

city of West Warwick will represent the State of Rhode Island in this national event: Mikaela Condon, Ahmahd Elshanawany, Michela Fleury, Katelyn Grandchamp, Jaclyn Henry, Katelyn Kelly, Shaina Lamchick, Adam Larocque, Lyndsey Miller, Johnathon Myers, Cheryl Nary, Amanda Simas, William Stranahan, Larissa Swenson, and David Yates. Led by their teacher Mr. Marc Leblanc, these outstanding students won their statewide competition and earned the chance to come to Washington and compete at the national level.

The three-day "We the People" National Finals Competition is modeled after hearings in the U.S. Congress. The students are given an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge before a panel of judges while they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues.

I wish the students of West Warwick High School the best of luck at the "We the People" national finals and applaud their achievement. I am sure this valuable experience will encourage these young Rhode Islanders to remain engaged with government and public policy issues in the future.●

HONORING ANNE L. BLUMENBERG

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to pay special tribute to Anne L. Blumenberg, one of Baltimore's most skillful attorneys and equally one of its most dedicated and visionary citizens. Anne recently retired as executive director of the Community Law Center, which develops innovative legal strategies to assist Baltimore's community organizations and neighborhoods.

Anne was born and raised in Baltimore's Waverly neighborhood, and she returned to Baltimore after receiving her law degree from Catholic University's Columbus School of Law. In 1983, she and a group of like-minded lawyers and community activists founded the Community Law Center. In its early days the center focused primarily on public safety as the path to neighborhood survival, depending on volunteer lawyers to carry out its work. Under Anne's leadership, the center's attorneys pioneered the use of nuisance laws as a litigation strategy to address quality-of-life issues, including housing conditions and drug activity, in Baltimore neighborhoods. The center had such great success with these suits that in 1996, the Maryland General Assembly passed the community rights bill—developed in large measure by the center—granting Baltimore City community associations legal standing to seek direct enforcement of housing, building, zoning, and health codes as a remedy to a public nuisance.

Recognizing that creating healthy neighborhoods begins but does not end with public safety, Anne Blumenberg expanded the Community Law Center's programs to include economic development and real estate issues. Today the

center has successful projects to end predatory lending and flipping practices and to end the blight of vacant properties in city neighborhoods. Further, the volunteer spirit that gave the center its start lives on in its pro bono project, which currently has 185 active pro bono attorneys and has opened over 500 cases serving hundreds of organizations in the Baltimore area.

In addition to the hours she has dedicated to the Community Law Center, Anne Blumenberg has generously donated her time to serve as a board member to numerous other community organizations, including Civil Justice, Inc., Empowerment Legal Services, the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning, and the Lawyer's Clearinghouse. And she has literally "written the book" on starting a nonprofit organization: her manual, "Starting a Non-Profit Organization: A Practical Guide," is now in its fourth edition.

Anne Blumenberg was truly a visionary. She saw, earlier than most, how legal tools could be used to improve the lives of some of the city of Baltimore's poorest and most vulnerable citizens, and she transformed her vision into a creative, vigorous and effective public services law firm. As a result of the programs Anne Blumenberg built at the Community Law Center, Baltimore's neighborhoods have come alive again. Residents now have the tools they need to fight the flipping of homes by unscrupulous lenders; to remove drug dealers from their corners; to acquire vacant houses, renovate them, and put them up for sale; and more broadly, to promote citywide policies that will improve the quality of their lives. In short, thanks to Anne Blumenberg's hard work and dedication, Baltimoreans are once again in control of their neighborhoods, and the neighborhoods, which do so much to define Baltimore's character, are blooming.●

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF ROBERT H. MCKINNEY

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I inform my colleagues of the retirement of a remarkable figure in my home State of Indiana, Robert H. McKinney.

Bob McKinney has been a friend of mine since my days as Mayor of Indianapolis. During that time he was critical to the passage of Uni-Gov, the massive restructuring of the boundaries and governmental structure of the City of Indianapolis. His bipartisan support of this shared vision was instrumental in allowing for the progress and prosperity of Indianapolis.

Bob's commitment to public service began at an early age. After graduating from the United States Naval Academy Bob, served for 3 years in the Pacific Theater. Additionally, he served two more years in the Pacific during the Korean War. He is a fine product of both the Naval Justice School and the Indiana University School of Law. Bob also holds Honorary Doctorates of Law

from Marian College and Butler University.

Supplementing his impressive academic and military careers, Bob remains a consistent voice in public service throughout the State of Indiana and nationally. From 1989 to 1998 he was a trustee of Indiana University, including a term as President of the Board from 1993-1994. He was Chairman of the Board of Advisors of Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis and was formerly a director and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Marian College. Additionally, as a trustee of the Hudson Institute, the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation, the Indiana University Foundation, and the Sierra Club Foundation, Bob continues to encourage sound public policy.

During the administration of President Carter, he served as Chairman of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, the Federal Savings & Loan Insurance Corporation, and the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation. Currently, he is a member of the Presidential Advisory Board for Cuba.

Bob has likewise achieved numerous successes in the private sector. After cofounding one of the largest law firms in Indianapolis, Bose McKinney & Evans LLP, Bob served as Chairman of The Somerset Group, Inc., a publicly traded financial services company. In 2000, The Somerset Group merged into the First Indiana Corporation, a publicly traded bank holding company that operates First Indiana Bank, the largest bank based in Indianapolis. Now, Bob is preparing to turn those duties over to his able daughter, Marni McKinney.

I am pleased to have had this opportunity to call to the attention of my colleagues the extraordinary accomplishments of Bob McKinney. I admire his idealism and sustained energy and I join his wife, Arlene, his five children and five grandchildren, in wishing him every continuing success as he enters this new chapter of his life.●

ACCOLADES TO REVEREND T.F. TENNEY

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I thank the Reverend T.F. Tenney for more than 25 years of guidance, service and leadership throughout the great state of Louisiana.

I recognize Reverend T.F. Tenney, United Pentecostal Church District Superintendent for the State of Louisiana. Reverend Tenney retired on March 31, 2005, after 26 years of service in central Louisiana and throughout the state. More than 4,000 people came to offer heartfelt appreciation and best wishes at his retirement ceremony.

Through his role as district superintendent, he was responsible for overseeing all of Louisiana's United Pentecostal Churches. During his 26 years of service, he created a level of stability in the church and brought the United

Pentecostal Church to a new level. His professionalism and guidance in handling Louisiana's churches and their congregations will be missed, as well as his great wisdom and leadership.

I personally commend, honor and thank Reverend Tenney on the occasion of his retirement from service to the people of Louisiana after 26 years as United Pentecostal Church District Superintendent for the State of Louisiana.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO "WE THE PEOPLE" FINALISTS FROM THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I congratulate students from Valley View High School in Jonesboro, AR for winning their statewide competition and earning the chance to come to our Nation's capital to compete in the national finals of "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution". Led by their teacher Dana Shoemaker, students Jarrett Clark, Virginia Gray, Tyler Isbell, Zachery Lesley, Ryan McCormack, Ashley Perryman, Whitney Philamlee, Olga Redko, Elizabeth Renshaw, Laura Stahl, and Molly Throgmorton will join more than 1,200 students from across the country to take part in the weekend-long competition.

"We the People" is a nationwide program developed specifically to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, and it provides a unique and valuable opportunity for high school students to learn about the foundations of the Federal Government while spending time in Washington, D.C., the center of American civic engagement.

It is a wonderful thing that these students have taken such an interest in government and the political system. The vibrancy of our democracy depends on the active participation of its citizens. And with every new generation, we are faced with the challenge of educating our future leaders in the value of civic engagement. I am happy that the parents and teachers of these students from Jonesboro are meeting that important challenge and that the students are taking an active role in their own education by participating in such an enriching program.

While in Washington, the students will participate in a 3-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing, in which they testify before a panel of judges. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles and have opportunities to evaluate and debate positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. It is important to note that the Educational Testing Service—ETS, the world's largest private educational testing and research organization, characterizes the "We the People" program as a "great instructional success." Independent studies by ETS have revealed that "We

the People" students "significantly outperformed comparison students on every topic of the tests taken." I am delighted that the Valley View Blazers can take advantage of such a great opportunity.

These 11 students from Jonesboro certainly deserve recognition for their hard work and talent. Through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and our political system, they have earned the right to compete at the highest level. I am proud that such fine young ladies and gentlemen will be representing my state on the national stage, and I am honored to acknowledge their accomplishment.

I wish these students the best of luck at the "We the People" national finals, and I applaud their outstanding achievement.●

WORLD WAR II REMEMBRANCE

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to share with you a remarkable story from World War II and the remembrance shown by our friends in Germany.

Lindlar, Germany a small town outside of Cologne, is honoring the memory of an American war hero who lost his life during WWII. First Lieutenant Victor Rutkowski was a 24 year old, B-17 co-pilot assigned to the 390th Bombardment Group stationed in England. Lindlar will be dedicating a monument to Victor's memory and holding a memorial service to honor him this weekend.

Doug Johnson was the pilot of the B-17 during Victor's last mission. The following is his account of that final mission.

Oct 15, 1944: My 35th and final mission started about like most of the others we had flown during the previous few months. Two of our earlier missions had extended all the way from England, over Germany landing in Russia for a short stay. Leaving Russia and bombing in Poland and Rumania before proceeding on to Italy for a couple days before our final leg back into Framlingham, England. But this time we were going on a relatively short mission to Cologne, Germany. We were to fly the lead position, high element of "B" squadron. Take off went according to schedule and we were airborne at about 0534. Climb out and assembly was simply routine. We reached the IP and turned toward the target area. No enemy fighters were sighted and it looked like the flak was going to be light and inaccurate. Hey, this was going to be a piece of cake.

Just before bombs away the flak became moderate and their gunners were beginning to home in on us. Suddenly we received a burst right under the right wing. We lost number 4 engine and Victor Rutkowski, my co-pilot, feathered it immediately then informed me that number three engine was on fire. Now things were beginning to get pretty tense. We attempted to extinguish the fire with no success and

it's about time for bombs away. We continued and dropped our bombs in the target area. We notified the squadron leader and immediately pulled away from the formation. I called out on the intercom that "we had better get out of here before this plane blows up". Things looked pretty bad. I called back later to the crew but got no answer because all of them except the co-pilot, engineer and myself had already bailed out.

The fire continued in number 3 engine so the engineer bailed out and Victor followed him. I climbed down to bail out but decided to take one last look at number 3. The fire appeared to have gone out. The plane was in a slight dive as I climbed back into the seat. Upon returning the plane to level flight I noticed that the fire reappeared. I then put the plane in a fairly steep dive. I remember saying to myself "come on baby we've gotten this far, don't blow up on me now". The fire blew out shortly thereafter. My luck was still holding.

I was down to about 4000 feet by now and found myself flying through some more flak, and small arms fire. I didn't realize at the time that I was flying directly over the ground fighting between our troops and the Germans somewhere north of Aachen. I really did not know who was shooting at me then but luckily I was out of it in a minute or so. I finally contacted a P-47 fighter pilot in the area who led me into St. Trond, Belgium, Site A92, where the landing was not the best I had ever made. A flat right tire that had been shot out by flak didn't help. After exiting the plane and walking around to inspect the damage, I noticed that the tail gunner was still at his post. A flak burst had killed him. The plane had about 200 holes in it and the fuel was still leaking from the number 3 engine. I still can't figure out why that plane didn't blow up.

I later learned that my co pilot was killed on the ground by German civilians and that my bombardier had been wounded but evaded and my engineer also escaped capture and returned to base. The rest of my crew spent the balance of the war as POWs.

A truly remarkable story that speaks vividly to the sacrifice soldiers such as Victor made fighting for their countries.

I would like to commend the citizens of Lindlar for honoring the memory of Victor Rutkowski and all those who died during in World War II. I would like to add the thanks of the Rutkowski family and the United States Senate to Lindlar for this special tribute.●

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on Friday, April 15, 2005, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 256. An act to amend title II of the United States Code, and for other purposes.