

helping students who are at risk to not graduate from high school as early as prekindergarten and through elementary and middle school.

Some may ask, Why are you concentrating on toddlers and elementary school children when you are trying to solve the high school dropout crisis facing our Nation? Why not focus attention and our Nation's scarce resources on high school students, or even middle school students?

The reason is simple. Early on is when children's troubles in school begin, and an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. High school and middle school students do not just wake up one day and say, I think I will drop out of school today. Twenty-five years of research tells us that dropping out is a long process of frustration, alienation, and even boredom—it is not a sudden decision. We know that students with disabilities, minority and poor children, and students whose home lives are, in all sorts of ways, difficult have lower graduation rates than their peers. The challenges children face today are all too prevalent, and we know the factors that make it harder for them to succeed in school. We know this.

It only makes sense, then, that we rework the program intended to help schools increase their graduation rates so that it actually helps schools help children when we can make the most difference. We need to act before these children have fought for years just to stay afloat, and before they are too tired, frustrated, alienated, and angry to fight anymore.

But I have also heard from some who asked that my legislation include a stronger focus on secondary schools, knowing that today we have middle and high schools that are struggling to keep their students in school and on a path to success. So I have done that.

I have also heard from my State. They shared concerns with me that the cost to create a database combining data from multiple State agencies that have information that will inform schools as to students' risk factors for dropping out—participation in public assistance programs, being homeless or a foster child, having an incarcerated parent, etc.—would be too high. So, knowing that it still makes sense to help our educators better identify students who are at risk, I have amended my bill to just ask the State to help schools access this information while following FERPA and HIPAA rules for privacy of that data.

We all want our schools to be successful. We all want our children to be successful. I am hopeful my colleagues will take a good look at both of these bills, and that they will help to move the conversation forward about how we can help reach our goals.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL STEVEN R. RUDDER

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I rise to honor a true patriot and

native son of Canton, CT. After more than 3 years of service as the legislative assistant to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Brig. Gen. Steven R. Rudder is deservedly moving up to assume the responsibilities of commanding general, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. On this occasion, I wish to recognize General Rudder's noble service and dedication to fostering the warm relationship between the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Senate.

Commissioned in June of 1984, General Rudder is well-known and respected as a true leader and warrior. In addition to serving as a weapons and tactics instructor, he has distinguished himself in combat and effectively commanded HML/A-167 and Marine Air Group 26.

Over the last 3 years, General Rudder has been instrumental in facilitating the oversight responsibilities of the Senate. Known for his comprehensive knowledge of legislative issues and the operational requirements of the Marine Corps, he ensured that the Senate Armed Services Committee was armed with timely information on Operation Enduring Freedom and other forward-deployed Marine forces, as well as numerous Marine Corps programs to include the Joint Strike Fighter, the Amphibious Combat Vehicle, and the MV-22 *Osprey*. Moreover, General Rudder worked to recognize the contributions of the Montford Point Marines—the first African Americans who entered into service with the Marine Corps during World War II—with a Congressional Gold Medal.

In 2011 I had the unique privilege of being the guest of honor at the U.S. Marine Corps Sunset Parade, hosted by General Rudder. It was a glorious display of military precision and a truly enjoyable and moving event. I join many past and present members of Congress in my gratitude and appreciation for General Rudder's outstanding leadership. I invite my Senate colleagues to wish him well, along with his wife Holly, as he transfers to Okinawa, Japan.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ALASKA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I have the honor today to recognize five great Americans who valiantly risked their lives multiple times in the service of their country. CPT Christopher Keen, MSgt. Sergeant Chad Moore, TSgt. Christopher Harding, SSgt. William Cenna, and SSgt. Sergeant Nickolas Watson are members of the Air National Guard from the State of Alaska who serve with the 212th Rescue Squadron from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. I'd like to tell you about some of the heroic actions taken by these men in the summer of 2012, when they were deployed to Afghanistan.

Captain Keen, Master Sergeant Moore, Tech Sergeant Harding, Staff

Sergeant Cenna, and Staff Sergeant Watson are assigned to an Air National Guard unit that specializes in dangerous medical evacuation missions. Pararescue Jumpers, or PJs, train to be inserted into the most hazardous and precarious situations to save lives. They learn to operate in the extreme cold and harsh terrain. As a matter of fact, Staff Sergeant Cenna was part of a five-member team to summit Denali about a month ago on May 9, 2013. PJs train on some of the most cutting edge equipment and master complicated medical procedures. If that is not enough, they prepare to do this job in the face of an enemy that, when they are plunged into the heart of a battle, can appear from any direction.

In order to fully understand the valorous actions of these five men in 2012, I must begin the story in April 2011. Staff Sergeant Cenna, who you will hear about again, was part of a rescue team tasked to recover two U.S. Army pilots downed in the Tagab Valley, Afghanistan. After dropping Sergeant Cenna and his teammate at the crash site, members of the aircrew were injured by enemy fire and forced to leave the team without overhead coverage. On the ground, insurgents began voicing their intent to take individuals hostage and Sergeant Cenna began taking enemy fire. A six-hour firefight ensued, and Sergeant Cenna maintained complete situational awareness while relaying critical information to attack helicopters above. Risking his life repeatedly, Sergeant Cenna's actions directly contributed to eliminating the threat and most importantly, enabled the recovery of the downed American pilot, a killed in action infantryman, and another critically wounded soldier from enemy territory. For his gallantry and devotion to duty on April 23, 2011, Staff Sergeant Cenna was awarded the Silver Star.

Just over a year later, on July 29, 2012, Staff Sergeant Cenna was again deployed to Afghanistan. He, along with Tech Sergeant Harding and Staff Sergeant Watson, were conducting a mission to evacuate two Danish soldiers near Gereshk, Afghanistan. The Danes had been critically wounded and were pinned down in an active firefight. The three-man pararescue team infiltrated at an unplanned insertion point approximately 100 meters from the soldiers. Without hesitation, the PJs maneuvered through a field with possible improvised explosive devices and enemy machine gun fire. The team then forded a flowing canal and climbed a 12-foot embankment to reach the wounded Danish soldiers. After applying lifesaving medical interventions and evacuating them to the transport vehicle, the team was notified of two more critically wounded soldiers at the incident site. Exposing themselves to extreme danger again, the team extracted those wounded troopers as well. In all that day, Tech Sergeant Harding, Staff Sergeant Cenna, and Staff Sergeant Watson saved four lives. Just a

year after earning the Silver Star, Staff Sergeant Cenna joined Tech Sergeant Harding and Staff Sergeant Watson displaying sheer courage under fire and unadulterated, unselfish dedication to their duty, their country and their brothers in arms.

The very next month, on August 8 and 9, 2012, Captain Keen, Master Sergeant Moore and Staff Sergeant Cenna were operating in support of Marines in Alpha Company, 2d Reconnaissance Battalion, near Urmuz, Afghanistan. The operation was called Lion's Den. It was during this operation that Sergeant Cenna earned his second Bronze Star with Valor. Captain Keen led the insertion and extraction of the Marines into unexplored enemy tunnel networks, while combating small arms fire, heavy machine gun engagements, mortar attacks and improvised explosive devices. While conducting their primary mission, Captain Keen's dismounted patrol was engaged by the enemy, isolating one member of his patrol. After observing the enemy firing position was in close proximity to women and children, he maneuvered 75 meters to another position, preventing civilian casualties while simultaneously eliminating threats. Sergeant Moore was also performing his duties of lowering and recovering Marines into tunnel systems in order to destroy enemy lethal aide. While moving to an objective through a known concentration of improvised explosive devices, a supporting tank struck such a device. Without regard for his own safety, Sergeant Moore maneuvered with his team's vehicle to rescue the tank crew. He treated the tank crew, and soon after his own vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device and began receiving enemy mortar fire. Despite the dire situation, Sergeant Moore maintained security and safeguarded the disabled tank crew, enabling the success of the operation.

For their actions in the summer of 2012, all five of these men have been awarded the Bronze Star with Valor. I wish to thank these great men for their selfless service and dedication to our nation. They are all my heroes.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. PIERMARIA ODDONE

● Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, I stand today to honor Dr. Piermaria Oddone as he retires after 8 years of exemplary leadership as director of the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, also known as Fermilab.

As America's premier particle physics laboratory, Fermilab is a point of pride for Illinois. For over 45 years it has supported thousands of scientists across the country whose research is a priceless contribution to the world's understanding of matter, energy, space, and time. With the appointment of Pier Oddone as director in 2005, Fermilab was placed under the leadership of a visionary who ensured that the United States would remain a pro-

ducer of groundbreaking research in particle physics.

Under the direction of Dr. Oddone, Fermilab entered a period of unparalleled scientific progress. The laboratory launched a new era of research in high-intensity particle beams, and experimentation on muons and neutrinos. It advanced our understanding of dark matter and led the Pierre Auger Observatory project to study ultra-high-energy cosmic rays. Fermilab, in partnership with the State of Illinois, constructed the Illinois Accelerator Research Center. It concluded a 28-year run for the Tevatron collider that discovered the quark. It contributed invaluable resources to the groundbreaking discovery of the Higgs boson. Most importantly, however, Fermilab has provided state-of-the-art facilities for over 4,000 researchers each year so that they can continue their work for the advancement of science and society.

Dr. Oddone's contributions to the scientific community outside of his leadership at Fermilab are no less impressive. Born in Peru, he received his Ph.D. in physics from Princeton before joining the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. He quickly rose to become the laboratory's deputy director and was responsible for the scientific development that contributed to many of the lab's successes. As an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences in both the United States and Peru, Dr. Oddone has received numerous awards for his work, including fellowships from the American Physical Society and American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is a recipient of the Panofsky Award for his invention of the Asymmetric B-Factory particle collider, and is known for his role in the SLAC BaBar collaboration that helped to discover matter-antimatter asymmetry in B mesons.

As my friend Dr. Piermaria Oddone retires from Fermilab, I ask that you join me in honoring an individual who embodies the spirit of discovery through a shining example of scientific excellence. Thank you for your leadership.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, 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 Armed Services.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:56 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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 251. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal features of the electric distribution system to the South Utah Valley Electric Service District, and for other purposes.

H.R. 723. An act to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Beaver, Chipuxet, Queen, Wood, and Pawcatuck Rivers in the States of Connecticut and Rhode Island for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 993. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of National Forest System land to the city of Fruit Heights, Utah.

H.R. 1157. An act to ensure public access to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain in the Hanford Reach National Monument for educational, recreational, historical scientific, cultural, and other purposes.

H.R. 1158. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to continue stocking fish in certain lakes in the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

The message also announced that the Clerk of the House be directed to request the Senate to return to the House of Representatives the bill (H.R. 2217) to make appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2702, the Clerk of the House reappoints the following member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Dr. Sharon Leon of Fairfax, Virginia.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 993. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of National Forest System land to the city of Fruit Heights, Utah; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1157. An act to ensure public access to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain in the Hanford Reach National Monument for educational, recreational, historical, scientific, cultural, and other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1158. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to continue stocking fish in certain lakes in the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Appropriations, and ordered returned to the House pursuant to the request of the House of June 11, 2013:

H.R. 2217. An act making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for