

summer only 66,000 Ohio children utilized the Summer Food Service Program. Only 66,000 when there are 800,000 eligible. I believe last year Ohio was slightly above the national average. So in State after State, of those students who were benefiting from the free and reduced-price breakfasts and lunches at the school, less than 10 percent of those children benefit in the summer.

In Ohio, only 66,000 children utilize this program. Obviously hundreds of thousands need to receive nutrition assistance during the school year. Ensuring that our children have access to healthy food during the summer is so important, especially as more families slip into poverty. The Summer Food Program is a vital program that helps stem the crippling cycle of food insecurity by providing school-aged children breakfast, lunch, or a snack during the summer.

In some sites children can receive these meals while participating in educational activities or organized games. The Presiding Officer was a superintendent of one of the great school districts in the country. We know particularly how low-income students during summer months slide back in their educational attainment. In the beginning of the school year, the teachers have to sort of reteach what was taught perhaps in April and May. We also know that in families with a little higher income, the children often have activities in the summer which include exposure to books, magazines, vacations, and cultural events to help those children continue to advance in the summer.

Many of these students who are not getting proper nutrition in the summer also are not getting the educational challenges they need. That is why at these sites children—while they receive these meals—participate in educational activities or organized games. The good news is there are more sites this year for Ohio families to turn to. There are more than 1,700 sites across 77 counties.

Nonetheless, 11 counties out of the 88 in Ohio still lack feeding sites. It is not too late for program sites to be established. The official deadline was May 31. Interested sponsors and volunteers can still work with the Ohio Department of Education to establish new centers for children to get meals.

Understand the difficulty here. Somebody needs to step forward, such as a teacher, an administrator, someone in the school district, someone in a church, someone in a recreation center of some type has to step forward every May or June and set up one of these programs and take it down again in August or September. So it is unlike the school district which has this built into its process.

At existing sites, such as schools, summer camps, churches, community centers, and recreation centers, volunteers spend their time ensuring our children have the food they need to succeed.

The Federal Government will reimburse local groups small amounts of money for the breakfast, snack, or lunch for these children, but volunteers need to come forward.

Two years ago I co-hosted a first-of-its-kind hunger summit at the Mid-Ohio Foodbank in Columbus with leading antihunger advocates across Ohio. This past year the USDA Under Secretary Kevin Concannon came to Ohio to hold the second summit.

We continue to reach out to organizations such as the AmeriCorps and VISTA Summer Association Partnership that can help with volunteers through AmeriCorps and can set up the programs and provide meals to the children in need.

This summer will be an important few months to learn how far we have come and how far we have to go in serving our State's children. Outreach and public awareness are critical components to ensure that the end of the school year doesn't mean the end of children getting the nutrition they need for the summer.

I yield the floor, and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, before going into wrap-up and the unanimous consent requests this evening, I wish to say one more time how appreciative I am of everybody's hard work and patience with us. We made tremendous progress on a very important bill that helps 16 million people in this country have a job and keeps the safest, most affordable food system in the world going. So thanks to everyone. Thanks to my ranking member who has been a terrific partner with me.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONGRATULATING KENTUCKY'S NATIONAL HISTORY DAY WINNERS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a group of Kentucky's brightest students who, by winning a number of prestigious awards for studying history, have proven themselves to be the leaders of the future. I am referring to the Kentucky winners of the National History Day 2012 contest, which was recently held at nearby College Park, MD, June 10 to 14.

The contingent of students from Kentucky that made the trip was selected

by the Kentucky Junior Historical Society, which held a statewide history contest in Frankfort, the State capital, last April. At that event, 68 Kentucky students qualified for the national finals.

In all, 62 Kentucky students from the 6th through 12th grades made the trip to our Nation's capital region, accompanied by about 40 family members and teachers. I was very pleased to have a chance to visit with them during their trip.

The group faced stiff competition. At National History Day 2012, there were 2,800 students competing, representing all 50 States and four international schools. Six Kentucky students stood out from their peers and garnered nationwide recognition for their history projects. Those students are:

Joanna Slusarewicz, of Winburn Middle School and Fayette County, winner of the Salute to Freedom Award and third place, individual documentary, junior division. Her entry was titled "Respectfully Submitted, Dorothea Dix."

Neha Kadambi and Jamie Smith, of Winburn Middle School and Fayette County, winners of the Leadership in History Award for group exhibit, junior division. Their entry was titled "The Fight Without a War: India's Revolutionary Road to Independence."

Meenakshi Singhal and Daryn Smith, of Winburn Middle School and Fayette County, winners of Best of State: Junior Division. Their entry was titled "Charles Darwin: What Do You Mean Survival of the Fittest?"

Emma Roach-Barrette, of Menifee County High School and Menifee County, winner of Best of State: Senior Division and individual documentary, senior division finalist. Her entry was titled "Dead Men Do Tell Tales."

Every student from Kentucky who made this trip can be immensely proud of his or her accomplishments, and I hope they will continue to engage in the study of history for the remainder of their time in school and beyond. History plays such a large role in the events of today. We continue to be influenced by historic decisions made in this very Chamber.

I also appreciate these students' teachers for helping to foster their love of history, specifically, Theresa Buczek and Michelle Cason of Winburn Middle School and Debra Craver of Menifee County High School. And I want to thank the Kentucky Junior Historical Society and its parent body, the Kentucky Historical Society, for sponsoring this competition and making the trip possible for these students. Established in 1836, the Kentucky Historical Society is committed to helping Kentuckians understand, cherish, and share history.

I know my U.S. Senate colleagues join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Kentucky's winners of the National History Day 2012 contest and of every Kentucky student who competed.

We wish them well in their future studies and are proud they represent the Bluegrass State.

REQUEST FOR CONSULTATION

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my letter to the minority leader dated May 29, 2012, be printed in the RECORD.

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

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, May 29, 2012.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,

Minority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR MCCONNELL, I am requesting that I be consulted before the Senate enters into any unanimous consent agreements regarding calendar #714, the nomination of Heidi Shyu to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisitions, Logistics, and Technology.

Ms. Heidi Shyu has been the Acting Assistant Secretary for the position to which she has been nominated for nearly one year. Her office directly oversees the Program Executive Office for soldier weapons. I remain concerned with the Army's plans for the improvement of its small arms weapons while our soldiers are at war. For example, I have not seen the Army make sufficient progress on the directive of the then-Secretary of the Army Pete Geren to conduct a competition to replace its individual carbine rifle no later than the end of FY2009.

Thank you for protecting my rights on this nomination. I will keep you informed of my continued effort to work with the Army on the nomination of Ms. Shyu as we ensure that our soldiers have the very best modern small arms that American manufacturers can provide.

Sincerely,

TOM. A. COBURN, M.D.,

U.S. Senator.

TRIBUTE TO FRANCES WILLIAMS PRESTON

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to Frances Williams Preston, a trailblazing businesswoman, a dedicated humanitarian, a mother, a grandmother, a great-grandmother, and a friend. I was saddened when she passed away on June 13.

Frances began her career as a receptionist at a radio station in Nashville, TN. She quickly moved up within the music community, and in 1958 she was hired to open a regional office for Broadcast Music Inc., BMI, in Nashville, representing songwriters and composers. Glass ceilings had no chance at constraining Frances. In 1964, she became Vice President of BMI, reportedly making her the first woman corporate executive in Tennessee. In 1986, she became CEO and remained CEO of BMI until 2004.

Her work at BMI transformed not only the company, but also the hundreds of thousands of songwriters and composers BMI represents. She tripled the revenues at BMI and advocated for strong copyright protections to benefit artists. BMI under her tenure also helped the city of Nashville to blossom into the leading center for songwriters and the arts that it is today.

Frances's dedication to the songwriters and her industry, and her passion for ensuring they could make a living in their chosen profession, was unrivaled. Kris Kristofferson famously dubbed her the "songwriter's guardian angel."

I worked closely with Frances and the songwriting community to ensure that the rights of composers are protected, but I will remember her most for her humanitarian efforts. She was president of the T.J. Martell Foundation for Leukemia, Cancer and AIDS research, and her name precedes the research laboratories at the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center.

I could go on at length about the various music and humanitarian awards and honors Frances has received, from being inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1992 to twice receiving the Humanitarian Award from the International Achievement in Arts.

The current president of BMI probably best captured her essence by simply describing Frances as "a force of nature." She will be missed by those who knew her, and remembered always by those whom she nurtured as songwriters and composers.

The music industry has lost a legend and I ask unanimous consent that the Wall Street Journal article "From Receptionist to Music-Royalty Guarantor" by Stephen Miller be entered into the RECORD.

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

[From the Wall Street Journal, June 14, 2012]

FROM RECEPTIONIST TO MUSIC-ROYALTY GUARANTOR

(By Stephen Miller)

Frances Preston rose from radio-station receptionist to chief executive of Broadcast Music Inc., a performing-rights group that helps guarantee that songwriters and music publishers get paid when their songs are played on the radio or in places like restaurants.

Ms. Preston, who died Wednesday at the age of 83, founded BMI's Nashville, Tenn., office and signed up thousands of artists, many of whose careers she shepherded personally.

The deals she struck helped nurture country, rock 'n' roll and jazz, emerging genres that the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, BMI's older rival, had neglected in favor of traditional pop music.

By the time Ms. Preston retired in 2004, BMI represented 300,000 music composers and copyright owners and disbursed more than a half-billion dollars to them annually.

"They never paid royalties to the songwriters for performances until Frances Preston came along," country star Eddy Arnold told The Wall Street Journal in 2004. "She put the hammer on!"

"A lot of them didn't realize that they could get paid for having their music played," Ms. Preston told Amusement Business magazine in 1991. She built a fanatical following among Nashville's performing elite.

Singer-songwriter Kris Kristofferson, whom Ms. Preston signed to a \$1 million songwriting deal in the 1970s, once called her "our guardian angel."

Raised in Nashville, Ms. Preston studied at George Peabody College for Teachers. But

shortly before taking a classroom job, she went to work at WSM, the radio home of the Grand Ole Opry, where her duties included answering Hank Williams's mail. She moved on to running the station's promotions department and got to know the country stars of the era.

In 1958, she founded BMI's Nashville office—at first in her parents' garage. A few years later she opened a new office on fledgling Music Row. Thanks in part to BMI's presence, it soon became the home to recording studios and music publishers and the hub of the Nashville country scene.

Ms. Preston moved to BMI's home office in New York City, where she became chief executive in 1986. She oversaw the transition to the digital age as complex new media like the Internet and ringtones joined radio and television as major sources of revenue. She also lobbied Congress as copyright laws were changed.

"It's a constant fight to educate those people [that] music is not just out there in the air for you to pick out for free, because if the creator isn't compensated, there's not going to be that music," she told Billboard in 2004.

Ms. Preston was lionized in Nashville, where she was a glamorous personification of the business side of the music industry. When she was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1992, it dubbed her "the most influential country-music executive of her generation."

Always one to keep things in sensible perspective, Ms. Preston was proud to be remembered as the author of a Nashville motto: "It all begins with a song."

RECOGNIZING HOUSE OF HEROES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize the important work of House of Heroes—a growing organization that honors veterans with dignity, gratitude, and an improved quality of life.

Over Memorial Day weekend, I had the great opportunity to witness the Connecticut chapter of House of Heroes' first projects as it fixed, renovated, and remodeled the homes of three of our country's most deserving veterans. Over \$30,000 of materials and time were donated by local organizations and generous individuals.

House of Heroes is on a mission to help the service men and women of our previous wars and their families—heroes who may not always receive the recognition they deserve. Frequently, our courageous veterans are unable to maintain their homes due to physical disability or financial limitations.

During their inaugural build, the founders and volunteers of Connecticut's House of Heroes chose to honor three Americans, who have continued to dedicate their lives to serving our country and preparing for our future even after their war service. Frederick Joseph Miller served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II—and in 1945, searched the legendary crash of Flight 19 in the Everglades. Upon leaving the service, he dedicated his talent and skills to Pratt & Whitney as an equipment and facilities engineer. On Memorial Day in 1991, Miller's wife passed away from cancer, and maintaining his Hamden house has been a challenge.