

These groups spoke out not just because of Jill Carroll's ties to Michigan or because this was a humanitarian issue, but because kidnapping and killing are an affront to the principles and values of Islam and Arab-American culture.

I want to wish Jill Carroll and her family the very best. She is safe, she is free, and very soon she will be home with her family.

TRIBUTE TO KAY LEBOWITZ

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable woman in Bangor, ME, the city I am proud to call home.

Her name is Katherine Lebowitz, but her friends call her Kay. And she has lots of friends: the citizens of Maine she represented so well in the State legislature, the residents of Bangor she served as mayor, the countless people who benefit from her tireless volunteer work for educational, cultural, and charitable causes.

Also among her close circle of friends are the more than 260,000 members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have passed through Bangor International Airport during the last 3 years of conflict. Whether Bangor is their last stop before going overseas or the first American soil they touch on the way home, Kay Lebowitz and the wonderful Bangor Troop Greeters are there. Nearly 1,500 military flights have landed in Bangor since 2003, and the Troop Greeters have met every one day or night with cookies, homemade fudge, cell phones to call loved ones back home, cheers of gratitude, and hearty handshakes.

At the age of 90 soon to be 91 Kay has arthritis that prevents her from shaking hands, so she hugs. She hugs until her arms ache, but there is a hug for everyone. To the returning troops, she says, "Welcome home." To those headed out, it is "See you on the way back." And she will.

Today K-I-S-S radio in Bangor is holding a roast in honor of Kay Lebowitz. This event will include the ceremonial "retirement" of a pair of her trademark eyeglasses very stylish eyeglasses into the Troop Greeters Hall of Fame at Bangor International Airport. This is precisely the kind of light-hearted gesture Kay enjoys most, and it is fully in keeping with her generous spirit.

I am sure my Senate colleagues join me and all Americans in thanking the Bangor Troop Greeters for their extraordinary efforts in expressing the gratitude we all share, and in wishing the very best on this special day to Kay Lebowitz. She is a remarkable woman and a great patriot.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING LAHAINALUNA HIGH SCHOOL

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I extend my warmest congratulations to a sec-

ondary school in my State of Hawaii, on the island of Maui, that has reached a significant milestone this year. All my best to Lahainaluna High School, as it proudly celebrates its 175th anniversary. Lahainaluna sits in the foothills of the West Maui Mountains overlooking Lahaina, a former whaling village once the capital of Hawaii.

As with many schools, Lahainaluna, known as "the leading star of the Pacific," began as a seminary for young men. It opened on September 5, 1831, following a vote of the Hawaiian Mission of the American Board of Commissioners to create the institution. Rev. Lorin Andrews served as the school's first headmaster for 25 students. By June of 1836, the class size increased to accommodate 32 boys, some of them beginning the tradition of boarding that continues today.

Lahainaluna's initial curriculum included subjects that missionaries to Hawaii wished to require of teachers. These were traditional subjects such as arithmetic, writing, geography, and natural history, and later, advanced mathematics, astronomy, scriptural history, and theology. Students were also instructed in useful trades including farming, animal care, carpentry, navigation, surveying, printing, and engraving. Members of this institution were inventive and innovative, and on February 14, 1834, the first issue of *Ka Lama Hawaii*, the first newspaper published west of the Rocky Mountains, was printed at the school.

The school's curriculum expanded tremendously from its original offerings by the turn of the century. Students learned grammar, bookkeeping, typing, mechanical and architectural drawing, sanitation, civics, business math and English, in addition to vocational subjects such as auto repair and agriculture.

Lahainaluna kept pace with the times and in 1923 became known as a "public high school" for boys and girls, rather than as a "special school." Two years later, the school became a 4-year high school and graduated its first senior class in June 1926.

Statehood came for all of us in Hawaii on August 21, 1959. About 20 years after that, Lahainaluna's traditionally male boarding department opened its doors to admit female boarders.

Lahainaluna was accredited in 2004 by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges for a 6-year term. It received a 2006 Superior Schools award at the Environmental and Spatial Technology conference in Hot Springs, AR.

Today, Lahainaluna continues to be one of Maui's flagship high schools, educating a diverse student body of 1,000 students each year and sending them to colleges across the country. Certainly, the school has weathered many changes, particularly the rise and fall of Maui's sugar industry, and the inevitable impacts on the families of its student body. It is my hope that the school will continue for many years into the future to educate bright,

young minds and inspire them to become productive citizens who give back to the community.

Congratulations to Principal Michael Nakano, members of his administration, faculty, staff, current students, and their families, and all of its alumni who have continued Lahainaluna's proud traditions and seen the school to its memorable 175th anniversary this year.

The school's philosophy is an enduring one, and I will end by noting part of it here, "We recognize the importance of each student. All students can learn and we must give them the opportunity to maximize their potential. We encourage students to think independently, to have a sense of responsibility for themselves and for society and to experience the satisfactions and rewards that come from creativity."•

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROSWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I am proud to join the citizens of southeastern New Mexico in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Roswell Public Library. That this should happen on the cusp of National Library Week makes the distinction even more gratifying. I would like to take this opportunity to commend Library Director Betty Long and the Roswell Public Library staff, both former and present, for their hard work and dedication to the public library system. Their devotion and commitment to the citizens of Roswell and Chaves County are exemplary.

On April 2, 1906, through the perseverance of the Roswell Woman's Club, the library opened at its original location on Richardson and Third Streets. The Roswell Public Library was established before New Mexico received statehood; it also preceded the historic Chaves County Courthouse. Throughout the decades, the Roswell Public Library has remained steadfast in providing Roswell the scholarly and leisure resources necessary to stimulate a vibrant and growing community.

During my time in the Senate I have come to understand the importance of increased funding for and awareness of library services in the 21st century. Libraries do more than just loan books; they serve as meeting places, repositories of knowledge, and safe havens where ideas can be strengthened or challenged. They have played a vital role in the development of human culture throughout history. It is clear that the role of the Roswell Public Library in this most worthy pursuit will be even greater in the decades to come.

Once again, I would like to congratulate the Roswell Public Library on their centennial. I wish them continued success as they move forward.•

MESABI EAST SCHOOLS, AURORA, MINNESOTA

• Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Mesabi East School

District, in Aurora, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

The Mesabi East School District is truly a model of educational success. The district believes the education of our students goes beyond the classroom walls to include helping children develop compassion and the desire to serve their community.

Toward that goal, for the past 9 years, the Mesabi East Schools have sponsored Project Elf, which provides clothing, food, and toys for less fortunate families in the area who apply for the assistance. Donations are solicited from local merchants, and student volunteers receive a budget to shop for each family. All names are kept confidential. Recently, Project Elf inspired another initiative, called Elf Central. Participating students and staff volunteer to stay after school to make gifts for people in need of a cheerful message. The effort became a groundswell; now, 457 students volunteer often, throughout the year.

Students' community involvement exceeds helping families and those in need. Over the past 6 years, the students of the Mesabi East Schools have sponsored a carefully planned Veterans Day celebration to honor the men and women who have given so much for their country. The Veterans Day ceremony has become a hallmark of community pride and a wonderful form of appreciation for the sacrifices of all our Nation's veterans.

In addition, the Mesabi East District has focused particular attention on early childhood education. Recently, the District created a nonprofit entity dedicated to researching the best possible way to provide services to families. This group has quickly organized a variety of early childhood activities within the community.

Much of the credit for the success of the Mesabi East School District belongs to its superintendent, Gene Paulson; the principals, Sam Wilkes and Jorma Rahkola; and all the dedicated teachers. The students and staff at Mesabi East Schools understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where students can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and students at Mesabi East Schools should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate the Mesabi East School District in Aurora for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

JOHN A. JOHNSON ACHIEVEMENT PLUS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor John A. Johnson Achievement Plus Elementary School,

in Saint Paul, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

John A. Johnson Elementary School is truly a model of educational success. A state-of-the-art community school, it was the first recipient of the Richard W. Riley Award for Excellence in Community Schools, which is conferred by the KnowledgeWorks Foundation, a public education philanthropy in Ohio. John A. Johnson Elementary, which serves 320 children in kindergarten through grade six, was deemed the best community school in the Nation and won this distinction merely 4 years after opening its doors.

As one of Minnesota's best-performing schools serving children of a predominantly low-income population, Johnson has accumulated truly impressive academic accomplishments. For example, during the school's first 2 years of operation, 2000-2002, only 50 percent of the children tested average or above average on standardized reading tests. However, for the past 2 years, nearly 80 percent scored average or above average.

Improvements in math scores at John A. Johnson Elementary are equally remarkable. Last year, standardized test scores in math were within two percentage points of the district average. Only 3 years ago, John A. Johnson pupils were 30 points below the district average.

John A. Johnson Elementary does more than teach children; it is structured to assist families and reduce barriers to education that impede children's learning. The school integrates support services by forming partnerships with many community organizations and making these services available to help parents.

Much of the credit for John A. Johnson School's success belongs to its principal, Frank Feinberg, and the dedicated teachers. The students and staff at John A. Johnson Elementary School understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where students can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and students at John A. Johnson Achievement Plus Elementary School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate John A. Johnson Elementary School in Saint Paul for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

LAKE HARRIET COMMUNITY SCHOOL, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Lake Harriet Community School, in Minneapolis, MN, which

recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Lake Harriet Community School is truly a model of educational success. The school is fully committed to its mission of guiding students to love learning and to celebrate and respect a diverse population, and also to empower young people to reach their full potential as knowledgeable, responsible, and confident citizens of the global community. The school focuses on educating the whole child. Opportunities abound across a broad spectrum, so that virtually every interest is served: love of music and art, athletics, competitive chess, the environment, and history. At Lake Harriet, young people are invited to get involved and are helped to excel in pursuing their interests.

Lake Harriet School reflects the diversity of its city, and it opens its doors to the entire community. Students are given the privilege of meeting other young people of many different cultures, experiences, and abilities. Students come to Lake Harriet Community School from a variety of Minneapolis neighborhoods, and the school is proud of its record of fostering respect and appreciation for diversity.

The academic achievements of the students who attend Lake Harriet Community School are among the highest in Minnesota. For 2 successive years, the school has earned five-star status in both reading and math from the Minnesota Department of Education, an accomplishment realized by fewer than 5 percent of all schools in the State of Minnesota.

Much of the credit for Lake Harriet Community School's success belongs to its principal, Marsha Seltz, and all the dedicated teachers. The students and staff at Lake Harriet Community School understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where students can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and students at Lake Harriet Community School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Lake Harriet Community School in Minneapolis for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

TRIBUTE TO BRAD COHEN

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a remarkable young man, Brad Cohen. Brad is a teacher and an author. Brad Cohen is one of the more than 100,000 people in the United States who have full-blown Tourette syndrome.

I first met Brad through his loving father and my friend Norm Cohen. Later, as chairman of the State Board