

LLC; Mercedes Homes; and Space Coast Early Intervention Center.

In Milwaukee, WI, the winners are Clifton Gunderson LLP; Deloitte; Ernst & Young LLP; Kahler Slater; KPMG LLP; Laughlin/Constable; Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce; Robert W. Baird & Co; Tushaus Computer Services, Inc.; Urban Ecology Center; and West Bend.

In Morris County, NJ, the winners are Berkeley College; Fein, Such, Kahn & Shepard, P.C.; Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey; KPMG LLP; Schenck, Price, Smith & King, LLP; Shade Tree Garage; and Solix Inc.

In Providence, RI, the winners are Embolden Design, Inc.; KPMG LLP; Lefkowitz, Garfinkel, Champi & De Rienzo PC; Narragansett Bay Commission; Quality Partners of Rhode Island; Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc.; and Sansiveri, Kimball & McNamee LLP.

In Richmond, VA, the winners are Bon Secours Richmond Health System; Capital One, Hilb Rogal & Hobbs—HRH; Lee Hecht Harrison; Rink Management Services Corporation; and Virginia Commonwealth Health Systems—VCUHS.

In Rochester, MN, the winners are Cardinal of Minnesota; Custom Alarm/Custom Communications, Inc.; First Alliance Credit Union; IBM; RSM McGladrey, Inc. and McGladrey & Pullen, LLP; Southeast Service Cooperative; Stanley Jones & Associates, Inc.; Venture Computer Systems; and Winona State University—Rochester.

In Salt Lake City, UT, the winners are 1-800 CONTACTS; AAA Fair Credit Foundation; Cactus & Tropicals; Café Rio Mexican Grill; Cooper Roberts Simonsen Associates, Inc.; Employer Solutions Group; Governor's Office of Economic Development; Intermountain Financial Group/Mass Mutual; Intermountain Healthcare; McKinnon-Mulherin, Inc.; Redmond, Incorporated; SelectHealth; and Stayner, Bates & Jensen.

In San Francisco, CA, the winners are Fenwick & West LLP; KPMG LLP; Lee Hecht Harrison; Mother Jones Magazine/Foundation for National Progress; Presynct Technologies, Inc.; Sirna Therapeutics, Inc.; and Woodruff-Sawyer & Company.

In Savannah, GA, the winner is Environmental Services, Inc.

In Seattle, WA, the winners are BabyLegs LLC; Bader Martin, P.S.; BECU; Blue Gecko, Inc.; Cascadia Consulting Group, Inc.; Deloitte; EarthCorps; MarketFitz, Inc.; National CASA Association; NRG::Seattle; The Puget Sound Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology; Seattle Hospitality Group; Washington Health Foundation; WithinReach; and Worktank.

In Spokane, WA, the winners are Career Path Services; Humanix Staffing and Recruiting; and Inland Northwest Health Services.

In Washington, DC, the winners are Booz Allen Hamilton; Capital One; Clovis; Craig Technologies; Discovery

Communications, Inc.; KPMG LLP; List Innovative Solutions, Inc.; and Morgan Franklin Corporation.

In Winona, MN, the winners are Catholic Charities of the Diocese on Winona; Hiawatha Broadband Communications; Management Recruiters of Winona; Mediascope, Inc.; Sport & Spine Physical Therapy of Winona; Winona ORC Industries; and Winona Workforce Center.●

REMEMBERING BRIAN O'NEILL

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, it is with a very heavy heart that I rise today to inform the Senate of the recent passing of one of the most incredible civil servants it has been my honor to know. Sadly, Brian O'Neill, the National Park Service superintendent at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in San Francisco, passed away last week following complications from heart surgery.

To know Brian was to have known an extraordinary human being; someone who was completely devoted to his profession, his family, his friends, and to the national parks he so dearly loved.

Since 1986, when he became the superintendent at Golden Gate, Brian has been the inspiration and the driving force behind the success of one of the largest urban parks in the world. What set him apart, though, was not just a talent for the day-to-day management of a national park, but his grasp of the principal that a park is far more than a circle drawn on a map. He knew early on that, for a park to flourish, particularly an urban park, it needed the support of the local community, and that the best way to build that support was through the building of partnerships—partnerships that were the product of personal relationships.

Brian understood that a single park employee could only produce a set amount of work. But if you could turn that employee into an ambassador for the park, then others could be brought in to lighten the load and advance the cause. That is why Brian often said that what he really did was run a “friend-raising” business. And with well over 20,000 volunteers, I would say Brian's instincts were pretty good.

Too often in what passes for political discourse today the term “bureaucrat” is used as a pejorative. Anyone who would suggest such a meaning obviously never met Brian O'Neill. He was, by any definition and in the finest tradition of the civil service, the consummate bureaucrat; a skilled manager whose talents, whose energy, and whose sheer larger-than-life personality will be missed. I am proud to have had the privilege of knowing Brian O'Neill.

Mr. President, I am sure I speak for all my Senate colleagues in expressing my sincere condolences to Brian's friends, his coworkers, and especially the O'Neill family.●

TRIBUTE TO HOOSIER ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I wish today to take the opportunity to express my congratulations to the winners of the 2008–2009 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. The theme chosen for this year was “Working Our Way to Energy Independence.”

Along with my friends at the Indiana Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau Insurance Companies, I am pleased with the annual response to this contest and the quality of the essays received over the years. I applaud each of this year's participants on their thoughtful work and wish, especially, to highlight the submissions of the 2008–2009 contest winners—Lynnette Whitsitt of Huntingburg, IN, and Brandon Wells of Evansville, IN. I submit for the RECORD the complete text of Lynnette's and Brandon's respective essays. I am pleased, also, to include the names of the many district and county winners of the contest.

The winning essays are as follows:

UNTITLED

(By Lynnette Whitsitt)

Could you imagine a world where you flip on a light switch or press power on the TV and nothing happens? This will be our planet in the foreseeable future if we don't do anything about it. Many people believe that the future isn't their problem and that it's scientists' dilemma to solve, but it's not. If we don't do something about this energy crisis now, Earth will pay for it dearly in the future. We Hoosiers should do what we can, and contribute our available resources to produce renewable sources of power for our country. Without it, a global disaster is imminent.

Many alternate fuel sources need crops to manufacture them—especially corn and soybeans. Corn produces ethanol, while Biodiesel is made from soybeans. Portions of farmers' crops are sold to manufacturers that produce these energy sources. Organic waste materials, known as biomass, can now be broken down to become biogas. The waste materials used vary from crop remains to animal manure. Biogas can be transformed into diverse forms of energy, but of the renewable energy sources that generate electricity, biomass is most abundant. The conversion of waste materials to biogas is a purely organic procedure in which microorganisms break wastes down into methane. Hoosier farmers could also utilize farmland for wind farms, which will not only provide the farms with energy but also income from spare energy sold to power companies. While wind turbines would occupy land, it could still be used for its main intention, agriculture.

Farmers have been hugely affected by the energy crisis and can be part of the solution. By helping to make biodiesel, ethanol, biogas, and wind power Indiana farmers will greatly affect the future of energy. This major energy change will revolutionize rural towns, Indiana, and our nation as a whole.

INDEPENDENCE

(By Brandon Wells)

The issue of becoming independent from foreign energy is challenging, but vital. The fact remains: if we do not break away from foreign oil soon, we may fall into an economic depression far greater than Americans have ever known. Gasoline prices are substantially inflated; many families are finding it difficult to budget for the commute to and from work. What can we, as American citizens, do to halt this crisis and put an end to insane oil prices?

One solution to the challenge of making our own less expensive fuel comes straight from Indiana farmers. Biodiesel fuel is a diesel fuel made from organic feedstock. It includes soybeans, animal renderings, and salvaged oil from restaurants. It is domestically produced. Therefore, every gallon of biodiesel fuel takes the place of imported fuels, thus ensuring American dollars remain in the American economy.

A considerable advantage of biodiesel fuel over gasoline and regular diesel fuels is that biodiesel emits far lower emissions, ensuring cleaner air for both present and future generations. Also, it has better lubricity characteristics, which means less wear on engine parts such as fuel injectors and fuel injection pumps. Biodiesel fuels are compatible with all modern diesel engines and fuel systems.

There is a clear and definite need to concentrate on breaking away from foreign oil consumption and imports. While the issue of fuel alternatives is great, Indiana farmers are growing answers for all of America right now. We cannot continue to depend on foreign lands to fuel our lives. America has historically fought for independence and once again, we find ourselves fighting. With the help of Indiana farmers, this battle can be won, and America will once again be independent . . . fuel independent.

2008-2009 DISTRICT ESSAY WINNERS

DISTRICT 1

Katlynn Surfus, Zachary Glick.

DISTRICT 2

Kristi Brennan, Gabe Curtis.

DISTRICT 3

Jessie LeBeau, Jonah Pritchett.

DISTRICT 4

McKinzie Horoho, Trevor Homan.

DISTRICT 5

Miranda Gerrard, Cameron Guernsey.

DISTRICT 6

Kristen McCarthy, Jack Garner.

DISTRICT 7

Riki Crowe, Ethan Fettig.

DISTRICT 8

Morgan Tomson, Aaron Kaiser.

DISTRICT 9

Lynnette Whitsitt, Brandon Wells.

DISTRICT 10

Amy Burbrink, Zach Carter.

2008-2009 COUNTY ESSAY WINNERS

BOONE

Cameron Guernsey, Western Boone Junior High School.

BROWN

Haley O'Neil, home schooled.

CLARK

Geoff Rafail and Morgan Mast, Borden Junior High School.

CLAY

Brandon Crowley and Saiti Booe, Clay City Junior High School.

DECATUR

Morgan Tomson, South Decatur Junior High School.

DUBOIS

Lynnette Whitsitt, Southridge Middle School.

FLOYD

Weston Spalding and Erin Duncan, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School.

FRANKLIN

Aaron Kaiser, Mount Carmel School; and Claire McKamey, St. Michael School.

GREENE

Ethan Fettig, Linton-Stockton Junior High School; and Riki Crowe, White River Valley Junior High School.

HAMILTON

Nicholas Jeffers and Kara Linton, St. Maria Goretti School.

HANCOCK

Joshua Hanselman and McKenzie Qualkinbush, Doe Creek Middle School.

HENDRICKS

Drake Whicker, Cascade Middle School; and Jaclin Byrne, Tri-West Middle School.

HENRY

Jack Garner and Brooke Ballard, Tri Junior High School.

HOWARD

Austin Dishon, Northwestern Middle School; and McKinzie Horoho, Eastern Junior High School.

JACKSON

Zach Carter, Immanuel Lutheran School; and Avri Hackman, Lutheran Central School.

JASPER

Hunter Hickman and Tori Bryja, Rensselaer Middle School.

JAY

Trevor Homan and Miranda Reinhart, East Jay Middle School.

JENNINGS

Tanner Steele and Amy Burbrink, St. Mary School.

LAKE

Zachary Glick and Alejandra Almendarez, Our Lady of Grace School.

MARION

James Wang, Sycamore School; and Kristen McCarthy, St. Jude School.

MONROE

Logan Letner and Allie Jones, Batchelor Middle School.

NOBLE

Gabe Curtis and Kristi Brennan, St. Mary of the Assumption School.

PARKE

Will Harrison and Kendall Davies, Rockville Junior High School.

PERRY

Hunter Sandage, Tell City Junior High School.

POSEY

Brandon Wells and Stephanie Cook, North Posey Junior High School.

SCOTT

Hunter Steinkamp and Raven Alcorn, Scottsburg Middle School.

STARKE

Katlynn Surgus, Knox Middle School.

SULLIVAN

Harley-Alden Robert Davis and Savana Strain, Rural Community Academy.

SWITZERLAND

Devin Coy and Olivia Hewitt, Switzerland County Middle School.

VERMILLION

Dillon Boling and Abigail Calvin, North Vermillion Junior High School.

WABASH

Trae Cole and Alyssa Richter, Northfield Junior High School.

WARREN

Miranda Gerrad, Seeger Junior High School.

WAYNE

Henry Dickman and Katy Robinson, Seton Catholic Junior High School.

WELLS

Anna Gerber, Kingdom Academy.

WHITE

Jonah Pritchett and Jessie Lebeau, Tri County Junior High School.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:01 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the amendments of the House to the bill (S.386) entitled "An Act to improve enforcement of mortgage fraud, securities fraud, financial institution fraud, and other frauds related to federal assistance and relief programs, for the recovery of funds lost to these frauds, and for other purposes."

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 2:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 386. An act to improve enforcement of mortgage fraud, securities, and commodities fraud, financial institution fraud, and other frauds related to Federal assistance and relief programs, for the recovery of funds lost to these frauds, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. REID).

At 3:31 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment:

S. 896. An act to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on May 19, 2009, she had presented