

I commend Harcum College for its accomplishments and commitment to education. Harcum has faced many challenges over the years, and I congratulate the institution as it remains an outstanding educational facility.●

#### 2000 NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPALS AWARD

● Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to congratulate an exceptional elementary school principal, Mr. Karl Schleich of Wasilla, Alaska. He is the 2000 recipient of the National Distinguished Principals Award for Alaska.

The National Distinguished Principals Program (NDP) was established in 1984 as an annual event to honor elementary and middle school principals who set the pace, character, and quality of the education children receive during their early school years. The program is jointly sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP). It calls attention to the fundamental importance of the school principal in achieving educational excellence for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade students.

Mr. Schleich's reputation for getting things done was established in southeast Alaska when, in his first position as an educational leader, he oversaw the creation of a grade 6-8 middle school in a former grade 7-12 building and then founded a regional association to support others making similar transitions. As an assistant principal, he helped model a middle school program that received statewide and national attention. In his role as principal at Snowshoe Elementary School, he has boosted school improvement efforts, developed and trained staff in schoolwide assessments of writing, reading comprehension, and early literacy skills, as well as portfolios of children's work. Karl Schleich is commended by his colleagues for his uncommon interpersonal skills and energy that he has demonstrated in his 12 years as a principal.

Our Nation's future depends on today's educators. Currently, 40 percent of America's 4th graders read below the basic level on national reading tests. On international tests, the nation's 12th graders rank last in Advanced Physics compared with students in 18 other countries. And one-third of all incoming college freshmen must enroll in a remedial reading, writing, or mathematics class before taking regular courses. This country is in need of more devoted and talented educators. I commend Mr. Schleich for his hard work and dedication to our children. He is educating those who will lead this country in creating, developing, and putting to work new ideas and technology.●

#### TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN JOSEPH E. BAGGETT

● Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor Captain Joseph E. Baggett, Judge Advocate General's Corps, United States Navy, upon his retirement after twenty-nine years of devoted, active duty service in our great nation's Navy.

Captain Baggett was born into a military family. The son of a career enlisted Marine, Captain Baggett grew up in the presence of the United States Navy in such diverse locations as Naval Air Station Pensacola, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, and the United Kingdom. Raised with the values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment, and with a family tradition of service, it only made sense that he too would pursue a military career.

Captain Baggett graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Tulane University in May 1971, and entered the Navy through Tulane's Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps. At that time Captain Baggett raised his hand and took his oath to support and defend the Constitution. In the years since that day he has devoted indeed all of his great energy, talent, and intellect to that task. He has been steadfast in his covenant to this nation and his devotion to those with whom he has served. An illustrious career gives eloquent testimony to his service to our country and to our Navy's legal community.

After two tours as a Supply Corps officer, including service onboard USS *Rich* (DD-820), he entered the Navy's Law Education Program and commenced the study of law at Tulane University. After earning his Juris Doctor degree in 1977, his first tour of duty as a Navy Judge Advocate was at Naval Legal Service Office, Jacksonville, Florida where he served as a formidable military prosecutor tirelessly pursuing justice on behalf of the Navy.

Captain Baggett's subsequent tours demonstrate his exceptional talent for international and operational law, his unsurpassed academic credentials, and his desire to serve the Fleet wherever required. In such diverse assignments as Commander Middle East Force onboard USS *LaSalle* (AGF-3) and USS *Coronado* (AGF-11), Commander Iceland Defense Force, and Commander Sixth Fleet, serving onboard USS *Belknap* (CG-26) and USS *Iowa* (BB-61), Captain Baggett's legal acumen and diplomatic skill repeatedly helped safeguard America's Interests and project America's presence in these often complex areas of the world. Interspersed were tours in Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs, the International Law Division of the Office of the Judge Advocate General, and the University of Miami where he earned a Masters of Law degree in Ocean and Coastal Law.

With his vast experience with forward-deployed, operational forces, Captain Baggett was able to quickly contribute to a number of vital, National-level issues in subsequent Washington staff assignments, including tours on

the Joint Staff's Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate, as Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General for International Law, and as the Defense Department Representative for Ocean Policy, where he was pivotal in developing United States policy on a variety of issues, including issues involving the newly formed Russian Federation. With this comprehensive top-level, international legal perspective, Captain Baggett was the obvious choice to become the Counsel for National Security to the Deputy Attorney General of the United States.

Returning to the Fleet as the Senior Staff Judge Advocate for the Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Captain Baggett was a major influence in high-level decisionmaking related to all aspects of Fleet operations, including environmental coordination and enforcement, rules of engagement, medical law, military justice, and the legal aspects of shore activity management. Captain Baggett's subsequent tour as the Commanding Officer of the Navy's flagship Naval Legal Service Office, in Norfolk, Virginia, demonstrated once again his exceptional leadership skills. Here he mentored the young men and women of the Navy's legal community about the operational imperatives of the Navy, and constantly stressed the paramount need to serve the Fleet.

Captain Baggett's wealth of expertise of Navy won him the assignment as Director of the Legislation Division in the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs. In this capacity his consistent sound judgment and flawless tact ensured Navy issues were properly conveyed to Senate Committees and Subcommittees.

Standing beside this officer throughout his career has been his wife Suzanne, a lady to whom he owes much. She has been his key supporter, devoting her life to her husband, to their two sons, Merritt and Graham, and to the men and women of the Navy family. She has traveled by his side for these many years. Her sacrifice and devotion have served as an example and inspiration for others.

With these words before the Senate, I seek to recognize Captain Baggett for his unswerving loyalty to the Navy and the Nation. The Department of the Navy and the American people have been served well by this dedicated naval officer. He will be missed. He has left the Navy better prepared to face the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. We thank him and wish Joe, and his lovely wife Suzanne, fair winds and following seas as they continue forward in what will most assuredly remain lives of service to this Great Nation.●

#### EDWIN J. KUNTZ

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to announce the passing of an outstanding leader in the agriculture community of Montana. I first met Ed

Kuntz and his family in the 1960's. He and his family lived in the small community of Custer, Montana. They farmed small grain, sugar beets and fed cattle. It was a typical diversified farming operation found on the many irrigation projects along the Yellowstone River.

Ed was a little different. He was not only of the land but was of the people who lived on the land and called it home. Just another average American of the silent Americans who served this country when asked and served his community when no one else would. Average? Not at all. Nothing could be further from the truth.

His service to his community and neighbors did not stop at the county line. He was an excellent farmer and stockman. His love and respect for the sugar industry took him to national leadership where he was one of their most respected leaders. With the demands on the farm and dedication to a family, he still found time to work for the sugar beet industry not only for himself but his neighbors. I know first hand the impact he had on this town of Washington as he represented the many sugar growers across the country.

He was born May 3, 1926 in Billings, Montana. He was educated and graduated from Custer High School in 1944 and enlisted in the Army Air Corps and trained as a gunner on a B-17. While on furlough, he married his high school sweetheart, Peg Quesset. This December they would have been celebrating being married 56 years.

Ed became a director on the Mountain States Beet Growers Association and served 35 years on that board. He was treasurer for more years than anybody can count and president for 10 years. He also served on the board of directors of the American Sugar Beet Association in Washington, D.C. and devoted many hours away from the farming operation and family.

He is survived by his wife, Peg of Custer, Montana, a daughter, Belva; 2 sons, Rick and Cody.

By paying our respect to Ed Kuntz, we acknowledge the unsung leaders across this land who silently build a nation every day. He was just one that has been described as being a part of the greatest generation.●

#### TRIBUTE TO GENERAL ANTHONY ZINNI, USMC (RET.)

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to General Anthony Zinni, United States Marine Corps, on the occasion of his completion of a successful tour of duty as Commander in Chief, United States Central Command, and his retirement from active duty after 36 years of loyal service. I offer these remarks with great respect for General Zinni, a true American patriot and a Marine's Marine.

General Zinni is a remarkable individual, a distinguished combat soldier,

and an inspiring, uncompromising leader. During his 36 year military career, General Zinni's intellect, candor, and unshakeable optimism have had a profound, positive influence on the U.S. Armed Forces from the Quang Nam province of Vietnam to the sheikdoms of the Middle East, and a hundred points in between. A life long adventure that began in a small Pennsylvania town on the banks of the Schuylkill River has taken him around the world and to the top echelons of military leadership.

A first generation American, General Zinni began his service to the nation in 1961. His father, Antonio Zinni, who immigrated from Italy and fought for his adopted country in the trenches of France in World War I, and his mother, Lilla, instilled in General Zinni an unconditional devotion to the principles of American freedom and liberty and a profound respect for military service. On his first day of classes at Villanova University, with the lessons of his parents in mind, General Zinni joined the Marine Corps. From the Augustinians and the Marine Corps Drill Instructors, General Zinni developed an intellectual prowess and professional military acumen that would distinguish him as a "cut above" throughout his career.

Beginning with two combat tours in Vietnam, General Zinni embarked on a series of assignments that reflect the myriad missions to which the military has been deployed in the latter part of the 20th Century—combat operations, humanitarian operations, peacekeeping and peace enforcement. Following Vietnam, General Zinni participated in humanitarian relief operations in the Philippines and in Northern Iraq. He commanded U.S. military forces in Somalia and also commanded the task force responsible for safeguarding the withdrawal of U.N. peacekeeping forces from Somalia in 1995.

In August 1997, General Zinni, recognized as one of the most operationally competent, most experienced and most versatile military leaders in uniform, was selected by the President to be the Commander in Chief of United States Central Command. Following a unanimous confirmation vote by this chamber, General Zinni spent the next three years representing the United States and ensuring the security of U.S. interests in one of the most challenging areas of the world.

As many of my colleagues are aware, United States Central Command encompasses a region that includes 25 nations, extending from Egypt and the Horn of Africa through the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf States, to the newly independent central Asian nations and Pakistan. While abundant in cultural, ethnic and religious diversity, these same enriching features are also the source of deep-rooted, historic animosities—animosities within the region and toward the United States. Guided by his imperative to genuinely understand the unique perspective of a society and his desire to work with the

people of the region, General Zinni earned the respect and administration of the area's national leaders. There is no question that he was the right man in the right place at the right time.

While we acknowledge the long list of General Zinni's accolades, we recognize that the challenges of military life are most successfully accomplished as a team effort. General Zinni's wife, Debbie, and their children Lisa, Tony, and Maria have shared the challenges and rewards of General Zinni's military life. The journey which brought General Zinni to Central Command, the hallmark of his distinguished military career, would not have been possible without the unconditional and loving support of his family.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I congratulate you and your family for your service to the Nation, the Armed Forces and to the Marine Corps. Semper Paratus! General, as a former Maine, I salute you on the floor of the U.S. Senate.●

#### IDAHO'S OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS

● Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate two Idaho athletes who have made America proud in the 2000 Olympic Games.

Stacy Dragila from Pocatello, Idaho soared to the top of her sport, bringing home the gold medal. She pole vaulted fifteen feet, one inch in Sydney, Australia on September 25th. Stacy deserves recognition because she is more than an athlete. She gives back to her sport by working as an assistant track coach at Idaho State University.

Idahoan Charles Burton is another Idaho Olympian. He finished his round of wrestling competition on October first, coming in at fifth place. Charles wrestled at Centennial High School in Boise and Boise State University. He has been called the "U.S. Olympic Wrestling Team's most hidden gem," and I'm proud he represented our gem state in Sydney.

The hard work and determination of Idaho's Olympic Athletes is an inspiration to us all. They have demonstrated the best of our State and our Nation, and I am proud to congratulate both Stacy and Charles for their personal achievement and the honor in which each represented Idaho and the United States of America.●

#### TRIBUTE TO LOWELL GUTHRIE

● Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend Lowell Guthrie for his commitment to higher education, and his generosity to the students at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

I have had the privilege of knowing Lowell for many years and have witnessed his compassion for others on numerous occasions. Lowell has a kind heart and a giving spirit, and he constantly thinks of ways to improve the quality of life for others. Lowell has