

worked to advance regarding new CPSC safety standards for swimming pool drains and equestrian helmets. These standards are vital towards protecting children against accidental drowning and horse-related injuries respectively. I was pleased to work with my colleagues on the Commerce Committee in drafting these standards and incorporating them into the bill.

In closing, I believe the Consumer Product Safety Commission reform bill will allow the CPSC to fulfill its responsibility of protecting Americans more effectively, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on future such legislation.

REMEMBERING EVE CARSON

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I wish to honor the life of Miss Eve Carson, student body president at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Miss Carson's life was tragically cut short on Wednesday morning.

I send my deepest condolences to Eve's family, the Chapel Hill community, and all those who came to know of her service and compassion for others.

Eve Marie Carson was born to Bob Carson and Teresa Bethke in Athens, Georgia, on November 19, 1985. She attended Clarke Central High School, where she served as student body president.

Eve enrolled at UNC in the fall of 2004 as a recipient of the prestigious Morehead Scholarship. Miss Carson left an indelible mark on the university and its community during her 3½ years in college.

Eve excelled as a student at the University of North Carolina. She was a political science and biology major and hoped to attend medical school next year. Miss Carson was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society and served as a North Carolina Fellow.

Eve was dedicated to helping those around her. She taught science at Frank Porter Graham Elementary School in Chapel Hill and tutored kids at Githens Middle School in Durham.

She served as cochair of Nourish International, a hunger-relief group, and an assistant coach in the Girls on the Run of the Triangle, a character-building program.

She studied abroad in Cuba and spent her summers helping others in Ecuador, Egypt, and Ghana. Her compassion and hard work seemed to know no bounds.

Mr. President, Eve Carson was a special woman who will be missed. Her passing leaves a void in a community who knew her as an intelligent, hardworking, compassionate leader who loved helping others.

Again, I extend my heartfelt sympathy to Eve's family, friends, and all those who benefitted from her compassion and service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO HOOSIER ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

• Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, today I share with my colleagues the winners of the 2007-2008 Dick Lugar/Indiana Farm Bureau/Farm Bureau Insurance Companies Youth Essay Contest.

In 1985, I joined with the Indiana Farm Bureau to sponsor an essay contest for 8th grade students in my home State. The purpose of this contest is to encourage young Hoosiers to recognize and appreciate the importance of Indiana agriculture in their lives and subsequently craft an essay responding to the assigned theme. I, along with my friends at the Indiana Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau Insurance Companies, am pleased with the annual response to this contest and the quality of the essays received over the years.

I congratulate Jansen Hight, of Owen County, and Leah Lahue, of Crawford County, as winners of this year's contest, and I ask that the complete text of their respective essays be printed in the RECORD. Likewise, I would like to have printed in the RECORD the names of all of the district and county winners of the 2007-2008 Dick Lugar/Indiana Farm Bureau/Farm Bureau Insurance Companies Youth Essay Contest.

The material follows.

ENERGY AWARE—ENERGY INDEPENDENT

(By Jansen Hight)

Today our world runs mainly on fossil fuels. Therefore, what are we going to do when all the fossil fuels are gone? This limit of non-renewable fuel resources is why we should start considering the use of alternative energy sources. Some of the best-known alternative fuels include biodiesel, butanol, ethanol, chemically-stored electricity, methane, biomass, hydrogen, natural gas, vegetable oil, and peanut oil (just to name a few).

A wide variety of alternative energy sources are being developed to aid our rural economies and our nation's security. With nearly 60 percent of our oil resources coming from other countries, it is important that we develop our own dependable sources of energy. Due to the lack of resources to produce substantial amounts of energy from other sources such as solar and wind power, biofuels are the best resource for Indiana to pursue energy independence.

With Indiana being a strong agricultural state, Indiana has the ability to be a leader in the production and use of domestic renewable fuels including biodiesel, ethanol, and fuels made from cellulosic biomass. Regardless of the type of alternative fuels being produced by Indiana farmers, one common advantage these fuels have is they improve our energy resources since they all can be made from sources other than imported petroleum. By using home-grown sources for fuel, this would also increase the local demand for Indiana soybeans and corn, leading to a better profit for the farmer. This profit can then be circulated back into the local community.

Indiana does have the agricultural resources to be a leader in developing a strong biofuels industry. With the cooperative efforts of biofuel users, petroleum companies, and the government, our Indiana farmers can lead the way for a sustainable energy future

that supports rural economies and aids our nation's security.

UNTITLED

(By Leah Lahue)

Alternative energy sources include: solar, water, wind, geo-thermal, and bio-fuels. Alternative energy use reduces the dependence on foreign oil, reduces harmful emissions, and uses renewable resources. Protecting our environment and slowing the use of non-renewable petroleum reserves are good choices for everyone.

Bio-fuels are produced directly from plants or indirectly from organic industrial, commercial, domestic, or agricultural wastes. Three ways to make bio-fuels are burning dry organic waste, using fast growing trees, and fermenting wet materials. Partly digested cellulose and carbohydrates—animal manure can be burnt in dry form or processed into biogas. Bio-fuel comes from corn, sugarcane, wheat, rice, sorghum, sunflowers, potatoes, and sugar beets. One bushel of corn produces 2.8 gallons of ethanol. Bio-fuel, a renewable resource, reduces dependence on foreign oil and carbon dioxide emissions. With 20 parts bio-diesel and 80 parts petroleum, bio-diesel is environmentally safer. Critics are concerned that the major use of grain as bio-fuels may increase food prices. Unused croplands and continually improving farm methods can meet increased demands without food price increases. Food prices are driven up more by increased gas prices than prices paid to farmers.

Solar energy, waterpower and wind energy are clean, nature-provided alternative energy sources, especially for electricity. Solar energy, collected by solar panels, which may be placed on cars and buildings and in open spaces, can be used for heat and to power batteries and other equipment. Falling water and wind turn turbines and electrical equipment. The energy from the turbines can be stored and used as electricity and as a heat source. Alternative energy sources, especially bio-fuels, are good choices. Farmers can raise the crops used to produce bio-fuels in mass quantities. Renewable alternative energy sources are generally cleaner, reduce emissions, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil, keeping our financial resources in America.

2007-2008 DISTRICT ESSAY WINNERS

DISTRICT 1

Schuyler Awald, Walkerton; Stefanie McGovern, Winamac.

DISTRICT 2

Joshua Garcia, Auburn; Jordan Hartleroad, Butler.

DISTRICT 3

Ayren Cobb, Otterbein; Chad Griffin, Cutler.

DISTRICT 4

Tyler Barnes, Kokomo; Mariah Hornaday, Portland.

DISTRICT 5

Ross Smith, Pittsboro; Abby Garner, Covington.

DISTRICT 6

Cody Short, Centerville; Rebekah Bales, Lewisville.

DISTRICT 7

Sarah Anne Foley, Unionville; Jansen Hight, Spencer.

DISTRICT 8

Karina Collins, Columbus; Bret Rosenberger, Brookville.

DISTRICT 9

Leah Lahue, Leavenworth; Jacob Newmaster, Elberfeld.

DISTRICT 10

Denise Maxie, Austin; Luke Aaron Woolbright, Scottsburg.

2006-2007 COUNTY ESSAY WINNERS

BARTHOLOMEW

Karina Collins, Central Middle School.

BENTON

Kybren Foster and Ayren Cobb, Benton Central Junior High School.

CARROLL

Chad Griffin, Carroll Jr./Sr. High School.

CASS

Dalton Christensen and Brittany Wagoner, Columbia Middle School.

CLARK

Sarah Trotter, Charlestown Middle School.

CLAY

Kole Smith, Clay City Junior High School.

CRAWFORD

Leah Lahue, Crawford County Jr. Sr. High School.

DEARBORN

Shane Bedford and Jessica Tillman, St. John Lutheran School.

DECATUR

Jasmine Duvall, North Decatur Jr. High School.

DEKALB

Joshua Garcia, DeKalb Middle School; and Jordon Hartleroad, Eastside Jr. High School.

ELKHART

Kirstin Guerrero, Heritage Middle School.

FLOYD

William Happel, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School.

FRANKLIN

Bret Rosenberger and Emily Ash, St. Michael School.

GREENE

Jesse Houchin and Jannae Jackson, Linton-Stockton Jr. High School.

HAMILTON

Joshua Foster and Katie Cheesman, Carmel Middle School.

HENDRICKS

Ross Smith, Smith Academy.

HENRY

Cole Williams and Rebekah Bales, Tri Jr. High School.

HOWARD

Tyler Barnes and Leah Naegeli, Northwestern Middle School.

JACKSON

Kyle Wischmeier, Lutheran Central Middle School; and Denise Maxie, Crothersville Jr. High School.

JASPER

Garrett Smith and Leslie Smith, Rensselaer Middle School.

JAY

Aaron Loy and Mariah Hornaday, East Jay Middle School.

LAKE

Hunter Balczo, Our Lady of Grace; and Taylor Hillegonds, Crown Point Christian School.

MARION

Andrew Klein and Lindsay Rader, Immaculate Heart of Mary School.

MIAMI

Cole Shafer and Jylian Vigar, Maconaquah Middle School.

MONROE

Matthew Teach, Tri-North Middle School; and Sarah Anne Foley, home school.

OWEN

Jansen Hight and Sarah Law, Owen Valley Middle School.

PORTER

Maggie Mantel, Crown Point Christian School.

POSEY

Austin Bender and Jordan Wassmer, North Posey Jr. High School.

PULASKI

Stefanie McGovern, Eastern Pulaski Middle School.

RANDOLPH

Carlas Bogue and Kailey Gough, Driver Middle School.

ST. JOSEPH

Dylan Gainey and Emily Dillon, St. Matthew Cathedral School.

SCOTT

Luke Woolbright, Scottsburg Middle School.

STARKE

Schuyler Awald and Emily Pucel, Oregon-Davis Jr. High School.

VANDERBURGH

Jacob Newmaster, Trinity Lutheran; and Jessica Kelley, St. Joseph School.

VERMILLION

Brandon Downs and Abby Garner, North Vermillion Jr. High School.

WABASH

Hunter Wells and Madison Kroh, Northfield Jr. High School.

WARRICK

Andrew Gill and Emma Donaldson, Evansville Christian School.

WAYNE

Cody Short, Centerville Jr. High School; and Elise Armstrong, Seton Catholic Jr. High School.

WELLS

Kent Blazier and Chelsea Sorg, Norwell Middle School.

WHITE

Jacob Brummett and Kaity Faucett, Frontier Jr. High School.●

REMEMBERING RAFAEL VAZQUEZ

● Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I wish to speak in honor and pay tribute to a fallen paramedic from my State, Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue Lieutenant Rafael Vazquez.

Rafael's life ended prematurely this week; he died at the very young age of 42. But the memory of his dedication, hard work, and commitment to public service will live on for many lifetimes.

Rafael Vazquez led a life committed to public service. For the past 7 years, he worked at Station 28 in Royal Palm Beach, and this January he was promoted to the rank of rescue lieutenant. The men and women he supervised speak about him with great pride—describing him as a hard worker, a man with a sense of humor, and a loving father. This was a man whom they respected and considered a friend; they simply called him “Ray.”

Rafael's coworkers knew him as someone who loved his Puerto Rican heritage. He often cooked Latin food for his colleagues. And even though he was born in Brooklyn, NY, after Rafael

moved to Florida, as is our tradition in the Sunshine State, he immediately became a Floridian.

Rafael was also a family man—a devoted father and husband. He met his wife Michele while working at American Medical Response and cared for her deeply. In a recent news account, Rafael's wife Michele remembered her husband as, “. . . a jokester with a quick wit and an infectious smile who would help anyone in need.” Michele added, “I thank God every day for giving me the 13 years that I had with him.” The couple had a young son together and four children from previous relationships.

Floridians receive rapid medical care in times of emergency because of people like Rafael Vazquez. He loved his work and his contribution will be missed.

On behalf of Florida and the people of the United States, I thank and honor rescue lieutenant Rafael Vazquez for his service to his community and the safety he helped to promote.●

HONORING THE LIFE OF ELLEN PANEOK

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I wish today to honor the life of Ellen Paneok, who left us last Sunday, March 2, at the age of 48. So little time on this Earth, but Ellen made so much of it. The State of Alaska is much the better for all that she has accomplished.

How to characterize Ellen? I could speak of her work for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Southcentral Alaska. Or her work to promote aviation safety at the FAA and as a volunteer in the general aviation community.

I could speak of the inspiring articles she has published. I could tell you that Ellen was a highly respected Inupiat artist working in ivory and scrimshaw.

I could speak of that fact that Ellen offered herself freely as a role model for Native young people.

I could speak to the kindness and loyalty she gave to her friends, including Pat Heller, a very special friend of Ellen's and mine. Ellen's friends returned that kindness and loyalty as they took responsibility for Ellen's care in her final days.

And I could speak of the fact that Ellen was one of the first women—not to mention one of the first Alaska Native women—to pursue the career of Alaska bush pilot. Careers just don't get more adventurous than that. And it was her achievements in the field of aviation that earned Ellen a place in our Nation's history.

Ellen started flying in 1976. She flew primarily out of Barrow carrying mail and supplies to the Native villages of northern Alaska.

Her life story was chronicled in the “Women in Flight” exhibit at the National Air and Space Museum in the nineties. Ellen was one of 37 women in aviation who were part of that exhibit.

On September 11, 1997, she delighted museum goers with stories about chasing polar bears off the runway before