

trails, campgrounds, and buildings in all three parks exceeded \$40 million.

Today I recommend to National Park Director Mary Bomar the awarding of National Park Service commendations to the entire staff of Mount Rainier, Olympic and North Cascades National Parks for their commitment to repair and restore these parks. Their efforts exemplify the mandate of the National Park Service “to provide for the enjoyment of [the parks] in such manner and by which means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

Immediately following the storm, the personnel of these national parks worked continuously, often during their days off, to repair roads, rebuild trails, clean up campgrounds, and repair facilities. The citizens of Washington have a great interest in ensuring that the health, public and economic benefits, and welfare of Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks are restored for present and future generations. Without the extraordinary efforts of Park Service employees, it is likely that the parks would be decades from completing repairs, to the extent that they would be completed at all.

It is my honor as a Senator of the State of Washington to recognize the heroic efforts of these men and women and express my gratitude on behalf of my constituents and all Americans that enjoy and treasure these parks as “sanctuaries of enjoyment, recreation, learning, and personal renewal.”

INTERNATIONAL PROJECT CITIZEN

Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, I am pleased to advise the Senate that on July 15–17, 2007, more than 250 students from 33 countries will travel to Washington, DC, to participate in Empowering a New Generation for Democracy: The International Project Citizen Showcase. The showcase is the culmination of months of work by students to create public policy plans to solve problems in their local communities from around the world.

Project Citizen, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Education under the Education for Democracy Act, actively engages young people in the civic life of their communities. This interactive education program promotes engagement in government by challenging students to identify a public policy issue that is important to them, propose a solution, and create a political action plan for implementation of their solution. This year's projects addressed a wide range of issues from drug addiction to neglected historical monuments.

I invite my colleagues to observe these impressive portfolios on exhibit Tuesday, July 17, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Russell Caucus Room.

I ask unanimous consent that the list of countries represented in Project Citizen be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Student teams from the following locations are expected to participate:

EUROPE AND EURASIA

Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Czech Republic
Estonia
Kosovo (under UN administration)
Lithuania
Montenegro
Northern Ireland
Russia (East)
Russia (West)
Slovakia
Ukraine

ASIA

China
India
Indonesia
Thailand

NEAR EAST

Jordan
West Bank and Gaza

AFRICA

Ghana
Mali
Nigeria
Senegal
South Africa

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Argentina
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Panama
Peru
Venezuela

UNITED STATES

Florida
Washington

CONGRATULATING NICHOLE BERNIER

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I welcome this opportunity to extend my warmest congratulations to Nichole Bernier of Wellesley, MA, as she celebrates her fortieth birthday. Nichole is a truly remarkable woman—a distinguished author, a community leader, a wonderful wife to her husband Tom, and a magnificent mother to her children Connor, Hadley, and Declan.

Nichole has worked tirelessly for over a decade on a variety of charitable causes, including animal welfare, education, and cancer research. Through both her writing and her activism, Nichole has made an impressive difference in people's lives, especially those in need.

Her service and dedication have meant a great deal to countless fellow citizens. It's a privilege to join her family and her many, many friends in congratulating her on this important milestone in her life, and I wish her many happy returns.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING MESA STUDENTS

• Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, today I wish to recognize six of New Mexico's youth who have participated in a national Mathematics, Engineering, Science and Achievement, MESA, USA competition. The competition held at the University of Maryland focused on physics this year and New Mexico had one team from middle school and one team from high school participating. Every participating team made a Trebuchet, or catapult with weight on one end and a projectile on the other. The teams were judged on accuracy, distance, and design.

Four students from Sarracino Middle School in Socorro won the middle school division of the Jamboree State-wide competition held at the University of New Mexico. After winning there, they competed at the University of Maryland and took the third place position for all middle school participants at the national MESA USA competition. Sam Hale, Daniel Jaramillo, Tyler Lam, and Jordan Vinson, all eighth graders, proved with their teamwork that they were a force to be reckoned with.

Two Belen High School graduates also represented New Mexico well at the competition. Samantha Huynh and Matthew Swanson won the high school division of the Jamboree State-wide competition held at the University of New Mexico. They, too, participated in the national competition in Maryland.

I am always proud to learn of students such as these who have taken their learning in the classroom to another level. These sorts of competitions allow students to think outside the box and come up with new solutions to old problems. Problem-solving skills, such as these displayed during the competition, prove to be invaluable for this Nation's future.

Congratulations again. I know these future leaders will accomplish great things.●

HONORING COLONEL GARY B. CARNEY

• Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, today I honor a retiring soldier from my home state. Colonel Gary B. Carney demonstrated exceptional meritorious service as Commander of McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, MCAAP, Oklahoma, the largest U.S. government-owned, government-operated explosive ammunition plant. The plant has a storage capacity of more than six million square feet, and stores more than 700,000 tons of ammunition valued at more than \$65 billion. He skillfully balanced management of this significant portion of the total defense ammunition stockpile mission with the plant's other mission as the sole Department of Defense source for bomb production.

Colonel Carney effectively managed both manufacturing and depot operations stemming from Operating Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. During his tenure Colonel Carney oversaw an increase in revenue not seen since the Vietnam Era, totaling \$228.2M. Also during his tenure the plant shipped 32,680 short tons of munitions, the largest tonnage shipped to date in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Expansion of the public/private partnership program occurred under his leadership as well. The commercial industry partnership business base at MCAAP increased four-fold under Colonel Carney's leadership. Additionally, MCAAP was selected as the integrator for the Excalibur guided projectile in partnership with Raytheon. The Raytheon/MCAAP team fielded the Excalibur, the newest and most accurate projectile, three months ahead of schedule, significantly enhancing our military's warfighting capability.

Under his leadership, MCAAP led the way in Lean Six Sigma, LSS, with actual/cost avoidance savings of \$5.319M. LSS training intensified so that 28 employees received green belt training while 18 received black belt training; 29 completed LSS executive training and 22 more completed project sponsor/project selection training. All MCAAP employees received Lean Six Sigma awareness training.

In 2006 MCAAP's ammunition inventory accountability received an overall green rating in 10 out of 10 major functional areas during the Supply Depot Operations review. This rating and rapid turn-around is a marked improvement over previous years. This significant achievement was directly orchestrated by Colonel Carney through his initiative, leadership, tenacity and ability to motivate the work force.

Colonel Carney's business acumen, dedication to duty, vision and ability to inspire and lead people reflect great credit upon himself, the Joint Munitions Command and the U.S. Army. On behalf of the U.S. Senate and a grateful Nation, I would like to wish him congratulations on a job well done.●

DR. ED RICHARDSON

● Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, today I pay tribute to Dr. Ed Richardson, who has dedicated over 40 years of his life to improving Alabama's public education system. On July 15, 2007, Ed will step down as Auburn University's 17th President, and he will leave behind a legacy of achievement unparalleled in Alabama.

In the 1960s, Dr. Richardson worked in dual roles as a high school science teacher and assistant principal, with the objective of becoming a scientist for NASA. However, following a tragic accident that claimed the life of the Cloverdale School's principal, Dr. Richardson abandoned that aspiration to assume the role of principal. Taking

over this position would propel Dr. Richardson into a long career in education, rising to the ranks of local superintendent, superintendent and university president.

In 1982, Dr. Richardson was named superintendent of Auburn's school system, a career move that at the time was considered unwise. But he had a vision of excellence that proved the naysayers wrong. Thirteen years after becoming superintendent, Auburn's school system was regarded as one of the best in Alabama.

Dr. Richardson's success at turning around Auburn's school system made him the ideal candidate for state superintendent. Faced with a formidable opponent who had the backing of the Governor and the Alabama Education Association, Dr. Richardson fought a hard campaign and was appointed Alabama's state superintendent 1995.

While serving in this position, Dr. Richardson oversaw many legislative and policy changes to Alabama's educational system. Although he may be best known for implementing Alabama's Educational Accountability Act, which holds schools responsible for the performance of their students, he is also responsible for creating performance report cards for schools and universities.

During Dr. Richardson's tenure as Alabama's superintendent, the high school drop out rate fell to historic lows, thanks in large part to his efforts to strengthen the State's high school graduation requirements, making them some of the most rigorous in the Nation. During this time, student academic performance reached an all-time high.

Recognizing the importance of our educators, Dr. Richardson restored teacher testing to hold higher education instructors responsible for their students' performance. He also launched the Alabama Reading Initiative and piloted the Alabama Math, Science and Technology Initiative to give teachers the training and tools they need to better teach these important subjects.

In 2004, Governor Bob Riley approached Dr. Richardson to take over as interim president at Auburn University. Following his acceptance of the position, Dr. Richardson wasted no time in taking charge and making much needed changes in key administrative positions. The culmination of his hard work came in December 2004, when Auburn regained its accreditation status.

Finally, after serving two and a half years as interim president at Auburn University, the board of trustees unanimously named Dr. Richardson Auburn University's 17th President. As president of Auburn, Dr. Richardson pursued an aggressive agenda. He focused on the development of Auburn's research park, improving its airport, effecting changes in the structure of the university's agriculture programs and forging a close relationship with Auburn University-Montgomery.

As Dr. Richardson, along with his wife Nell, embarks on another phase in his life he will remain an inspiration to many and will be remembered for his dedication and many contributions to Alabama's public education system. I wish him much luck in his future endeavors and I ask this entire Senate to join me in recognizing and honoring the life and career of my good friend Ed Richardson.●

HONORING KIDS CROOKED HOUSE

● Ms. SNOWE. Madam President, today I congratulate Kids Crooked House, a tremendously innovative small business from my home State of Maine, which recently won Yahoo's Ultimate Connection Contest on June 25. As a result, Yahoo will provide the company with a marketing prize package worth \$100,000.

The Kids Crooked House of Windham crafts custom playhouses for children throughout the country. What makes the Kids Crooked House so special is the attention paid to detail in creating the playhouses. These playhouses are by no means run-of-the-mill: each one is crafted based on the buyer's specification and design, and all are unique. They range from brightly colored houses with twisted roofs and walls to playhouses based on cartoons or movies.

Glen Halliday, the owner of Kids Crooked House, opened his business in 2004 after facing a typical parental dilemma; namely, how to get kids away from the television and computer, and engaged in more outdoor activity. After searching for an affordable, yet original, playhouse for his children, he was unsatisfied. Mr. Halliday decided to take it upon himself to create a playhouse with an innovative twist. He designed a playhouse that was brightly painted, with oddly shaped sides and crooked windows. In light of his children's delight with the playhouse, Mr. Halliday determined that his product could appeal to numerous other children nationwide. Just last year, Mr. Halliday brought his idea to the Yarmouth Clam Festival in Maine, where the company received the Directors Choice trophy and garnered first place for the best small business float in the annual parade.

Winning Yahoo's Ultimate Connection Contest opens the door for the Kids Crooked House's expansion. Mr. Halliday and operations manager Jeff Leighton are meeting with Ivanka Trump, daughter of Donald Trump, and several marketing executives for lunch in New York City, where they will be able to discuss the business and gain valuable advice on how to grow in the future. Over the next year, Kids Crooked House will continue to receive input and consultation from marketing officials.

What is most exciting about this opportunity is Mr. Halliday's future plans for the company. Mr. Halliday is looking to increase employment by adding