

more than 500 sites throughout North America to keep the light of hope burning for homeless youth. Covenant House provides quality, effective care for homeless and runaway youth and we are proud that our State of New York is home to Covenant House's headquarters.

Emergency health care, shelter, and treatment of the homeless in New York City cost an average of \$40,000 per person each year, placing a staggering and unsustainable social and economic burden on State and local governments. Covenant House, the Nation's largest privately funded agency for homeless youth and young adults, is helping to relieve some of this burden by providing resident and non-resident services to nearly 66,000 youths in 2006 alone.

Covenant House has provided more than 1 million young people with the support necessary to transition from life on the streets to a life with a future. Covenant House uses successful programs and services—including counseling, transitional living programs, educational and vocational training, health services, and drug abuse treatment and prevention programs—that help transform the lives of these individuals at an early stage.

Still, more work needs to be done. As we speak, nearly 1.3 million children and young adults are homeless and living on the streets throughout our Nation, with roughly 5,000 of these youth dying from assault, illness, or suicide. The Candlelight Vigil for Homeless Youth will honor the memory of these young people who have died alone and anonymously while living on our streets and raise awareness about growing crisis of youth homelessness. As Sister Tricia, executive director of Covenant House, has said, "The Vigil is for every kid who runs away, convinced they'll be safer on the street than at home, where they hope to escape abusive or dangerous environments. That's why we stand together with candles, to light their way to Covenant House, where they will be safe, treated with dignity and loved without condition."

Many of the youth living and dying on our Nation's streets are former foster care children who have aged out of the system. Though they are too old for the foster care system, they are often too young and ill prepared for self-sufficient living without the assistance of a family or support system. Unemployment and a lack of education among these young people can lead to a life of poverty, crime, and drug abuse. The challenges facing young men and women today are overwhelming. For youth who are faced with a life on the streets, the need for a guiding light is often a matter of life and death.

The Covenant House has used successful programs to help transform the lives of these individuals at an early stage. Senator SCHUMER and I are pleased to stand with Covenant House as together we work to keep the light

of hope burning bright for all of our young people.●

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### VISIT OF THE JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER

● Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, I rise to extend my welcome to Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda of Japan, who is visiting Washington today.

Japan is a critical ally and friend of the United States. I believe our alliance is fundamental to a peaceful and prosperous Asia-Pacific region.

The Prime Minister's visit comes at an important time. It is crucial that our two countries maintain the positive momentum in our relationship and work closely together to accomplish shared goals, such as denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, stability in South Asia, nonproliferation in Iran, and political reform in Burma. As a long-standing ally, we must consult closely and respect Japan's perspectives, even as we contemplate next steps in our negotiations with nations like North Korea.

Thousands of miles away from the Korean peninsula, we face the resurgence of the Taliban and al-Qaida in Afghanistan and in the border regions of Pakistan. We are all too familiar with the reports that suggest the Taliban and al-Qaida are gaining strength. We were reminded of this fact in an unsettling report in Tuesday's Washington Post, but the most troubling report of all was last July, when the declassified National Intelligence Estimate warned of a persistent and growing threat from a reconstituted al-Qaida sanctuary in northwest Pakistan.

It is therefore critical that the U.S. and its partners in the international community, including Japan, maintain our focus and operations in this region.

In particular, I wanted to extend to the Prime Minister my appreciation for the support that Japan's Self Defense Forces have offered U.S. operations in Afghanistan, and hope Japan's deployment of refueling tankers will quickly be reauthorized and be extended.

Our half century alliance with Japan remains vital, based on common values and shared interests. There is ample room for improved efforts to forge an even stronger and enduring global security partnership. I hope that Prime Minister Fukuda's visit will continue the progress toward that goal.●

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### IN RECOGNITION OF PROFESSORS OF THE YEAR

● Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate the four national winners of the U.S. Professors of the Year Award. Since 1981, this program has sa-

luted outstanding undergraduate instructors throughout the country. This year, a State Professor of the Year was also recognized in 40 States and the District of Columbia.

This award is recognized as one of the most prestigious honors bestowed upon a professor. To be nominated for this award requires dedication to the art of education and excellence in every aspect of the profession. Professors personally vested in each student shape the leaders of tomorrow. These individuals should be proud of their accomplishment.

I commend and thank all the winners for your leadership and passion for educating. No doubt you have inspired an untold number of students. I wish you the very best in all your endeavors. Congratulations and best regards.

The four national award winners are:

Outstanding Baccalaureate Colleges Professor of the Year: Glenn W. Ellis, associate professor of engineering, Smith College, Northampton, MA;

Outstanding Community Colleges Professor of the Year: Rosemary M. Karr, professor of mathematics, Collin County Community College, Plano, TX;

Outstanding Doctoral and Research Universities Professor of the Year: Christopher M. Sorensen, University Distinguished Professor of Physics, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS;

Outstanding Master's Universities and Colleges Professor of the Year: Carlos G. Spaht, professor of mathematics, Louisiana State University in Shreveport, Shreveport, LA.

State winners are:

Alabama: Lawrence Davenport, professor of biology, Samford University;

Arizona: John M. Lynch, honors faculty fellow, Arizona State University;

Arkansas: Jay Barth, associate professor of politics, Hendrix College;

California: Andrew Fraknoi, professor of astronomy, Foothill College;

Colorado: Thomas G. McGuire, associate professor of English and fine arts, U.S. Air Force Academy;

Connecticut: Marc Zimmer, Kohn professor of chemistry, Connecticut College;

District of Columbia: Richard P. Tollo, associate professor of geology, the George Washington University;

Florida: Patrick K. Moore, public history program director and associate professor, University of West Florida;

Georgia: Linda Stallworth Williams, associate professor of English, North Georgia College & State University;

Idaho: Heidi Reeder, associate professor of communication, Boise State University;

Illinois: Steven A. Meyers, professor of psychology, Roosevelt University;

Indiana: Kristen L. Mauk, Kreft professor of nursing, Valparaiso University;

Iowa: Gail Romberger Nonnecke, professor of horticulture, Iowa State University;

Kansas: David Littrell, university distinguished professor of music, Kansas State University;

Kentucky: Carol Holzhausen Hunt, professor of English and women's studies, Bluegrass Community and Technical College;

Louisiana: Carol E. O'Neil, Peltier professor of dietetics, Louisiana State University and A&M College;

Maine: Robert A. Strong, university foundation professor of investment education, University of Maine;

Maryland: Ernest Bond, associate professor of education, Salisbury University;

Massachusetts: Robert L. Norton, professor of mechanical engineering, Worcester Polytechnic Institute;

Michigan: Norma J. Bailey, professor of middle level education, Central Michigan University;

Minnesota: Ellen Brisch, professor of biology, Minnesota State University Moorhead;

Mississippi: George J. Bey, professor of anthropology, Millsaps College;

Missouri: Mark Richter, professor of chemistry, Missouri State University;

Montana: Marisa Pedulla, assistant professor of biological science, Montana Tech of The University of Montana;

Nebraska: Isabelle D. Cherney, associate professor of psychology, Creighton University;

New Jersey: Osama M. Eljabiri, senior university lecturer of management information systems, New Jersey Institute of Technology;

New York: T. Michael Duncan, associate professor of chemical engineering, Cornell University;

North Carolina: Reed M. Perkins, McMahon professor of environmental science, Queens University of Charlotte;

Ohio: Linda Morrow, professor of education, Muskingum College;

Oklahoma: Mickey Hepner, associate professor of economics, University of Central Oklahoma;

Oregon: Dawn J. Wright, professor of geography and oceanography, Oregon State University;

Pennsylvania: John A. Commito, professor of environmental studies, Gettysburg College;

South Carolina: Melissa Walker, Johnson associate professor of history, Converse College;

South Dakota: Ahrar Ahmad, professor of political science, Black Hills State University;

Tennessee: Peter Giordano, professor and chair of psychology, Belmont University;

Texas: Frank Jones, Harding professor of mathematics, Rice University;

Utah: Lyle G. McNeal, professor of animal, dairy and veterinary science, Utah State University;

Virginia: Joe Hoyle, associate professor of accounting, University of Richmond;

Washington: Nancy K. Bristow, professor of history, University of Puget Sound;

West Virginia: Kenneth C. Martis, professor of geography, West Virginia University;

Wisconsin: Kristina M. Ropella, professor of biomedical engineering, Marquette University.●

#### HONORING MAXINE FROST

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Maxine Pierce Frost, a longtime community leader in Riverside, CA, and nationally renowned leader in education. This month, Maxine Frost will retire from the Riverside Unified School District after 40 years of dedicated service.

Since 1967, Maxine Frost has provided leadership to her community, the State of California, and our Nation. As a board member of the Riverside Unified School District, Frost has seen great change in education policy throughout her tenure. Being a member of the first large school district in the Nation to voluntarily desegregate, she has helped

pave the way for similar changes across America.

Throughout periods of intense growth in the State and the region, Maxine Frost has worked diligently to ensure that students and educators are provided with adequate resources. The Riverside Unified School District has grown from roughly 23,000 students to 43,000 students during Frost's tenure. Throughout this period of intense growth, she has maintained her resolve that every student have the resources they need to succeed.

Numerous academic committees across the State of California and our Nation have benefitted from the leadership and experience of Maxine Frost. She has held a number of leadership posts: president of the Pacific Region of National School Boards Association, the California School Boards Association Legislative Network, the California Association of Suburban School Districts, the Schools Accrediting Commissions, the Council for Basic Education, and the California Association of Student Council's Board of Directors. In 1981, after serving as president of the California School Boards Association, California Governor George Deukmejian appointed her to the Education Commission of the States, in which she served alongside future President William Jefferson Clinton, who chaired the commission at that time.

On October 16, 2006, the Riverside Unified School District adopted a resolution to designate one of its elementary schools as, Maxine Frost Elementary School, in honor of her longtime service and dedication to the community.

As she retires from four decades of service and dedication to the students, families, and educators of California and our Nation, I am pleased to ask my colleagues to join me in thanking her for her fine work. Her tremendous leadership will be long remembered.●

#### IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT GERARD GOULET

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of the late Robert Gerard Goulet, the beloved recording, movie, theater, and television star. Mr. Goulet passed away on October 30, 2007. He was 73 years old.

Robert Gerard Goulet was born on November 26, 1933, in Lawrence, MA, to French Canadian parents, Jeanette and Joseph Goulet. Shortly after his father's untimely passing, he and his family moved to Alberta, Canada. His abundant talents and charisma were evident at a young age, as Mr. Goulet became a popular singer on Canadian television as a precocious teenager.

In 1960, Mr. Goulet made his Broadway debut as Sir Lancelot in the original production of "Camelot," starring opposite Julie Andrews and Richard Burton. After hearing Mr. Goulet sing during the first day of rehearsals, Mr.

Burton compared his rich baritone voice to "the voice of an angel." Mr. Goulet's performance won him wide acclaim, including the Theater World Award, and recognition as one of Broadway's most captivating and talented stars. In 1968, Mr. Goulet won the Tony Award for best actor in a musical for his role as Jacques Bonnard in "The Happy Time."

A consummate entertainer, Mr. Goulet, who won a Grammy Award for Best New Artist in 1962, has recorded over 60 albums. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, he starred in a number of his own television specials and was a popular guest on "The Ed Sullivan Show" and other variety programs. Mr. Goulet could also boast of an impressive resume on the big screen, as he was featured in several successful movies, including "Honeymoon Hotel," "Beetlejuice," and "Toy Story II." Over the course of a career that spanned over half a century, Mr. Goulet's many accomplishments and successes cemented his status as one of America's most versatile and beloved entertainers in recent memory.

A prostate cancer survivor, Mr. Goulet played an active role in helping to increase the awareness of prostate health. He was a spokesman for the American Cancer Society and he regularly visited communities to educate others on the importance of cancer awareness, prevention, and early detection. In 2005, he was awarded the "Human Spirit Award" by The Wellness Community.

Throughout an illustrious career, Robert Gerard Goulet used his prestigious talents to bring joy and entertainment to millions of his fans and admirers from the world over. Mr. Goulet has left behind a legacy of performing excellence. He will be missed.

Mr. Goulet is survived by his wife Vera; two sons, Christopher and Michael; daughter Nicolette; three grandchildren, Jordan, Gerard, and Solange.●

#### CONGRATULATING VILLA MADONNA ACADEMY ELEMENTARY AND JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Villa Madonna Academy Elementary and Junior High School of Villa Hills, KY. Villa Madonna Academy Elementary and Junior High School is recognized as a 2007 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program has been celebrating high achieving schools for 25 years. Established in 1982 by the U.S. Department of Education, the program has recognized more than 5,200 schools since its inception. This year 11 Kentucky schools join this distinguished list, and I am proud to say that this is the second time Villa Madonna Academy Elementary and Junior High School has been a worthy recipient.

By demanding excellence from each and every student, Villa Madonna