

As I said, Linda's first love is the classroom. But she is committed to securing a quality education for every child, not just those in her classroom, and this has led her to activism in the broader public and political arenas. She was elected to the Iowa House of Representatives in 1992 and served for 4 years as an outspoken champion of quality public schools for all of Iowa's children.

As a teacher, Linda Nelson is a consummate professional, and she speaks with that special authority that can only come from decades of classroom experience. She has been an association president, a mentor, a leader, a legislator. But of the many titles she has worn during her long and distinguished career, she prizes none more highly than the simple title of "teacher."

Linda Nelson is one of the many reasons why Iowa public schools are among the most respected and highest achieving in the Nation. We are blessed with an extraordinary cadre of talented teachers, and this is a real point of pride among Iowans. We honor our teachers. We are grateful for their keen minds and generous hearts. We appreciate the long hours they devote to their work—their service above and beyond the call of duty.

Linda Nelson has made a very real difference for the good as president of the Iowa State Education Association. As she returns to Carter Lake, I join with educators across Iowa in thanking Linda for her service, and wishing her the very best in the years ahead.●

IN HONOR OF DR. JERRY BEASLEY

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, we all know that college can be a wonderful, eventful, and sometimes overwhelming time in the life of a young person. With new doors opening and a plethora of choices ahead, the years that young people devote to their college education shape the person they grow to be. We should all hope that when our loved ones set out on this journey that they encounter role models and mentors like Dr. Jerry Beasley. He has steered Concord University since 1985, in which time he has had an immeasurable impact on the institution and its students. In the time I have been allotted, I cannot do justice to the great service Dr. Beasley has dedicated to Concord University, but through the examples I can provide I hope to at least honor these selected accomplishments.

From the beginning of his career at Concord, Dr. Beasley has embodied the university's mission of learning and service. Traditionally, university presidents hold elegant ceremonies and inauguration parties in order to celebrate themselves and their achievements before beginning work. Dr. Beasley is not one of these presidents. He preferred to donate the funds usually allocated for such ceremonies to the support of student scholarships, setting a precedent of selflessness he

continued throughout his tenure. He taught his students that giving and service were the foundation of citizenship, and renewing Concord's commitment to social responsibility.

As many of you know, access to technology is an issue of particular importance to me. I have committed myself to the enhancement of technology resources for students in West Virginia, a commitment which Dr. Beasley and I share. During his tenure as president and thanks, in part, to his oversight, the \$13.9 million Rahall Technology Center is now complete and open for student use. Its 24-hour facilities provide students with access to technology ranging from high-speed internet to computer science courses.

Our society today is becoming increasingly dependent on technology. As we become integrated into a global marketplace, the values of knowledge and service have become even more important. The expansion of our resources and influence demands that we all develop a greater understanding of the world we live in and the people we share it with. Under Dr. Beasley's leadership, Concord University has met these challenges headon. The student body has grown significantly reaching an all-time peak enrollment of 3,055 students in the fall of 2001. The student body has also become incredibly diverse, with representatives from 27 States, 22 countries, and the District of Columbia. The diversity of faces and backgrounds at Concord is also complemented by a diverse range of study abroad opportunities, with scholarships available for study in Europe, South America, and around the world.

Dr. Beasley not only enhanced the diversity of the Concord student body, but also broadened the resources available on campus. Since the early 1930s, a goal of an interfaith chapel has been kept alive on the Concord campus, but, for many years, the project was left unfinished. Dr. Beasley has shepherded the project, which is now nearing completion. The building will mark not only the campus's concern for multicultural understanding, but also of Dr. Beasley's ambition to this end.

Concord University students can now enjoy a wealth of opportunities without fearing the exorbitant financial burdens of education. Financial aid and scholarships are now more available than ever with more than 90 percent of Concord's students receiving some form of educational assistance. Dr. Beasley was instrumental in the effort to bring programs such as the Bonner Scholars program to campus.

What I admire the most about Dr. Beasley, though, is his personal commitment to public service, and the inspirational example he has set for his children, his students, and all of us. He has dedicated his career to improving education, and for that we owe him our sincerest thanks. Dr. Beasley, I am very grateful for your contributions to Concord University, and I wish you well in a peaceful retirement.●

STOWE WEEKEND OF HOPE

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, the State of Vermont is proud of the people in our state who organize the annual Stowe Weekend of Hope, one of the most inspiring and educational events for cancer survivors in the United States.

"We believe that the Stowe Weekend of Hope is unique, as it covers all cancers, reveals the generosity of an entire community, and has enhanced the lives of thousands of past attendees and their loved ones," said Jo Sabel Courtney, the chair and cofounder of the uplifting event. "Our mission," she explained, "is to inspire, educate, and celebrate the lives of people living with cancer."

Altogether, some 900 participants from 21 States, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Canada participated in this year's events presented by the Stowe Area Association and the Vermont Cancer Center. The Stowe Area Association's lodging properties donated 312 complimentary rooms to cancer survivors and their loved ones.

Jo Sabel Courtney would be the first to tell you that making the weekend a tremendous success is a team effort. The Stowe Weekend of Hope Organizing Committee she chairs includes Leslie Anderson of Stowe; Trine Brink, Stowe; David Cranmer, Shelburne; Sandy Devine, Stowe; Jenn Ingerson, Burlington; Kimberly Luebbers, Burlington; Kathleen McBeth, Stowe; Valerie Rochon, Stowe; Susan Rousselle, Elmore; Terry Smith, Stowe, and emeritus member and cofounder, Patti O'Brien, M.D.

We in Vermont are very proud of the efforts that all of these people put into organizing this annual event for the education and enlightenment of cancer patients, cancer survivors and their families, and I have very much enjoyed visiting with them over the last several years.

This year's participants in the Stowe Weekend of Hope included people with 46 different cancers, people who are confronting complex physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial challenges.

Nationally renowned oncology specialists from around New England, as well as leading oncologists and researchers from the Vermont Cancer Center, and the University of Vermont and Fletcher Allen Health Care Division of Hematology and Oncology were present at this year's eighth annual Stowe Weekend of Hope to provide up-to-date information to both the patients and their loved ones.

The weekend also included hands-on workshops, informational and support group gatherings, recreation opportunities, inspirational music, ecumenical services, motivational talks designed to heighten the emotional experience of healing and growth, and a time for relaxation and reflection.

On Sunday morning, participants gathered to dedicate the Flags of Hope and Healing that they had created. The

closing ceremony also included prayer, dance, song and remembrances.

The Stowe Weekend of Hope was founded in 2001. Since its inception, the event has grown locally and nationally to continue its focus its mission of support, education and inspiration.

It makes me proud of Vermont.●

HONORING SAFE HANDLING, INC.

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the remarkable achievements of a small Maine company that is doing business in an incredibly forward-thinking way. Safe Handling, Inc., of Auburn, is a cutting-edge transporter of industrial products, and both the firm and its president, Ford Reiche, have earned significant recognition, culminating in Mr. Reiche being named the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2008 Maine Small Business Person of the Year.

Founded in 1989, Safe Handling offers businesses the convenience of both bulk product transportation and logistics, as well as toll processing, to enable them to more efficiently move their goods. Significantly, Safe Handling is responsible for both sensitive and hazardous materials. To safely handle these products, the firm runs the largest rail-to-truck transloading facilities in both New England and western Pennsylvania, where it has an additional transload yard and warehouse. Safe Handling presently manages roughly a half million tons of products every year which translates to nearly 4,000 railcars and 12,000 truckloads of raw materials annually. It also operates the only ethanol terminal in Maine.

Transporting such perilous materials requires Safe Handling to be mindful of many concerns, and the company has risen to the top as a leader in environmental safety by exceeding Federal and State requirements on a regular basis. Most recently, the company became the first Maine-owned business to earn both the ISO14001 and Responsible Care certifications, which address a host of health, safety, environmental, and security concerns. Of all its initiatives, Safe Handling has most visibly led the way in reducing transportation emissions. The company ships dry products that it transfers into liquids, uses tri-axle trucks, provides long-haul rail services, and utilizes biodiesel fuel, all of which reduce discharge. Not surprisingly, the firm placed first in the Governor's Carbon Challenge, by voluntarily reducing its carbon emissions by 75 percent. Safe Handling has additionally instituted an Employee Green Idea Reward Program that gives \$100 to each employee who saves the company money through an environmentally friendly idea.

Because of its innovative practices and proven track record, Safe Handling has garnered three prestigious awards this year alone. In March, Mainebiz magazine declared Ford Reiche its Executive of the Year in its large business

category. Less than a month later, the Maine International Trade Center recognized Safe Handling as its Maine Innovative Company of the Year Award for the company's energy saving methods and customer savings. Additionally, the U.S. Small Business Administration presented Mr. Reiche with its prestigious 2008 Maine Small Business Person of the Year for his "business expertise, commitment, creativity and community involvement." Mr. Reiche's dedication and knowledge inspire the nearly 100 employees of Safe Handling, and the company is a better place for his profound leadership skills.

Safe Handling is truly a company of which all Mainers can be proud. Consistently seeking greater energy efficiency while never sacrificing its loyalty to its customers, Safe Handling promises to make the Lewiston-Auburn area—and Maine—a better place in every way. I am particularly impressed with the passion and enthusiasm of Mr. Reiche, who I was fortunate enough to meet with just a few weeks ago. His desire to create jobs and opportunities in Central Maine truly shined through during our time together. I congratulate Ford Reiche and everyone at Safe Handling for their amazing accolades and pioneering enterprises, and wish them more of the success that they have already demonstrated.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

TEXT OF A PROPOSED AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY—PM 48

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to sections 123b. and 123d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b), (d)) (the "Act"), the text of a proposed Agreement Between the Government of the

United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation for Cooperation in the Field of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. I am also pleased to transmit my written approval, authorization, and determination concerning the Agreement, and a Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement (NPAS) concerning the Agreement (in accordance with section 123 of the Act, as amended by title XII of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-277), a classified annex to the NPAS, prepared by the Secretary of State in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, summarizing relevant classified information, will be submitted to the Congress separately). The joint memorandum submitted to me by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Energy and a letter from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission stating the views of the Commission are also enclosed.

The proposed Agreement has been negotiated in accordance with the Act and other applicable law. In my judgment, it meets all applicable statutory requirements and will advance the non-proliferation and other foreign policy interests of the United States.

The proposed Agreement provides a comprehensive framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation with Russia based on a mutual commitment to nuclear non-proliferation. It has a term of 30 years, and permits the transfer of technology, material, equipment (including reactors), and components for nuclear research and nuclear power production. It does not permit transfers of Restricted Data, and permits transfers of sensitive nuclear technology, sensitive nuclear facilities, and major critical components of such facilities by amendment to the Agreement. In the event of termination, key non-proliferation conditions and controls continue with respect to material and equipment subject to the Agreement.

The Russian Federation is a nuclear weapon state party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Like the United States, it has a "voluntary offer" safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). That agreement gives the IAEA the right to apply safeguards on all source or special fissionable material at peaceful nuclear facilities on a Russia-provided list. The Russian Federation is also a party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, which establishes international standards of physical protection for the use, storage, and transport of nuclear material. It is also a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, whose non-legally binding Guidelines set forth standards for the responsible export of nuclear commodities for peaceful use. A more detailed discussion of Russia's domestic civil nuclear program and its nuclear non-proliferation policies and practices, including its nuclear export policies and practices, is provided in the NPAS and