

improve people's lives through innovation in patient care, education, and research.

This project put more than 5,000 Ohioans to work constructing the facility and is expected to create 10,000 full-time jobs by 2014.

The University of Cincinnati Cancer Institute is another Ohio institution making strides in combating cancer.

UC's Division of Experimental Hematology and Cancer Biology is partnering with the Cancer and Blood Diseases Institute at Cincinnati Children's Hospital to explore gene therapy for the treatment of pediatric cancers and blood disorders.

I applaud the groundbreaking work conducted every day in Ohio and across the country to increase prevention, improve treatment, and extend life expectancies—for all constituencies.

Even though National Cancer Research Month has come to an end, I urge my Senate colleagues to continue to support cancer research. While researchers have made incredible strides in cancer research, only a mere 5 percent of Americans with pancreatic and other cancers have a 5-year survival rate. Now is the time to strengthen the investment in the revolutionary work of cancer researchers across the country.●

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG COLORADANS

● Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, today I wish to honor two young heroes from Colorado who received 9-1-1 for Kids' Medal of Honor this week. The medal is bestowed upon young people who distinguish themselves by calling 911 in an emergency and help to save someone's life or report a crime. An award is also presented to the dispatcher who processed the call and provided the appropriate emergency response.

Last year, 7-year-old Alisha Fetz and 12-year-old Matthew Diaz, both of Thornton, each found themselves in difficult situations in which they needed to protect their family members.

Alisha called 911 on June 1, 2011 when her mother was having difficulty breathing. Alisha answered dispatcher Ashley Bettschen's questions clearly and calmly, even providing her mother's cell phone number and information on her mother's medical condition. Following all of dispatcher Bettschen's instructions, Alisha ensured that her mother was treated quickly and efficiently.

On August 15, 2011, Matthew called 911 while his house was being burglarized. He locked himself and his younger sister in a bathroom and managed to whisper answers to Dispatcher Rhonda Halsey in a calm and clear manner. Because of his great descriptions of both the burglars and their vehicle, the suspects were apprehended only minutes later. The burglars were both prior convicted felons, and several other open cases were cleared because of Matthew's call.

Both of these kids knew exactly what to do. They didn't panic, and they

helped ensure the safety of their family members through their actions. They and the dispatchers who helped them serve as a great example of how important it is for kids to know what to do when trouble arises.

The organization, 9-1-1 for Kids, is working to ensure that kids of all ages understand the importance and proper use of 911. It does so by raising awareness through conferences, media outreach, training activities, school events, and by highlighting the stories of kids like Alisha and Matthew.

I join all Coloradans in offering our gratitude to dispatchers Ashley Bettschen and Rhonda Halsey for their service to their communities and congratulating Alisha and Matthew for this award as well as their bravery and ability to remain calm in the face of an emergency.●

TRIBUTE TO PAUL L. PARETS

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today on behalf of Senator CHRIS COONS, Congressman JOHN CARNEY and myself in recognition of Mr. Paul L. Parets upon his retirement from 36 years of exemplary service at A.I. duPont High School as a nationally-recognized high school band director and 46 years as a music educator. His enthusiasm and leadership over the years has won him the respect of educators, musicians, community leaders, co-workers and students alike, and his passion for teaching music has inspired generations of Delawareans.

Growing up in Michigan, Paul Parets was not raised in a musical family. In fact, his parents expected Paul to become a doctor. But Paul had a keen interest in music from an early age, and once he joined the band in his grade school, he was hooked. Following his graduation from Melvindale High School in Melvindale, MI, Paul received a Bachelor's of Music Education from Central Michigan University and continued his graduate education at the University of Michigan and the University of Maryland. For the first 10 years of his career, Paul led the band at Croswell-Lexington High School in Michigan. Fortunately for those of us in the First State, though, he moved to Delaware in 1976 and became the Band Director at A.I. duPont High School in Greenville. There, over the course of the next 4 decades, Paul developed one of the foremost high school band programs in the country.

Under Paul's leadership, band membership rose from 90 students to well over 300, and from one band sprouted five: the Freshman Band, Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, the Symphonic Wind Ensemble and The Tiger Marching Band.

Paul's unique approach to music education has made the A.I. duPont band program a standout in Delaware and in America. Through a student-elected executive board for the band, students—not teachers—are empowered to make major decisions about music and

band activities. By allowing students to decide the arrangements they would like to perform, the drills they want to execute or the trips they want to take, Paul gave his band members an important opportunity to learn how to lead, to make decisions and to become better musicians. Paul's approach also expanded the prospect of band membership to every student—from novices to the classically-trained, from football players to after-school waiters—giving all Tigers exposure to the power of music.

Paul once said in an interview with School Band & Orchestra Magazine that he has two objectives as a band director. The first is to make sure his students play "some great music by some great composers." The second is that the students recognize that "there is only one purpose for music, and that is to thrill people. Nobody listens to music that doesn't do something to them emotionally." And for the past 36 years, our State—and the world—has been thrilled by Paul Parets and his A.I. Tigers.

Beyond A.I. duPont and Delaware, the rest of our Nation—and other countries beyond our borders—began taking notice of Paul Parets and his talented musicians at A.I. duPont years ago. Since 1989, his bands have received first place awards in almost every category of every festival competition they have entered. Paul is the only band director, and his Tiger Marching Band is the only high school band outside California, ever to be invited to the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade an unprecedented five times: 1990, 1995, 1999, 2004, and 2008. The Tigers have appeared in the Orange Bowl twice, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the Hall of Fame Bowl, the Fiesta Bowl twice, the 6ABC Thanksgiving Day Parade in Philadelphia every year since 1987 and the inaugurations of three U.S. Presidents, the most recent being Barack Obama.

Internationally, Paul's Tigers have represented the First State with honor at the London New Year's Day Parade seven times, the Rome New Year's day Parade twice, the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin 4 times, and played for two of the world's most recognizable figures: Queen Elizabeth in London and Pope Benedict in St. Peter's Square. The talents of his bands have filled the music halls and legendary stages of the Ireland National Concert Hall and The Royal Albert Hall in London.

Paul was named Delaware Teacher of the Year in 1987 and was a recipient of the Ruth M. Jewell Outstanding Music Educator Award from the Music Educator's National Conference at Indianapolis in 1988. In 1989, my friend and former colleague, then-Governor Mike Castle, conferred on Paul the Order of the First State, as well. While Paul's accolades have made him legendary in the sphere of public education, his legacy will undoubtedly remain with the thousands of students—many of whom are second generation Tigers—that he has taught in his nearly 50-year career.

It is not hard to see the span of influence Paul has had on his students, who are now scattered across the globe. He has nearly 2,000 Facebook friends, mainly made up of past and current students. A quick Internet search of his name will turn up blog post after blog post of former students stating that Paul—or “Mr. Parets”—“changed my life,” “made a difference,” and that A.I. will “never be the same” without him. I think all of us who have experienced the thrills of any of the A.I. duPont bands echo these sentiments. As they say at A.I., “You cannot hide that Tiger Pride,” and I know I share that feeling of pride every time I turn on my TV and see the A.I. duPont Tigers marching down the streets of Pasadena, London or New York. Up and down Delaware, we certainly can’t hide our overwhelming pride for Paul Parets, nor will we be able to hide our heartbreak when he is not on the director’s podium this fall.

Upon Paul’s retirement, he will leave behind a legacy that is a testament to the importance of music in public education and the pure joy—and thrill—of music. His lessons inside and outside of the classroom will remain with his students, our community, and with future generations of A.I. duPont band members. I thank him for his contribution to music education and for his commitment to public service through years as an elected member to the Delaware City Council. I also thank him for the pride he has brought to the First State and for the generations of musicians he has nurtured—a gift that will give time and time again. I wish him, his children, Tim and Meredith, and two grandchildren, Aaron and Abigail, and the rest of his family only the very best in all that lies ahead for each of them. As we say in the Navy, “Bravo Zulu!” to Paul Parets. You are one of a kind, and we are blessed to have known you all of these years.●

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT BLANCHARD

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Scott Blanchard, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Scott is a graduate of Aberdeen Central High School in Aberdeen, SD. Currently, he is attending Northern State University, where he is majoring in political science. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Scott for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO SHILOH DAY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Shiloh Day, an intern in my Rapid City, SD, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past couple of months.

Shiloh is a graduate of Highmore High School in Highmore, SD. Currently, she is attending the University of South Dakota, where she is majoring in political science. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Shiloh for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KELLY HERRMANN

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Kelly Herrmann, an intern in my Sioux Falls, SD, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Kelly is a graduate of Stevens High School in Rapid City, SD. Currently, she is attending South Dakota State University, where she is majoring in political science. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Kelly for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO REBECCA REITER

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Rebecca Reiter, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Rebecca is a graduate of Watertown High School in Watertown, SD. Currently, she is attending the University of South Dakota, where she is majoring in political science and criminal justice. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Rebecca for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN ROBB

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Kevin Robb, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Kevin is a graduate of St. Thomas More High School in Rapid City, SD. Currently, he is attending the University of South Dakota, where he is majoring in political science and philosophy. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Kevin for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO SHELBY SCHOON

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Shelby Schoon, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Shelby was home schooled and is a native of Brandon, SD. Currently, she is a graduate of Northwestern College where she majored in business administration and biology health professionals. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Shelby for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, 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 messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:11 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4480. An act to provide for the development of a plan to increase oil and gas exploration, development, and production under oil and gas leases of Federal lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Defense in response to a drawdown of petroleum reserves from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4480. An act to provide for the development of a plan to increase oil and gas exploration, development, and production under oil and gas leases of Federal lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Defense in response to a drawdown of petroleum reserves from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted: