

serve in Vietnam, and receive valuable experience working with a wide variety of aircraft at the joint use airfield at Fort Huachuca, AZ.

He utilized the experience and training obtained through his military service in his numerous Federal Aviation Administration assignments that built up his deep knowledge of air traffic control. After returning to his family farm in Montana and serving as acting manager at the Flight Service Station in Cut Bank, MT, he spent 3 years at Missoula International Airport, where he learned about nonradar approach. He went on to work for more than a year at Billings Logan International Airport and then at the Salt Lake City Terminal Radar Approach Control, TRACON, before returning to the Missoula International Airport, where he served as acting air traffic manager before obtaining a position at Boise Airport.

Gordon worked as a supervisor for 12 years at Boise Airport before becoming the air traffic manager for the past nearly 12 years. His leadership during his time there has been instrumental in making the airport successful. The numerous recognitions he received for his outstanding work include multiple facility of the year awards and a Fire Fighting Award for support of fire fighting in the Northwest Mountain Region.

Gordon's effort to remain true to his core values and manage the same way he has parented—fair but firm—has been exemplary. Integrity has been a central element of Gordon's work. He can always be counted on to do what is right. His principled approach to working through considerable challenges has been indispensable. This especially includes his work on the development of the new Boise Air Traffic Control Tower and the effort to locate the TRACON.

Thank you, Gordon, for your outstanding and dedicated service. As you retire, you deserve to reflect on your extraordinary career with pride in a job well done. I hope that retirement affords you more time with your friends and family, including your six children. I congratulate you on your retirement and wish you all the best.●

MINNESOTA POETRY CONTEST WINNERS

● Mr. FRANKEN. Madam President, today I am proud to enter into the RECORD the poems of the winners of the 3rd Annual Minnesota Military Children's Poetry Contest. The theme of this year's competition was "Celebrating the Veteran in My Life." Each of the poems submitted by a Minnesota child paid tribute to the men and women who have honorably served and have had a profound impact on the lives of children and families in Minnesota and across our great Nation. Seventy students from kindergarten, middle and high school submitted entries for this year's contest. There were

three age categories for the competition—Kindergarten through 6th grade, 7th through 9th grade, and 10th through 12th grade—and nine poems were chosen as the winning entries.

I want to thank all the students from across Minnesota who helped us honor our veterans for their commitment and service. I also want to recognize and thank the judges of this year's contest: the Adjutant General of the Minnesota National Guard, MG Richard Nash; Minnesota commissioner of veterans affairs Larry Shellito; Minnesota commissioner of education Brenda Cassellius; and Minnesota poet laureate Joyce Sutphen.

I ask that nine winning poems from the 3rd Annual Minnesota Military Children's Poetry Contest be printed in the RECORD.

"DELVIN MENZE"

(By Riley Menze)

1ST PLACE GRADES K-6

A little boy turned two,
The day Pearl Harbor went boom!
You could call him my grandpa,
You could call him my friend,
You could say his job wasn't that great,
I'd say it was more awesome than cake.
Without him, the crew might've starved,
But they lived through the night,
Have you guessed it yet?
Yep, he was an Army cook.
He might slice potatoes all day,
Or make soup to warm cold souls,
But he is the greatest,
The greatest beyond great.
Today he's a farmer,
A dairy farmer to be exact,
Lives with his wife in the countryside,
Of a little town called Ottertail.
He taught me to milk cows,
Or feed romping heifers,
To drive tractors, four-wheelers,
Plus snowmobiles too.
You could call him my grandpa,
You could call him my friend,
Either way, he's better than a king,
And worth more money than the world.

"THANK YOU TO THE GREAT VETERANS IN MY
LIFE"

(By Sabastian Carlo Cerda)

2ND PLACE GRADES K-6

He is the oldest veteran I know
He is the oldest veteran I love
He is my Lolo, how Filipino grandpas are
called
Philippines is where he was born
and where he served in World War II
He was with the U.S. Army
Lolo only has three toes on one foot
He said one morning during the war
He was shot many times from the sky, from
a Japanese airplane
He lost some toes
My Lolo and Lola wanted to bring the family
to a new country
Called the United States of America
He came to a Veterans Convention in Min-
neapolis 40 years ago
It was very cold with lots of snow
They had a parade or something like that
A friend let him borrow a thick coat to wear
He was very happy and proud to be in the pa-
rade
My Lolo is a strong and brave man
He is honest and wise
Lolo's sons, my three uncles are veterans too
They serve in the U.S. Navy
Lolo is proud of all my Uncles
I am proud of my Lolo and my Uncles

They are all good men
They work so hard in their lives
They make me want to learn and do good
They show me I can do many things too
They teach me to be strong
They teach me to never give up
They teach me to live a good life

"CELEBRATING MY VETERAN"

(By Ellie Wachenheim)

3RD PLACE GRADES K-6

I like to celebrate my mom
The veteran in the house
She isn't really bossy.
And she doesn't scream or shout.
I like to make her happy
I like to make her proud
And she can tell that I try
Because I show her how.
I tell her how to do it
I tell her what to say
I tell her that I love her
In every single way.
I know my mom is smart
So she must know a lot
One thing that she knows
Is that I love her a lot.
When me and my younger brother
Know that my mom's coming home
We get all excited
and call her on the phone.
She says that she loves us
And we tell her that we know
But one of the times she's happy
Is when we celebrate that she's home.

"GRANDPA THE VETERAN"

(By Chineng Vang)

1ST PLACE GRADES 7-9

This poem can be read forwards and
backwards.

You are the best veteran I know
50 years from now, I'll still believe that
You are the greatest
There's no doubt
You're amazing
I'll never forget the fact that
You always try your best
Everyone knows
You're intelligent and smart
The whole military believes
You are gifted
With many talents
You've fought and won many battles
It's clear that
You are special
I wish I could be like you because
You're awesome
There's nothing bad about you because
You always do the right thing
I can always know that
You'll be there for me
Like you did for Grandma
Be the best veteran you can be

"NUMBERS"

(By Ezekiel Town)

2ND PLACE GRADES 7-9

Men in bitter rage of war
People scared and wounded
They bleed upon the ground
And I saw only numbers
Many lie forever crippled and wounded
Few will rise again
And I saw only numbers
Every dollar spent on war
A joy never felt by the fallen
Their futures are never told
And I saw only numbers
Their blood is spilt upon the ground
The guilty and the not
Children in their youth
Dead and shot
And I saw only numbers

On this free path I trod
 What am I from them?
 For I saw only numbers
 Not the faces of the dead
 These people die for me
 And what do I do for them?
 I forget their faces and their stories
 Because I see only numbers
 I cannot look at the setting sun
 The horrors are too much
 For I know their faces are there
 Never to be touched
 I look upon this barren land
 Full of blood and hate
 I don't understand their pain
 For I can see only numbers on this slate
 My tears they fall on burning sands
 As blood comes from their wounds
 I still cannot understand
 For I see only numbers
 These numbers do not tell the story
 Of these woman and these men
 For the only thing I can see is these heart-
 less numbers
 That burn inside my head
 All these people crying
 For their wounded and their dead
 I cannot feel them
 All I have is these numbers in my head

—
 “DEEP DOWN”

(By Alarie Chu)

3RD PLACE GRADES 7-9

Friend
 Dear and old
 Veteran
 Part of World War 2
 Fragile
 But hard willed
 Herman Czeck
 Greatest man to live
 You only see a pale-old soul
 But deep down there are acts of greatness;
 Kindness, sweetness
 Deep down hides a boy of twenty
 A young draftee to fight in the army;
 Soldier, military
 Deep down suffers a man who's seen death
 The deaths from a world's disaster;
 The Second World War
 It's hard to imagine,
 People being scared
 Of such a harmless chum
 Since my birth in 2001
 There was an extra family member;
 Dad, Uncle
 A selfless giver
 A man of joy and love;
 Admirable, marvelous
 A Christian companion
 One loved by all;
 A stupendous gift from God
 It's hard to see,
 The deep down truth
 Of a life long lived
 Just last month
 A stroke came along
 To the strongest man I know
 Who still is recovering
 It just goes to show
 We live life one day at a time
 Not knowing which one will be the last.

—
 “BROTHER”

(By Joseph Gabel)

1ST PLACE GRADES 10-12

He is a wind rider gliding above the clouds
 He is a predator dominating the sky
 He is homeland security aloft
 He is America's ever present air wall
 He is an eagle with piercing gaze
 He is a guardian for the defenseless
 He is talons snatching our defenders from
 danger
 He is courage with wings
 He is the American heart patrolling the
 skies

He is my Brother

—
 “MEMORIES OF THE HOME FRONT”

(By Sarah Borntrager)

2ND PLACE GRADES 10-12

As a child of a veteran,
 My youth was different than most.
 I remember when my father would leave.
 My mother would hand out his shirts to us
 children to sleep in.
 At the age of six, I had seemingly come to
 terms with the chance,
 that one day my mother would hold a folded
 flag instead of her husband.
 I had asked my mother one day that,
 “If daddy died, would we go and visit him at
 the cemetery?”
 My mother immediately tried to reassure me
 that daddy was ok, to which I replied,
 “I said IF.”
 I don't truly remember my father at home
 all that well,
 But I can remember what I did when my fa-
 ther was gone.
 Wake up,
 Get dressed,
 Good morning mommy,
 Go to school,
 Learn,
 Go home,
 Mommy, I'm home is daddy back?,
 Eat supper,
 Get daddy's shirt,
 Pray for daddy to come home safe,
 And sleep.
 My father was never truly in danger,
 He was just a loadmaster.
 I never understood that,
 so the joy of seeing him was not just that.
 It was the joy of hugging a father,
 not a flag.
 But now I understand.
 My father served in the US Air Force for 24
 years,
 As a weapons loader and then as a
 C-130 Hercules loadmaster.
 And I couldn't be any more proud of him.
 I love my veteran,
 I love my dad.

—
 “LIFE SAVERS”

(By Taylor Van de Streek)

3RD PLACE GRADES 10-12

You see them on the street,
 You see them in your school,
 You see them at home.
 They're the ones who take the risk for free-
 dom.
 They come home in hopes
 That life will be the same.
 But nothing can stop the memories
 Of all the destruction they've seen.
 I pray for all of them
 When I can,
 So they return safe and in peace
 To sleep calm in their beds.
 They could be a Physics Teacher,
 A Family Friend,
 A Father or Mother,
 Or maybe even the man begging on the
 street.
 They are our Veterans,
 We have many in our lives.
 So the next time you see one
 Thank them; they might have saved your
 life.●

CERRO GORDO COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments

to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State, and it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Cerro Gordo County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Cerro Gordo County worth over \$13 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$182 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is working to help Northern Iowa Community College obtain over \$2 million in Federal funds to support their programs, helping the city to improve the drinking water supply, and working to improve area lakes and waterways.

Among the highlights: investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In northern Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Cerro Gordo County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in Cerro Gordo County, I have fought for more than \$8.4 million for water treatment facilities which have allowed major food processing entities to operate in the region, knowing that the water they need to use is clean and healthy, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities. I have also secured over \$310,000 to clean up area lakes and waterways, over \$393,000 to rehabilitate the City National Bank Building, and over \$444,000 for repairs to the Delaware Street bridge.

Main Street Iowa: One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and all