenville News, Sept. 17, 2000]

JOE LESESNE STANDS AS A TRUE AMERICAN HERO

(By David Shi)

In an age with few heroes, it becomes even more important to honor those who stand above the crowd. Last week, Furman University had the privilege of bestowing an honorary doctoral degree on Joab Lesesne, the recently retired president of Wofford College. He had served it well—with a special genius that everyone observed yet no one can define.

Joe Lesesne was raised on a college campus. His father, a Wofford graduate, served as president of Erskine College. After graduating from Erskine, the younger Lesesne went on to earn his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in history from the University of South Carolina. He began his career at Wofford in 1964 as an assistant professor of history, and he soon distinguished himself in the classroom. Lesesne was a luminous teacher who made the past shine with interest and significance.

Professor Lesesne was appointed assistant dean in 1967. Soon thereafter, he implemented the college's interim term, a four-week winter learning program that has become an indispensable part of a Wofford education. He later became director of development and then dean of the college. In 1972, at the ripe age of 34, he was named Wofford's ninth president.

Lesesne quickly realized that going from the faculty to the presidency means abandoning righteousness for pragmatism. He also discovered that a college president needs the endurance of an athlete, the wisdom of a Solomon and the courage of a lion. But perhaps most important is to have the stomach of a goat in order to accommodate all of the civic club luncheons, campus banquets and meals-on-the-run.

As a resolute champion of the distinctive virtues of residential liberal arts colleges, Lesesne led Wofford through a remarkable era of progress, change and achievement. The college's endowment soared during his long tenure, new buildings were constructed, and he helped attract a stronger, more diverse faculty and student body. Along the way, President Lesesne displayed extraordinary composure and resilience. Hard to surprise and even harder to shock, he displayed the magnanimity of a saint in dealing with complaints and crises.

President Lesesne became a leader of national prominence within the higher education community. He was the first Southerner to chair the board of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and he headed the council of presidents of South Carolina's private colleges. In addition, he is a retired major general in the South Carolina Army National Guard, and

he continues to chair the South Carolina Commission on Natural Resources.

Yet the real value of a career can sometimes be better gauged by a person's character than by a public portfolio. Joe Lesesne is a genial representative of a fast vanishing world of grace, civility, loyalty, faith and moral rectitude. A warm man with a big heart, he has no enemies—even among those who disagree with him. Known for his casual intensity and refreshing humility, he loves to tell stories and to catch fish.

For almost 30 years as a college president, Joe Lesesne manifested unshaken nerve, rescuing wit, and, above all, a love for Wofford that has never waned. He had a special affection for students. He teased them, entertained them, inspired them and guided them. They responded with equal affection.

It has been invigorating for those of us still in our age of impetuous vanities to associate with such a wise colleague. I cannot imagine anyone more effective at helping the people of this state appreciate the important role played by Wofford and the other private liberal arts colleges. Joe Lesesne is one of those refreshing people who prefers to grin rather than scowl, banter rather than pontificate. What a wonderful mentor he has been to me and many others.

In his compassionate awareness of others, in his instinctive respect for them, in his declared willingness to help, in his courtesy, tolerance and gentleness, Joe Lesesne demonstrated that the highest intelligence is at its most fertile and expressive when allied to the deepest humanity. As to all of these traits, he has provided us the great gift of his example. Blessed are those who perform good works and earn our respect and admiration. Thanks, Joe.●

NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS IN MARYLAND

• Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I am pleased to congratulate and welcome to our Nation's Capitol the two middle schools and two high schools from Maryland that have been named Blue Ribbon School Award winners by the United States Department of Education. These schools are among only 198 middle and high schools nationwide to be honored with this award, the most prestigious national school recognition for public and private schools.

The designation as a Blue Ribbon School is a ringing endorsement of the successful techniques which enable the students of these schools to succeed and achieve. Over the past few years, I have made a commitment to visit the Blue Ribbon Schools and have always been delighted to see first hand the interaction between parents, teachers, and the community, which strongly contributed to the success of the school. I look forward to visiting each of these four schools and congratulating the students, teachers and staff personally for this exceptional accomplishment.

According to the Department of Education, Blue Ribbon Schools have been judged to be particularly effective in meeting local, state and national goals. These schools also display the qualities of excellence that are necessary to prepare our young people for the challenges of the next century. Blue Ribbon status is awarded to schools which

have strong leadership; a clear vision and sense of mission that is shared by all connected with the school; high quality teaching; challenging, up-to-date curriculum; policies and practices that ensure a safe environment conducive to learning; a solid commitment to family involvement; evidence that the school helps all students achieve high standards; and a commitment to share the best practices with other schools.

After a screening process by each State Department of Education, the Department of Defense Dependent Schools, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Council for American Private Education, the Blue Ribbon School nominations were forwarded to the U.S. Department of Education. A panel of outstanding educators from around the country then reviewed the nominations, selected schools for site visits, and made recommendations to Secretary of Education Richard Riley.

The four winning Maryland secondary schools are as follows:

Baltimore City College High School: founded in 1839 is the third oldest public high school in the country. A college preparatory magnet high school emphasizing the liberal arts and serving students and parents in Baltimore, City College sends 95 percent of its graduates to post-secondary institutions and, in doing so, has played a part in the American dream—preparing students to succeed in college as well as giving them day-to-day experience in working with people of all backgrounds to lead in the community.

Bel Air Middle School: located in Harford County, is a high-performing model of teaching and learning because of its outstanding academic programs and the high level of commitment from teachers, students, local businesses, and parents. Bel Air Middle School has developed an integrated assessment program entitled, "Student Achievement and Improvement through Lifelong Learning", SAIL, which has been recognized nationally by the National Council of Teachers of English. Additionally, Bel Air Middle School has a literacy Team, which provides the faculty with ongoing professional development, particularly in the areas of reading and writing.

Paint Branch High School: in Burtonsville, Montgomery County, offers a dynamic and innovative whole-school signature program in science and the media. In addition to delivering a rigorous, comprehensive high school program with a full complement of honors and advanced placement classes and additional support related, community service, and extra-curricular experiences emphasizing research and experimentation. Several business partnerships support the largest internship program in the county, with nearly 170 students this year earning credit at such sites as the National Institutes of Health, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, Discovery Communication, Inc., and Black Entertainment Television.