

Stephen Cabell has repeatedly proven his genius in the field of musical composition. I would like to congratulate him again on being named a Presidential Scholar in the Arts, a tremendous honor indeed. I thank the Senate for allowing me to recognize Stephen and his accomplishments. He is a true source of pride for Kentucky.●

TRIBUTE TO DANNY PIPER

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I want to put into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a statement I made last year shortly after we lost a great friend of mine and a true American success story, Danny Piper.

Danny Piper came into my life 13 years ago. I was the Chairman of the Disability Policy Subcommittee here in the Senate, and was the sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act. We were having a series of hearings leading up to the hopeful passage of this bill. Danny became the first person with Downs Syndrome to testify before a congressional committee. I can't remember exactly how this came about, but I am sure that Marietta Lane, Paul Marchand, and Bobby Silverstein had something to do with finding Danny and getting him and Sylvia and Larry to Washington.

I can remember that day like it was yesterday. Danny was cool, composed, and very confident as a witness. I spoke with him later, and asked if appearing before the Senate was like being in his high school play. "Not so bad," Danny replied.

I followed Danny from then on. I was so proud when he got his high school certificate, then got his first job. In fact, I spent one of my "workdays" at the store with Danny. He showed me the ropes." He showed me the correct way to stock shelves. He made sure I knew how to load the cardboard box machine so I wouldn't get hurt. We went to lunch together, and it was a day I will always cherish.

Every once in a while I would run into Dan in one place or another. He always hailed me as "Hi, big guy." Once, I was visiting a school in Ankeny during the summer, and I was to meet with some teachers and administrators. To my surprise, when I entered the room, there stood Dan. So he gave me his usual, "Hi, big guy" routine. One of the older persons there said, "This is Senator HARKIN." Dan just sort of shrugged, and said, "Yeah, yeah, I know . . . big guy". This memory still makes me smile.

Dan was always a part of all my campaigns, always there for my announcements and always there for the victory parties. But perhaps my most cherished moment with Dan was this spring. Dan set another first, I believe, when he introduced me at my announcement for reelection before a bank of TV cameras and a couple of hundred people. Sylvia told me how hard he practiced for this, and I could tell. He was poised, but a little nervous

as he forgot to introduce my wife, Ruth. I told Dan it was no big deal, I still forget to do that sometimes myself. But he gave that introduction without missing a beat. He had it down pat. I was so proud and honored that Dan would do that for me.

Sylvia and Larry, their family were pioneers in every sense of the word. Long before it was even grudgingly accepted, they made sure Dan was fully integrated in with his peers in school, made sure he was not "sent away" like my brother was so many years ago, to an institution where everyone was "just like him." Dan was a pioneer, also, challenging a system that wanted to deny him his individuality, deny him his personal hopes and dreams, deny him his independence, deny him his human right to meet challenges and set goals for himself.

When we visited Dan in the hospital, I was so certain that he was going to make it. He had that same positive upbeat attitude I have always known. He was looking forward to helping me again this fall, as he had always helped me.

Well, Dan, a tragic accident has meant that you will not be with us physically. But the most powerful thing about you, Dan, was your spirit, and that will always be with us who were touched by your life. Your spirit commands us to lead on, break down barriers that separate us, provide that ladder or ramp of opportunity for all. We will enact MICASSA into law, Dan, and your example of overcoming challenges and meeting goals compels us not to fall in this endeavor.

Thank you, Dan, for all the help you gave us during your brief life. You helped us to be more understanding, more generous and more caring toward one another. That is a great legacy. In whatever lies ahead, you will be often on my mind, and always in my heart.●

RON MICHAELSON: 29 YEARS AT THE ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend Dr. Ronald D. Michaelson. Ron Michaelson will retire in June after 29 years of outstanding service to Illinois as the executive director of the Illinois State Board of Elections. I want to salute his dedication to public service and briefly share his story with you today.

Dr. Michaelson grew up in Chicago. He received a bachelor of arts degree from Wheaton College in 1963, a master of arts degree in political science from Northwestern University in 1965, and a Ph.D. in government from Southern Illinois University in 1970.

Dr. Michaelson went on to devote his life to public service. He began his professional career working in State government as an assistant to former Illinois Governor Richard Ogilvie. He then spent several years teaching at Sangamon State University. His interest in the political arena remained, how-

ever, and in 1974 he returned to that arena to head the newly created State board of elections. The board was formed to interpret election laws and coordinate procedures for holding elections, and Dr. Michaelson became the board's first and so far only executive director.

Dr. Michaelson's drive and ambition helped him administer and supervise the agency in a fair and bipartisan manner. He devoted himself and his 65 staff members to creating one of the most respected campaign disclosure systems in the Nation—one that requires candidates to report disclosure statements electronically, making them easily accessible to those interested in a candidate's campaign donations. Dr. Michaelson's success in creating a fair and effective system of campaign disclosure in the tough political environment of Illinois provided a heartening and instructive example for the cause of political openness nationwide.

In addition to his teaching and his work in government, Dr. Michaelson has authored numerous articles that have been published in leading state and national journals. He is the past national chairman of the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws and speaks frequently at conferences in the areas of election administration and campaign finance. He currently serves as an appointee to the advisory committee of the Federal Election Commission and teaches as an adjunct professor of public affairs at the University of Illinois at Springfield.

Dr. Michaelson's dedication to public service will continue beyond his retirement this month. He intends to assist the State board of elections on a part-time basis with the implementation of the recently enacted Help America Vote Act.

In a time of considerable cynicism about public officials, Ron Michaelson's career stands as a shining example of the finest tradition of honorable service to the public: an example of integrity, fairness, hard work, and high standards. I am truly pleased to honor Dr. Michaelson on his retirement from the Illinois State Board of Elections and to thank him for his service to the state of Illinois and for the example he has set in the course of that service. I know my fellow Senators will join me in congratulating Dr. Michaelson on his remarkable career.●

TRIBUTE TO REBECCA WILLIAMS

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Ms. Rebecca Williams of Henderson, KY. Rebecca was recently awarded a James Madison Memorial fellowship.

The James Madison fellowship, in its 12th year of competition, supports the further study of American history by college graduates who aspire to become teachers of American history, American government, and social studies in

the Nation's secondary schools. Named in honor of the fourth President of the United States, the fellowship will fund up to \$24,000 of Ms. William's course of study toward a master's degree.

The award recognizes promising and distinguished teachers and encourages the strengthening of their knowledge of the origins and development of American government and history. Ultimately, the award acknowledges educators who will provide outstanding tutelage to students across the country.

Ms. Williams is a teacher at Bryan Station High School in Lexington, KY. She is one of 56 recipients of the fellowship, selected from applicants from across the United States. Ms. Williams has distinguished herself as an exceptional and aspiring educator. Her dedication to the field of American history and to the education of Kentucky's youth is remarkable.

Ms. Williams is a tribute to Kentucky, and I am proud of her achievements. I thank the Senate for allowing me to recognize Ms. Williams's wonderful accomplishments. She is Kentucky at its finest.●

TRIBUTE TO THE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF McCRACKEN COUNTY

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise to honor and pay tribute to the McCracken County Education Association for the high ideals which they have taught through example to the children of their county school system. The McCracken County Education Association of McCracken County, KY, generously took the initiative not only to raise \$10,089 and donate it to Habitat for Humanity but also to give their time and effort in the construction of a home in Paducah.

The initiative involved all 12 of McCracken County's public schools and the children that attend them. Each teacher was asked to raise \$35 from their own classroom while the central office and each school contributed \$350. The ways in which the money was raised are just as admirable for their originality and civic mindedness as they are for their charity. One teacher added a brick to a miniature house structure for every dollar her students contributed, while one school of only 350 students held a bake sale and raised approximately \$5,000. Overall and throughout, the raising of funds was marked with a spirit of cooperation and team spirit. On June 6 the funds were presented to Habitat for Humanity of Paducah/McCracken County and on the 14th the teachers, administrators, and staff of McCracken County Education Association assembled at 1920 Broad St. in Paducah, KY, to donate time and labor in the construction of a house.

The altruism and generosity of the McCracken County Education Association ought to be highly commended and imitated by all who have seen its shining example. Such interest in the

well-being of our neighbors combines the virtues of justice and compassion and enriches the society in which it exists.

While it is true that the McCracken County Education Association's concern for their neighbors and for a society in which all have shelter is truly virtuous, it is also true that the work they did was just as, if not more, valuable for the reason that they are the educators of America's future. The children whom the McCracken County Education Association included in this fundraiser event learned more than just what books might have taught them in school. They learned that an active interest in the well-being of others is important. They learned that though they are children who are still in the process of learning, their voices will be heard if they work together with order and with the good of society at heart. It is not only these children who stand to learn something from this notable example of generosity and civic responsibility but all of us here today.

My Senate colleagues and all others would do well to imitate the concern and initiative of the McCracken County Education Association. I thank the Senate for allowing me to laud the praises of the McCracken County Education Association.●

BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE FOR MR. WILLARD ELDREDGE

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to extend a heartfelt birthday greeting to Mr. Willard Eldredge who turns 80 years old today. On July 5, his friends and family will gather in Idaho Falls to honor this great man on the occasion of his birthday. Mr. Eldredge has touched many lives over the years, and I am one of the fortunate ones to have benefited from his influence. You see, I was involved in Boy Scouts, and eventually became an Eagle Scout. Mr. Eldredge was a Scout pack leader of mine many years ago. He taught me and other young men the values, work ethic, and commitment that it took to succeed in Scouts and in life. He served as a role model for me, and taught me lessons about honor, duty, honesty, and patriotism that I have carried with me throughout my life. It is now my honor to wish my former mentor a wonderful, and very happy 80th birthday.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations

which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:52 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 923. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to allow certain premier certified lenders to elect to maintain an alternative loss reserve.

H.R. 1416. An act to make technical corrections to the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

H.R. 1460. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve education and entrepreneurship benefits, housing, and certain other benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1772. An act to improve small business advocacy, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2555. An act making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 923. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to allow certain premier certified lenders to elect to maintain an alternative loss reserve; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 1416. An act to make technical corrections to the Homeland Security Act of 2002; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1460. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve education and entrepreneurship benefits, housing, and certain other benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1772. An act to improve small business advocacy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 2555. An act making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1323. A bill to extend the period for which chapter 12 of title 11, United States Code, is reenacted by 6 months.

MEASURE HELD AT THE DESK

The following resolution was ordered held at the desk by unanimous consent:

S. Res. 186. A Resolution commending August Hiebert for his Service to the Alaska Communications Industry.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with