

Maholovich who have recently obtained the rank of Eagle Scout. The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest rank given to lifetime members of the Boy Scouts. This honor is not given lightly, and it represents their great drive and dedication to excellence.

These young men should be proud of their accomplishment. The rank of Eagle is given to only 2 percent of all Boy Scouts, and these young men find themselves among other great Americans including Neil Armstrong and Gerald Ford. I look forward to these Scouts going on to do great things as well.

I am proud to join the friends and family of these proud Scouts in congratulating them on their many and most recent accomplishments.●

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Bamber Valley Elementary School, in Rochester, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Bamber Valley Elementary School is truly a model of educational success. The school is Rochester's largest elementary school, serving 885 students in kindergarten through fifth grade. The successful partnership created between families and the community has made possible a school that exemplifies teamwork, pride, and excellence.

Bamber Valley is making full use of test score data to improve teaching techniques and to address the specific reading and math challenges facing individual students. The administration's quick dissemination of test data to the classroom teachers has allowed the teachers to adjust their teaching strategies, addressing the skills that students found to be the most difficult on the standardized tests.

Bamber Valley is home to the district's programs serving the elementary deaf and hard-of-hearing children. The program's resource teachers work with families encountering crisis situations, and a gifted and talented specialist is assigned to the school to help challenge students who excel.

For students in the first through fifth grades, the school has an after-school academy program, where laughter and high energy combine to create a learning environment that is safe, welcoming, and fun.

Much of the credit for Bamber Valley Elementary School's success belongs to its principal, Ms. Becky Gerdes, and her dedicated teachers. The students and staff at Bamber Valley Elementary School understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also offer a nurturing environment where students develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for a lifetime of success. All of the faculty, staff, and students at Bamber Valley Elementary

School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Bamber Valley Elementary School in Rochester, MN, for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Mayo High School, in Rochester, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Mayo High School is truly a model of educational success. Several years ago, the school established three major goals and developed an action plan to achieve them: No. 1, to improve the graduation rate; No. 2, to address a disproportionate number of suspensions of racial minority students; and No. 3, to improve poor math and reading test scores.

Several key school leaders are largely responsible for the school's attaining these goals.

Ms. Joan Bachman, who chaired the diversity committee, initiated a multiyear plan, working with the community, staff, and students to make Mayo High School a more welcoming place for all students. Through her leadership, the school has won the District's Diversity Award for each of the last 4 years. She also won the Rochester Diversity Council's Educators Award last year.

Ms. Jeri Brown oversees the school's conflict mediation program and trains students in conflict mediation skills. The students who receive conflict mediation training perform nearly 400 mediations per year, achieving a 93-percent success rate.

Mr. Ron Randall, chair of the math department, and Barb Milburn, chair of the English department, have done a superior job in improving the academic performance of all students. Last year, Mayo received the State's Five Star rating in math.

Recognizing that many of the students receiving suspensions for behavioral reasons were the same students who least could afford time away from school, Mayo modified its policies. By focusing on addressing causes of students' poor behavior, Mayo has avoided loss of valuable class time. Consequently, suspension rates have improved, and graduation rates have dramatically risen. Last year, the school boasted a 95-percent graduation rate.

Much of the credit for Mayo High School's success belongs to its principal, Dr. John Frederikson, and his dedicated teachers. The students and staff at Mayo High 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 develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for a lifetime of success. All of

the faculty, staff, and students at Mayo High School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Mayo High School in Rochester, MN, for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Eagle Lake Elementary School, in Eagle Lake, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Eagle Lake Elementary School is truly a model of educational success, having earned a Five Star rating from the Minnesota Department of Education. The school, which is part of the Mankato Area School District, serves 290 students from the communities of Eagle Lake and Madison Lake. Although relatively small, Eagle Lake Elementary offers an impressive variety of educational opportunities, including all-day kindergarten, special education services, assurance of mastery program for at-risk students, a school psychologist and social worker, a structured study center, afterschool academic assistance, speech and language assistance, an artist-in-residence program, mentoring program, lyceum programs, and challenging opportunities for highly capable students.

Eagle Lake Elementary's "400 Club," a school-wide home reading program, encourages students to spend at least 100 minutes per week reading. At the end of each month, a school-wide celebration honors those who have read over 400 minutes for the month. The "Reading Buddies" program pairs early elementary students with fourth and fifth grade students to explore reading through weekly themed projects and activities. The older buddy learns role model and leadership skills while the younger buddy is encouraged to develop lifelong reading habits. The school also boasts an orchestra program, a science fair, a Quiz Bowl, Peace Makers, which teaches peer mediation and conflict resolution, novel study, word masters, art masterpiece, geography and spelling bees, Jump Rope for Heart, and a variety of after-school activities.

Parents' involvement in the education of their children is also very high at Eagle Lake Elementary. This fall, 99 percent of all parents participated in parent-teacher conferences.

Much of the credit for Eagle Lake Elementary School's success belongs to principal, Jason Scherber, and his dedicated teachers. The students and staff at Eagle Lake 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 develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for a lifetime of success. All of

the faculty, staff, and students at Eagle Lake Elementary School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Eagle Lake Elementary School in Eagle Lake, MN, for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY TO RAYMOND TWOMEY

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate a special occasion in the life of a true American; Mr. Raymond Twomey of Boston, MA. As Ray gathers with his friends and family, I wish to join with all of them in celebrating his career of public service, his distinguished military service, and his 90th birthday.

Ray was born on January 30, 1916, and grew up in east Boston, where he resides to this day with his son Jerry and daughter-in-law Sandra. He answered his country's call to service in World War II and worked as a medic in the "Spearhead Division," known outside the service by its more formal title of the U.S. Army 703rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, 3rd Armored Division. He ascended to the rank of corporal, fought courageously in the critical Battle of the Bulge, and was subsequently awarded a Purple Heart.

Upon his return to the States, Ray began his work for the U.S. Postal Service and served the Boston neighborhoods of Beacon Hill and the North End. He married the lovely Marie Louise Spinazola, also of east Boston, in 1948; and their four children, Jerry, Claudia, Mary and Bernadette were born and raised in east Boston as well. He is the proud grandfather of six grandchildren and one great grandchild.

On the occasion of Ray's 90th birthday, his entire family will gather to honor him and celebrate his life and accomplishments. I am proud to join them in wishing happy birthday to Ray and wish him the very best.●

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHARLES F. CUMMINGS

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Charles F. Cummings, the official historian of Newark, NJ. Mr. Cummings passed away on December 21, 2005, at the age of 68.

Mr. Cummings was born in Puerto Rico and raised in Virginia, but it was Newark, NJ, to which he pledged his life's work. With a master's degree in American History from Vanderbilt University, Mr. Cummings arrived in New Jersey in 1963 to begin a job with the Newark Public Library. He adapted quickly to his new home, studying the history and traditions of both the city and the State. Before long, Mr. Cummings was renowned for having an encyclopedic knowledge of all things New Jersey.

Not content to keep this information to himself, Mr. Cummings sought to make the State's history public knowledge so that the people of Newark would love his adopted home as much as he did. As an employee of the Newark Public Library for over 40 years, Mr. Cummings took pride in curating public exhibitions that shed light on the history of Newark and brought to life the stories of those who lived there. Mr. Cummings shared the history and accomplishments of Newark with thousands of New Jersey residents by conducting walking tours of the city and writing a regular column for the *The Star Ledger* of New Jersey called "Knowing Newark." He also served as an affiliate member of the Rutgers University Federated Department of history, where he taught a popular undergraduate course on the history of Newark.

There has hardly been a person, past or present, who has cared about the history of Newark the way Mr. Cummings did. He was an indispensable resource for journalists, historians, and citizens alike. While Mr. Cummings will be missed by the people of New Jersey, he will be forever cherished as a loyal friend, a great man, and a true Newark treasure.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Charles F. Cummings and the immeasurable contributions he has made to the city of Newark and the State of New Jersey.●

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5391. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the completion of a feasibility study of inland navigation improvements for the Chickamauga Lock and Dam, Tennessee; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5392. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a draft bill entitled "District of Columbia Snow Removal Amendment Act"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5393. A communication from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's monthly report on the status of its licensing and regulatory duties; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5394. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Update of Materials Incorporated by a Reference" (FRL No. 8021-7) received on January 16, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5395. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Envi-

ronmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Emission Reductions to Meet Phase II of the Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) SIP Call" (FRL No. 8020-4) received on January 16, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5396. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidelines for Awarding Clean Water Act Section 319 Base Grants to Indian Tribes in FY 2006; Request for Proposals from Indian Tribes for Competitive Grants under Clean Water Act Section 319 in FY 2006 (CFDA 66.460—Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants; Funding Opportunity Number EPA-OW-OWOW-0602)" (FRL No. 8021-6) received on January 16, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5397. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act" (FRL No. 8020-3) received on January 16, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5398. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Revisions to Control Volatile Organic Compound Emissions; Volatile Organic Compound Control for Facilities in the Dallas/Fort Worth Ozone Nonattainment Area" (FRL No. 8022-2) received on January 18, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5399. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Ohio: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision" (FRL No. 8023-3) received on January 18, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5400. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Jersey Consumer Products Rules" (FRL No. 8020) received on January 25, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5401. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation Plans; New Mexico, Visibility" (FRL No. 8025-5) received on January 25, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5402. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disapproval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Montana; Maintenance of Air Pollution Control Equipment for Existing Aluminum Plants" (FRL No. 8026-1) received on January 25, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5403. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office