

helping mold the next generation of leaders.

For the many years I have known Chris, he has been a respected leader, a passionate advocate, and a cherished friend. His patience, character, and drive make him a wonderful ally and a fearless protector of the rights of all Wisconsin residents. Although he is retiring from the ACLU, I know he will continue to spend his days fighting for equality.

I am so pleased to join with others in expressing gratitude for his leadership and recognizing his accomplishments. I wish him and his partner, Bob, all the best in the next chapter of their lives together.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN R. HEIMANN

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and honor the extraordinary service of the Honorable Stephen R. Heimann, as he retires from the Bartholomew County Circuit Court after 25 years of distinguished service.

Born in Monroeville, in Allen County, IN, he graduated from Wabash College and the Indiana University School of Law and ran a successful private law practice for 10 years.

Since his appointment to the bench in 1991, Judge Heimann has embodied the most dignified ideals of our judiciary, dutifully demanding of himself the same high standards of conduct that he enforces and maintains for the community. The legacy he leaves goes beyond the thousands of orders and decisions he has rendered and extends to the way he treats others.

Judge Heimann's contributions have made a difference in the local community and in legal circles. His involvement has included performing in the local "Dancing with the Stars" competition to raise money for charity, facilitating interfaith Christian and Muslim dialogue, delivering a keynote speech before the NAACP, providing marriage preparation counsel to young couples, and numerous other leadership roles on the boards of nonprofit organizations. He has also served the State's judiciary by chairing its board of law examiners, judicial ethics and professionalism, judicial education, and judges and lawyers assistance program boards.

The Honorable Stephen R. Heimann has served the people of Bartholomew County and State of Indiana with great integrity, honesty, and professionalism. We are incredibly grateful for his leadership and service, and we wish him well in retirement with his wife, Ann, children Andrew and Emily, and granddaughter Nora.

RECOGNIZING BROWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF BROWNSBURG, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Brown Elementary School of Brownsburg, IN, for

being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated 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 students.

Opened in 1997, Brown Elementary School currently serves 680 students. Brown Elementary School prides itself on having a welcoming environment for students and various programs like Learning Lab, which provides students struggling academically with extra support in reading and math in a small group setting.

Brown Elementary School's effectiveness can be found, in part, in its willingness to meet the educational needs of each individual student. The school began implementing the professional learning communities model during the 2011–2012 school year, which allows teachers to work on target areas to improve students' performance, contributing to their academic success. This interactive model allows teachers to share resources and ask questions to ensure the curriculum is being met across grade levels.

Brown Elementary School also benefits from the parent support group, which takes an active part in enhancing student learning and achievement. Through the group, approximately 15 to 40 parent volunteers come to school daily to help support the efforts by teachers and assist with student learning.

I am proud to recognize Brown Elementary School principal Dr. Casey Smitherman, the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Brownsburg community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Brown Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Cathedral High School of Indianapolis, IN, for being named as a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated 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 students.

Founded in 1918, Cathedral High School is a Holy Cross School and one of the oldest and largest Catholic high schools in Indiana. It is one of the top-performing schools in the State. Among the school's strengths is its diversity, with students enrolled from more than 160 grade schools, who live in nine central Indiana counties, and come from neighborhoods across Indianapolis.

Cathedral High School provides a faith-based holistic education centered on its mission to "transform a diverse student body to have the competence to see and courage to act." This is evident through the school's rigorous academic program to ensure all students are challenged to their highest ability, and staff, students, and families work together to teach and foster values that develop strong character.

Indicators of Cathedral's academic success are illustrated through the success of its students on Indiana's graduation qualifying exams for math and English. The school saw a 98.3 percent passage rate on Indiana's graduation qualifying exam for math and English. Additionally, 100 percent of Cathedral graduates were accepted to institutions of higher learning.

I am proud to recognize Cathedral High School principal David L. Worland, the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Indianapolis community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Cathedral High School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING GEIST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF FISHERS, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize Geist Elementary School of Fishers, IN, for being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated 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 students.

Geist Elementary School, GES, which was built in 2004, serves approximately 780 students from kindergarten through fourth grade. GES is part of Hamilton Southeastern School District, which now has five National Blue Ribbon schools. GES was recognized, in part, for its exceptional academic program, and it prides itself on providing

students with an education that meets the interests, abilities, and needs of all students, while also empowering them to reach their full potential.

GES has received an A grade by the State of Indiana since 2004. GES has distinguished itself through inquiry and project-based learning, in which lessons are built around key questions, and students take ownership of their learning. For example, students participate in a schoolwide inquiry project, Geist Marketplace, where students from different grade levels partner together to create a business. The project promotes collaboration and entrepreneurship, allowing students to create, market, and sell their products. In addition, they learn to pay their debts and hold an event that is open to the local community, where residents can purchase the products made by the students. Ultimately, students can provide proceeds to local charities.

GES parents, faculty, and staff work together to provide a positive learning environment to ensure students develop strong character, while achieving academic excellence and getting involved in the community.

I would like to recognize Geist Elementary School principal Christi Thomas, the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Fishers community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Geist Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING LEXINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF LEXINGTON, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize Lexington Elementary School of Lexington, IN, for being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated 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 students.

Lexington continuously aims to bridge the gap between students from diverse economic backgrounds. In 2008, Lexington implemented a schoolwide support and service model, which allowed extra funding for tutors and a more personalized approach to ensure individual student success.

Lexington Elementary prides itself on a rigorous curriculum designed to maximize student exposure to core concepts that are essential for academic growth and success. Each grade level

has specific programs designed to tailor that grade's needs. In the primary grades, Lexington uses the Burst reading program to provide students with foundational skills they need to read independently.

Lexington Elementary School's positive and nurturing atmosphere ensures all students are treated with respect. Students help lead the way through initiatives like Lexington's Project Words of Wisdom, where, every morning, students share motivational ideals, such as being kind to others, during the schoolwide morning announcements.

Lexington Elementary School's approach and dedication to student achievement has been key to its success. The school's staff and families work together to teach and foster values that develop strong character and better the community. Students also benefit from programs in the local community. The Scott County Family YMCA offers a before and afterschool program with nearly 50 percent of the Lexington student population. This partnership offers homework assistance, enrichment activities, and exercise opportunities.

Lexington Elementary School is a stellar example of the benefits that result from dedication, motivation, collaboration, and strong community partnerships in education.

I am proud to recognize Lexington Elementary School principal Charles Rose, who was leading the school at the time of the nomination, current principal Nick South, as well as the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Lexington community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Lexington Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING NORTHPOINT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF GRANGER, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize Northpoint Elementary School of Granger, IN, for being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated 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 students.

Recognized as a Blue Ribbon School in 2010, Northpoint Elementary School continues to demonstrate academic excellence and works to meet the individual needs of its students through

various strategies and assessments. Northpoint demonstrates an interactive method to learning and embodies a triangle of success approach that develops a strong connection between the school, parents, and teachers.

Northpoint Elementary School's staff, students, and families work together to teach and foster values that develop strong character including academic excellence and service to others. Teachers and support staff not only mentor students academically but also focus on nurturing students' social and emotional needs. Programs to help students are provided before, during, and after school, including an antibullying program that is taught to students and reinforced regularly.

Northpoint Elementary School is an example of how dedication, motivation, collaboration, and strong family engagement in education benefits both students and the local community. Students participate in various programs, including giving back to families in need by donating gifts during the holidays and supporting local homeless shelters.

Northpoint students come from various backgrounds. With a diverse student body, Northpoint has created an inclusive atmosphere to ensure every student is treated with respect.

I am proud to recognize Northpoint Elementary School principal Diane L. Wirth, the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Granger community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Northpoint Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING SOUTH RIPLEY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL OF VERSAILLES, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize South Ripley Junior High School of Versailles, IN, for being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated 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 students.

South Ripley Junior High School has distinguished itself as a top-performing school in Indiana. For the last 4 years, South Ripley Junior High School has been named a Four Star School and an A rated school. In 2016, South Ripley was named a national School to Watch for its high performance on State