

HONORING THE 2002 AAA SCHOOL SAFETY PATROL LIFESAVING MEDAL AWARD WINNERS

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I am proud to announce to the Senate today the names of the young men and women who have been selected to receive special awards from the American Automobile Association. Six safety patrollers will receive the 2002 AAA School Safety Patrol Lifesaving Medal Award, the highest honor given to members of the school safety patrol. They are in Washington, DC, today to receive their awards, and I wanted to say how proud we are of them all.

There are roughly 500,000 members of the AAA School Safety Patrol in this country, helping in over 50,000 schools. Every day, these young people ensure that their peers arrive safely at school in the morning, and back home in the afternoon.

Most of the time, they accomplish their jobs uneventfully. But, on occasion, these volunteers must make split-second decisions, placing themselves in harm's way to save the lives of others. The heroic actions of this year's recipients exemplify this selflessness.

The first AAA Lifesaving Medal recipient comes from Alexandria, MN.

On January 11, 2002, 12-year-old Kathryn DelZoppo, a captain on St. Mary's Catholic School Safety Patrol, was at her post with four other patrol team members. Even though the duty period was almost over, Kathryn remained alert and kept watch over her team.

As one member of the team approached a busy intersection, a child ran past him, into the street, and into the path of a swiftly approaching vehicle. Thinking fast, Kathryn grabbed the child's jacket and pulled him back to the safety of the curb.

This year's second AAA Lifesaving Medal honoree comes from Manassas, VA.

On September 20, 2001, Weems Elementary School Safety Patrol Ernesto Navarrette, age 11, was on duty at the bus circle with six other patrols and a teacher. Ernesto scanned the area for possible safety hazards as students climbed onto their buses.

A pick-up truck parked in the grass nearby began to back up, but no one could hear the truck's engine over the noise of the children and buses. Only Ernesto saw the truck backing up toward a fellow patrol member, who had her back to the moving truck. He yelled to the patrol to move out of the way. She did, just in time.

The next AAA Lifesaving Medal winners come from Lancaster, OH.

On November 21, 2001, Sandersen Elementary School Safety Patrols Justin Wright, age 13, and Ethan Trush, age 12, were on duty on opposite sides of a crosswalk outside their school. After checking for oncoming traffic, Justin and Ethan allowed a third grader to cross the street.

Just then, a car left the school grounds, speeding and fishtailing as it approached the crosswalk. Ethan spot-

ted the car just as the younger student reached the middle of the crosswalk. He yelled out a warning to Justin and then quickly moved to safety. Justin immediately dashed into the road and pulled the third grader out of the street, barely escaping being hit by the oncoming car.

The fifth AAA Lifesaving Award recipient comes from Westfield, NJ.

On October 16, 2001, Franklin Elementary School Safety Patrol Matthew Printz, age 11, was at his usual post outside the school with fellow patrols and a school crossing guard.

Signaling traffic to continue, the crossing guard called to the patrols to hold back any students approaching the intersection. Just as traffic began to move, however, a student stepped around Matthew and into the street. Matthew immediately grabbed the strap of the student's backpack and pulled him out of the street just in time to avoid being hit.

The sixth AAA Lifesaving Award honoree is from Fairfax, VA.

On March 7, 2002, 11-year-old Greg Whitaker, captain of the Fairhill Elementary School Safety Patrol, was walking with a first-grade student toward their homes after fulfilling his school bus patrol duties.

A man pulled up in his van and blocked the boys' path. The man got out of his van and started to ask the little boy several questions, including where he lived. Greg immediately said in a loud voice, "We need to go home!" He took the first-grader's hand, and walked the boy directly home. Before the van pulled away, Greg committed the license plate number, the van, and the driver to memory.

Safety home, Greg called his patrol sponsor for further guidance. The sponsor called the local police, and was told there was a warrant out for the man's arrest. Greg's quick thinking and courage saved himself and the younger boy from a wanted felon.

In addition to honoring safety patrollers with the Lifesaving Medal Award, AAA also recognizes the School Safety Patroller of the Year. This award is presented to patrollers who perform duties above and beyond their normal responsibilities and demonstrate outstanding leadership, dependability, and academic strength.

This year, the Safety Patroller of the Year goes to Kaitlin McLoughlin, age 14, an 8th grader and Safety Patrol Captain at Our Shepherd Lutheran School in Birmingham, MI.

Usually, students have to be in eighth grade to be a safety patrol captain. Kaitlin was allowed to join a year early, however, after submitting an impressive essay and completing an interview process. She was also chosen captain of her patrol team the following year.

Kaitlin's principal describes her as "dependable, clear thinking, calm, and well-respected by students and teachers alike."

Kaitlin's responsibilities include keeping a weekly record of her safety

squad, raising and lowering the school flag, and keeping track of the safety belts and ponchos. When she is on duty, she is responsible for locking one of the school doors after the final bell rings in the morning. She must also organize her squad and assign duty stations monthly.

Recently, the faculty chose Kaitlin to attend the Birmingham Optimist Club breakfast for outstanding area students. She has also served as a kindergarten and computer classroom aide, and assisted with photography for the school website.

Kaitlin is co-captain of the cheering squad, vice-president of the student council, co-chairman of the 7th-8th grade dance, and sings in the choir. She is Mistress of Ceremonies for the school talent show and serves as hostess for Lutheran Schools' Week. Kaitlin also works with the local food bank and on various school fundraisers. She is active in her church youth group, cheerfully volunteers her services when asked and often seeks out other opportunities to serve.

She and all of the other AAA winners deserve our thanks and applause.

On behalf of the Senate, I extend congratulations and thanks to these young women. They are assets to their communities, and their families and neighbors should be very proud of their courage and dedication.

I would also like to recognize the American Automobile Association for providing the supplies and training necessary to keep the safety patrol on duty nationwide.

Since the 1920's, AAA clubs across the country have been sponsoring student safety patrols to guide and protect younger classmates against traffic accidents. Easily recognizable by their fluorescent orange safety belt and shoulder strap, safety patrol members represent the very best of their schools and communities. Experts credit school safety patrol programs with helping to lower the number of traffic accidents and fatalities involving young children.

We owe AAA our gratitude for their tireless efforts to ensure that our Nation's children arrive to and from school safe and sound. And we owe our thanks to these exceptional young men and women for their selfless actions. The discipline and courage they displayed deserves the praise and recognition of their schools, their communities and the Nation.

SUZANNE PEARSON RETIREMENT

Mr. THURMOND. Madam President, I am proud to have co-sponsor with Senator BYRD a resolution which the Senate adopted on April 30 commending Ms. Suzanne Pearson, who retired from the Senate on December 31, 2001. While serving as President pro tempore of the Senate, I had the pleasure of overseeing the work of the Office of the Legislative Counsel and, in particular, of working with Suzanne in her position as Office Manager.

I wish to join with Senator BYRD, and with all Senators, in expressing our deepest gratitude to Suzanne Pearson for her long years of service to the U.S. Senate. She has been part of the Office of the Legislative Counsel for almost 32 years, including the last 10 years as Office Manager; during that time she has provided valuable assistance to me and to my staff.

I and my staff appreciated the great dedication and professionalism she displayed in her work for the Senate. I know that her departure will leave a void that is difficult to fill. In adopting this resolution, the Senate recognizes her years of commitment to the Senate.

Madam President, I wish Suzanne Pearson well in her retirement.

COLOMBIA'S PRICE BAND SYSTEM

Mr. CLELAND. Madam President, today I have submitted an amendment to address the treatment of certain American industries by Andean nations. Specifically, I am concerned with the detrimental effect the Colombian government's use of the price band system, as it applies to pet food, is having on the U.S. pet food industry and the farmers who provide the raw materials used in the production of pet food. As a Senator from Georgia, this issue is of particular concern to the poultry farmers in my State who supply a large amount of the poultry and poultry byproduct used in the production of pet food for export to Colombia.

I note that the Andean Trade Promotion and Expansion Act requires a country to demonstrate a commitment to undertake its obligations under the WTO before it can be designated a beneficiary country. It appears that Colombia's application of the price band system as it applies to pet food is a violation of Colombia's WTO obligations. Pursuant to the WTO, a developing nation, such as Colombia, is required to request and be granted a "reservation" if it is going to impose the price band system on a particular product. The Colombian government failed to acquire a reservation for either wet or dry pet food. Therefore, Colombia's application of the price band system to pet food is in violation of the WTO.

It is my expectation that in reviewing the eligibility criteria relating to market access and WTO commitments, the U.S. Trade Representative will insist that Colombia implement its WTO commitment to remove wet and dry pet food from the price band system, and apply the 20 percent common external tariff to imported pet food as required by Andean Community law.

TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

Mr. KYL. Madam President, since trade-promotion authority lapsed in 1994, America has stood on the sidelines while other countries have brokered trade agreements that benefit their workers, their businesses, and their economies. Soon after taking office, President Bush called on Congress

to grant him trade-promotion authority to reassert America's leadership in promoting U.S. goods and the expertise of our workforce to more markets. The House has acted, the Senate Finance Committee has acted, and it is now time for the full Senate to deliver.

Exports accounted for more than one-fourth of U.S. economic growth in the 1990s. Jobs depending on exports pay wages that are an estimated 13 to 18 percent higher than the national average. One in ten American workers, 12 million people, work at jobs that depend on exports of goods and services. Trade is good for American farmers and ranchers. Trade is good for American small businesses. At the most basic level, trade is essential to our country's economic growth and prosperity. Yet, every day that America delays, other countries throughout the world are entering into trade agreements without us, benefitting their workers, their farmers, their businesses and their economies at the expense of ours.

Our competitors in Europe, Asia, and Latin America have sealed deals on approximately 130 preferential trade compacts, many within our own hemisphere. Yet the United States is party to only three, with Canada and Mexico, Israel and Jordan. Without trade-promotion authority, the United States, would not be able to build on the many robust economic relationships we share with other countries throughout the world.

One such country is Australia. There are few larger, stronger, or more open economies with which the United States can negotiate a bilateral free trade agreement than Australia. Annual two-way trade between the United States and Australia is valued at \$28 billion, supporting thousands of jobs in each country. The United States is Australia's largest source of imports and Australia's second largest export market. Everyone can agree that an Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement would only enhance this fruitful relationship.

Aside from being one of our closest friends and allies, Australia is a strategic trading partner in the Asia-Pacific Region. Clearly, we have a mutual stake in expanding our market presence in this region, and a U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement would set a benchmark for other trade agreements in the future. It would not only send a message that we are serious about the principle of open markets, but it would show what trade-promotion authority can deliver. This is just one example of why we need trade-promotion authority, but it is reason enough, and it speaks to why we must act now. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of trade-promotion authority.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Madam President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with

Senator KENNEDY in March of last year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred May 13, 1998 in Lancaster, SC. A gay woman was brutally beaten. The assailants, two men, were heard to use anti-gay slurs during the attack.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING THE COMMUNITY PROBLEM SOLVING TEAM OF THE QUEST PROGRAM AT THE DR. JOHN HOWARD JR. SCHOOL IN EAST RUTHERFORD

• Mr. TORRICELLI. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the Community Problem Solving Team at the Dr. John Howard Jr. School in East Rutherford. The group, consisting of 12 fourth and fifth graders, has assisted persons who have experienced personal tragedy in their lives in hopes that they can be of help in improving their situation.

This group of youngsters has worked incredibly hard to help so many get through the most difficult of times. They have volunteered 20 times in an after school program for homeless children at the Whitney Houston School, visited the Brookhaven Health Care Center to uplift patients' spirits, and have already volunteered a total of 600 hours towards this project. The group has also collected 150 new toys to be given during the holiday season and collected over 1,500 canned goods and perishable foods for needy families and a local food pantry. Besides gathering these material goods, the Community Problem Solving Team has been able to contribute fiscally. They applied for and were awarded a \$500 grant towards their cause, in addition to raising \$1,180 through the sales of candy bars and lollipops. In the coming weeks the group plans to present a high school senior in their community, whose sister was tragically struck and killed by a stolen automobile, a scholarship check to help her further her education.

Through the efforts of these grade school children, many members of their community are now living happier lives. Even at their young ages, they are being active in their community and working towards making this world a better place.