

any reservation that no staffer is more worthy of such an honor.

After several years in private law practice in his native Oregon, Mark came to work for the Finance Committee in January 1990. At that time, Mark thought he would stay for just 2 years and return home. Fortunately for all of us, Mark has been on the Finance Committee staff for nearly 25 years now.

Over these years, he has served with great distinction and has come to be one of the most trusted and respected staffers on Capitol Hill. Indeed, it seems that everyone in Washington knows Mark Prater and seeks him out for advice on tax policy.

Perhaps most importantly, Mark is a kind person who treats everyone with respect. Honestly, he would be the last person to seek out this type of honor, usually opting to share credit for his successes with those he works with.

Mark has worked for a number of prominent chairmen and ranking members on the Finance Committee, including Bob Packwood, William Roth, and CHUCK GRASSLEY. But, while he is always worked for Republican Members, Senators on both sides of the aisle have come to rely on Mark's experience and expertise. This was never more evident than in 2011 when Mark was tapped to serve as the staff director for the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction.

For the past 4 years, I have had the privilege of having Mark on my Finance Committee staff and I have been a direct beneficiary of his knowledge and understanding of not only the Tax Code but of how things can and should work in the Senate. You see, Mark is one of the few staffers who have been around long enough to remember a time when things used to get done around here. In fact, Tax Notes recently published the results of their survey about congressional tax staffers in which Mark was named the best dealmaker and the top Republican tax staffer. I have no doubt that, in the future, his work will be instrumental to helping restore the traditions and productivity of this Chamber.

I want to congratulate Mark for this tremendous honor from the Tax Foundation, along with his wonderful family—his wife Lori and his son James—who should enjoy this honor along with him.

Selfishly, I hope that Mark has many more years of honorable service here in the United States Senate.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, on Monday, November 17, 2014, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 276, on the motion to concur to the House amendment to S. 1086, the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, due to inclement weather and travel disruptions from Sioux Falls, SD. Had I been present, I would have voted in support of this measure.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, on the evening of Monday, November 17, 2014, the Senate passed S. 1086, a bill reauthorizing the Child Care and Development Block Grant Program, CCDBG.

This bill reauthorizes and amends the CCDBG Act with new requirements for State health and safety standards, including annual, unannounced onsite monitoring of licensed providers, background checks of childcare staff and providers, expanded compliance with child abuse reporting requirements, and enhanced coordination with other programs.

On March 13, 2014, the Senate passed an earlier version of S. 1086, and I voted aye.

Due to a flight delay, I was unable to cast a vote yesterday on its passage. I would have voted aye.

REMEMBERING ROD BRADWAY

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize and honor the extraordinary service and ultimate sacrifice of Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Officer Rod Bradway. Dedicated, loyal, and above all compassionate to those in need, Officer Bradway had served with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, IMPD, since 2007.

On Friday, September 20, 2013, Officer Bradway responded to a domestic disturbance call at Eagle Pointe Apartments in Indianapolis. Upon arriving, he heard a woman screaming for help from inside her apartment, where she was being held against her will. Officer Bradway quickly called for backup, and without hesitation, forced his way into the apartment. Upon entering, he was immediately shot twice by a perpetrator who waited in ambush. Although severely wounded, Bradway returned fire and injured the shooter before assisting officers arrived. This courageous effort disabled the shooter, avoiding a second ambush. In addition, the woman whom Officer Bradway was rushing to aid, along with her 10-month-old child, emerged safely, largely due to his immediate response and selfless action. Sadly, despite the best efforts of his fellow officers, EMTs, and medical personnel, Officer Bradway, 41, succumbed to his wounds.

"When I heard he was the first in, I wasn't surprised," said Melissa Watkins, a friend and colleague. According to many of his peers and IMPD family members, Officer Bradway always wanted to be the first through the door, ready to help.

An Indiana native, Officer Bradway grew up in Nappanee, where he attended NorthWood High School. Known for his outgoing, gregarious personality, athleticism, and concern for others, Rod participated on both the track and football teams. Many of his high school coaches remembered Rod as athletic and willing to help others. Former coach Jon Andrews said, "I think he loved people and loved athletics, and both of those traits showed up in the

way he built his life." Rod graduated from NorthWood High School in 1991.

Following college, Officer Bradway moved to the Indianapolis area where he joined the Wayne Township Fire Department. He served for 10 years, and while there, he met the love of his life, Jamie, who worked at the Department as an Emergency Medical Technician. They married and had two children, Jonathan and Sierra.

Officer Bradway was a highly decorated policeman who served on the IMPD for 5 years. In February 2012, he received the Medal of Bravery, with which he was honored for apprehending a man who was wielding a knife and threatening others.

In addition to his service to his fellow citizens, Rod was an active supporter of animal rescue efforts. He and his wife traveled to Moore, OK, following the deadly tornado of May 2013 to help locate and gather displaced pets. Together, they delivered hundreds of pounds of pet food, crates, leashes, and other supplies for pets or local animal shelters.

Officer Bradway is survived and deeply missed by his wife Jamie; his son Jonathan; daughter Sierra; his parents Thomas and Sheri Bradway; brother Chip (Shelley) Bradway; mother and father-in-law Teresa and Ronald Gentry; sister-in-law Jaclyn (Donald) Gentry; nieces Ella Bradway and Kaylee Millard; nephew Conner Millard; as well as many other relatives and friends, the IMPD family, the Wayne Township Fire Department family, and Hoosiers throughout the State.

Officer Bradway loved his work, and he gave his life to serve and protect the Citizens of Indianapolis. Although he would have never thought of himself as a hero, Officer Bradway demonstrated his character daily by conducting himself with courage, bravery, compassion, honor, and integrity. Thus, he was a true American hero—in his everyday life as a police officer, husband and father—and in his final call to duty. Let us always remember and emulate the shining example this stalwart, modest yet brave man set for us and honor him for his selfless commitment to serving his fellow citizens. May God welcome him home and give comfort to his family and friends.

RECOGNIZING SIGNATURE SCHOOL

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to applaud Signature School of Evansville, IN, for being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized over 7,000 public and nonpublic schools that demonstrate a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity

for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among student groups.

Recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education is based on a school either being measured as an "Exemplary High Performing School"—where schools are among the State's highest scorers in English and mathematics—or as an "Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing School"—where schools, with at least 40 percent of their student body coming from disadvantaged backgrounds, have reduced the achievement gap in English and mathematics within the last 5 years. Signature School has set the bar high in the area of improved proficiency in both English and Mathematics.

Consistently ranked in the top 100 high schools in the Nation since 2006, Signature School is a unique and innovative institution where students are given the opportunity to play a role in setting their academic goals. This independence instills in the students a sense of motivation and self-belief, two components that have helped narrow the achievement gap and increased English and mathematics scores.

I would like to acknowledge principal Jean S. Hitchcock of Signature School, the entire staff, and the student body. It undoubtedly took hard work and dedication to achieve this prestigious award.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Signature School, and I wish them continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING EAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I applaud East Elementary of the Jay School Corporation, Portland, IN, for being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized over 7,000 public and nonpublic schools that demonstrate a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing any achievement gaps among student groups.

Recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education is based on a school being identified as "Exemplary High Performing"—schools that are ranked in the top 15 percent nationally in English and mathematics, measured by each State's assessment—or as "Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing"—where schools with at least 40 percent of their student body coming from disadvantaged backgrounds are reducing the achievement gap in English and mathematics. East Elementary School has made great strides in these areas.

East Elementary School inspires its students by fostering a positive environment both at school and in the community. Staff and students are committed to working toward combining knowledge with social and emotional support and by doing so lift up a student body that comes from a predominantly economically challenging background. East Elementary School has consistently achieved both an A-rating and a Four Star designation from the Indiana Department of Education. The hard work and creativity of this school has helped to strengthen the Portland community and the future of Indiana.

I would like to recognize principal Andy Schemenaur, the entire staff, and the student body. It undoubtedly took hard work and dedication to achieve this prestigious award.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate the East Elementary of the Jay School Corporation of Portland, and I wish them continued success in the future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING THE SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2014 World Series champions, the San Francisco Giants. By defeating the Kansas City Royals in a fiercely contested and exhilarating World Series, the Giants became the second team in the storied history of the National League to win three World Series in a five-season span.

Led by manager Bruce Bochy and general manager Brian Sabean, this outstanding roster of all-stars, unflappable veterans, and exciting young talent showed great resolve, determination, and character as they battled a tough National League Western Division to emerge with 88 wins and a spot in the playoffs.

The Giants began their title march by shutting out the Pittsburgh Pirates 8-to-0 in the one-game National League Wildcard game. In the National League Division Series, the Giants showed their championship pedigree by winning several tightly contested games against the Washington Nationals that included a thrilling 18-inning marathon, the longest in postseason history. In the National League Championship Series, the Giants captured the pennant by defeating the St. Louis Cardinals, four games to one.

Driven by the historic performance of pitcher Madison Bumgarner, World Series MVP, and with contributions from every player on the roster, the Giants triumphed over the Kansas City Royals in a hard-fought, seven-game series. This team battled to win a game seven that came down to the last pitch of the ninth inning when third baseman Pablo Sandoval caught the final out—making the Giants the first team in 35 years to win game seven on the road.

With a combination of excellent pitching, great defense and clutch hitting, the Giants are bringing the World Series trophy back to China Basin for the third time in five seasons. They have evolved from the 2010 championship team that was fondly described as "a band of misfits" to a team that has etched themselves into baseball history. With this eighth World Series title—their third in five seasons—the San Francisco Giants have taken their rightful place among the nation's greatest franchises and chief executive officer Larry Baer and the entire Giants organization should be very proud.

I also want to congratulate the loyal San Francisco Giants fans, who have supported their team through good years and bad, and from the windy Candlestick Park to the picturesque AT&T Park. Whether it is nearly 42,000 fans turning the stadium into a sea of orange on an "Orange Friday" or wearing panda hats for Pablo Sandoval or bringing funny Hunter Pence signs, Giants fans have created an electric atmosphere at AT&T Park and provided its team with one of the most formidable home park advantages in all of baseball.

As the San Francisco Giants and their fans celebrate the 2014 championship campaign, I congratulate them on their unforgettable season and look forward to their continued success in 2015 and beyond.●

TRIBUTE TO ALAN DERSHOWITZ

• Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to honor a great teacher today.

His name is Alan Dershowitz. For half a century he was a professor at the Harvard Law School. He retired in December of 2013.

From all those students who were so fortunate to learn from him, including myself, let us say thank you.

Professor Dershowitz joined Harvard Law in 1964—at the tender age of 25—and during his time there, he trained more than 10,000 students in more than 100 semesters to be critical thinkers, lawyers, judges, and leaders.

Aside from being an incredible teacher, he is known as many things: advocate, columnist, novelist, and intellectual.

He is a passionate liberal, and yet he pressed all his students—conservative and liberal alike—to make the very best arguments they could, based on logic, reason, and precedent.

Like Professor Kingsbury in "The Paper Chase," he didn't suffer fools. If you couldn't back up your position in his class, if you emoted rather than reasoned, you were in trouble.

He and I became friends, ironically, because we disagreed so much. In class, he would offer withering critiques of opinions authored by conservative Justices, Scalia and Thomas especially, and I was often moved to disagree. Heated arguments followed, which Professor Dershowitz always seemed to relish.