

standardized tests and overall academic excellence.

The school's philosophy of education is built upon the expectation of success in all students. South Ripley Junior High School focuses on helping each student develop individual success academically and personally. To that end, the core curriculum supports college and career readiness to develop the skills students need in everyday life, such as problem-solving, as well as reading and writing effectively. In addition, South Ripley's faculty and staff continuously work with students to meet their social, emotional, and academic needs and help students develop strong character.

I am proud to recognize South Ripley Junior High School principal Destiny Rutzel, 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 Versailles community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate South Ripley Junior High, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

#### RECOGNIZING UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF ZIONSVILLE, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize Union Elementary School of Zionsville, 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.

Union Elementary School opened at its current location in 2007 and currently serves over 600 students. Union Elementary prides itself on creating a nurturing and collaborative learning environment, where teachers, students, and teachers work together so that all students can reach their potential. Teachers utilize a wide variety of assessment practices to measure student progress, make instructional decisions, and to evaluate the effectiveness of academic programs.

Union Elementary School seeks to ensure students are enriched both during and after school. The school has an outdoor classroom, which includes native Indiana wildflowers, a butterfly garden, and vegetable gardening space, allowing creativity to go beyond the traditional classroom. Students are offered various extracurricular activities, including foreign language clubs, art enrichment, engineering club, a kids fitness program—Fit Kidz—and a drama club.

Union Elementary maintains a high standard for academic excellence, which can be attributed to the success of a rigorous curriculum, innovative instructional practices, and a highly qualified and dedicated staff. Faculty works closely with parents to ensure their children are receiving a quality education. Parents are encouraged to be an active part in their child's learning from serving as field trip chaperones to volunteering in the classroom. Union Elementary School's dedication to student achievement and positive atmosphere have 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.

I am proud to recognize Union Elementary School principal Jennifer Raycroft, 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 Zionsville communities well into the future.

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

#### RECOGNIZING WEST CLAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF CARMEL, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize West Clay Elementary School of Carmel, 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.

West Clay Elementary opened in August 2006, with a mission to provide opportunities for all students to realize their potential. Every year since its inception, West Clay has been named an Indiana Four-Star School based upon high achievement results on standardized tests.

West Clay strives to provide a quality education to students through the tireless work of its dedicated staff, who serve in various leadership roles, such as school committee chairs. West Clay's mindset is on constantly striving to improve through reflection and staff development.

West Clay students, parents, and staff work closely together to give back to the community through philanthropic initiatives led by the parent teacher organization, PTO, and student government. Their efforts support organizations such as Riley Children's Hospital, the American Heart Association,

the American Diabetes Association, the Humane Society, and Gleaner's Food Bank. Over the last decade, the students and staff of West Clay have helped raise over \$60,000 which resulted in the donation of countless supplies to local organizations.

West Clay works to provide students with a positive learning environment to support their social, emotional, and academic needs. For example, West Clay has many student support services, including an instructional coach, who partners with staff to develop appropriate programs that will enhance student learning and will ensure that students are challenged, while at the same time supported in an effort to enable students to reach their potential. These staff members play an integral part in determining student learning needs through analyzing data and gauging students' interests.

I am proud to recognize West Clay Elementary School principal Jennifer Szuhaj, 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 Carmel community well into the future.

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

#### RECOGNIZING WESTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF GREENFIELD, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Weston Elementary School of Greenfield, 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.

Weston Elementary consistently has distinguished itself as a top-performing school, was named an Indiana Four Star School in 2013 and 2016, and has been named an A school by the State each of the past 5 years.

Weston's success can be attributed to the school's goal of continuously looking for ways to provide a well-rounded education to students. The school emphasizes problem-solving and assignments that allow students to demonstrate their work and thought process. In addition to core subjects, students are exposed to physical education, art and music, and several classes participate in daily exercise led by prerecorded video segments from the Indianapolis Colts. Weston also offers students Weston Fit, an after-school fitness club that promotes

healthy eating and staying physically active.

Weston also prides itself not only on its academics but fostering a supportive environment that offers programs to promote emotional, social, and cultural wellness. Weston utilizes a fulltime social worker, who provides class lessons on topics of bullying and character education, with an expectation that students will treat their classmates with respect and develop strong social skills.

Weston's students, facility, and staff work together to ensure every child succeeds, and faculty partners with parents to encourage family engagement and parent involvement in school-sponsored activities.

I am proud to recognize Weston Elementary School principal Shane Bryant, 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 Greenfield community well into the future.

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

#### TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL RYAN BODGE

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I wish to thank and congratulate my defense fellow, Air Force Lt. Col. Ryan Bodge, on a successful year serving in my office. The expertise and experience that Ryan brought to my team was invaluable, and he will certainly be missed after he leaves.

Prior to his assignment as a defense fellow, Ryan served as the commander of the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron at Bagram Air Field, BAF, in Afghanistan. He led a blend of more than 500 coalition and contract personnel responsible for the defense of 36,000 personnel, a 27-kilometer perimeter, and the Air Force Central Command's busiest airfield with more than \$3.5 billion in combat assets to include two specialized teams: Fly Away Security and Tactical Security Element personnel. His squadron was Tactical Control to Task Force Solid, responsible for the Bagram Ground Defense Area.

Ryan was born and raised in Cold Spring, NY, and he enlisted in the Air Force in 1992. He served as an F-16 and A-10 aircraft weapons load crew team chief and then in a special duty as a professional military education instructor. In 2003, Ryan commissioned to become an officer after successfully completing officer training school. He has served as a flight commander, convoy commander, officer in charge of training and resources, operations officer, high-risk response leader, major command, USAF, staff officer and two-time squadron commander. Ryan has deployed in support of the following missions: Southwest Asia, Operation

Iraqi, and Enduring Freedom, as well as Resolute Support and now Freedom's Sentinel. He has served on the Air Education and Training Command Security Forces staff as an executive officer and chief of force protection programs and technology.

Ryan's humble character rarely does justice to his accomplishments and accolades. However, he does speak very proudly of his wife, Tiffany, from Valdosta, GA, and their son, Garrett. Military families are true testaments of both strength and pride. They are constantly challenged by deployments, changes in duty stations, and uncertainties. These hurdles create resiliency which the Bodge family patriotically embodies. Ryan's family are his pride and joy and will equally be missed by our office team.

While we will miss having Ryan in our Capitol Hill office, I know that he will be moving on to greater things. I want to again thank Ryan and his family for their service to our great Nation and congratulate him on his promotion.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO JEREMIAH KENNEDY

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I wish to recognize veteran Jeremiah Kennedy for his years in service in the U.S. Navy. Mr. Kennedy was inspired by his grandfather, the late Jerry Kennedy, who was also in the Navy during Vietnam and played a role in his decision of which branch to join.

Mr. Kennedy joined the Navy and left for boot camp in June of 2007. He then went on to an advanced training course to become an aviation ordnanceman, responsible for loading and building fighter jets with bombs and missiles, as well as maintaining all of the equipment that is used to transport those bombs and missiles from the magazines to the flight deck.

As an aviation ordnanceman, Mr. Kennedy was stationed aboard the nuclear aircraft carrier, the USS *George Washington*, which was sent out to replace the USS *Kitty Hawk*, an aircraft carrier located in Yokosuka, Japan. There, he remained in a forward deployed status, subject to being deployed anywhere in the world within 72 hours upon the President's request. Mr. Kennedy was stationed overseas in Japan, as well as nine other different countries, and he considers the chance to experience different ways of life and traditions a truly incredible opportunity. After 5 years of service, Mr. Kennedy was honorably discharged from the Navy in June of 2012.

I want to express my deep gratitude to Mr. Kennedy for his dedication and service to our country. •

##### TRIBUTE TO DAN O'MALLEY

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I want to recognize Detective Dan

O'Malley who has served Lewis and Clark County sheriff's office proudly for 18 years. In his work as patrolman, a narcotics officer with the Missouri River drug task force, and detective with the criminal investigation bureau, he has made our communities a safer place to live.

Currently, he is assigned to the domestic violence multidisciplinary team, where he works tirelessly to protect women and children from violent crimes and domestic violence.

In addition to his duties with the sheriff's office, Detective O'Malley serves as a liaison for the Lewis and Clark County drug treatment court. Dan dedicates countless hours assisting those struggling with substance abuse issues and increasing their likelihood of successful rehabilitation. He continually goes above and beyond to provide the guidance and leadership people desperately need to overcome life's challenges and he does it with great compassion and empathy. His efforts have saved lives, families and have protected our communities.

His commitment and dedication to protecting and serving our community and his compassion to help others in need is second to none. This past July, Detective O'Malley was named Montana's "Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" by the Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association for his exemplary service. We are blessed to have officers like Dan O'Malley serving the people of Montana. Each day, he looks forward to taking on new challenges, making our community a safer and better place for us all. As a proud father of four, I know he understands the importance of integrity, honor, and commitment. •

##### TRIBUTE TO ALBERT WADE

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Albert Wade of Yellowstone County. Albert, a Pearl Harbor survivor and a pilot of the B-17 Fortress, who is celebrating his 98th birthday this month. We celebrate our independence and freedom, because of people like Albert, who selflessly put himself in harm's way for his country.

In 1939, Albert was one of the first six men appointed to form the original Army Air Corps, and was at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese bombers attacked. During the attack, his entire fleet of the B-17 Flying Fortress was shot down, and unknown to anyone at the time, Albert was the only survivor. It wasn't until 4 and a half weeks later, Albert says, that the American Red Cross found his then paralyzed body at the Russian Aid Station and brought him home.

Albert has been offered the Purple Heart many times; however, he continues to turn it down, saying that he is just a regular person. Albert went on to marry the love of his life, Louise, and has two children, Maggie and Del. Albert has dedicated his life to his family and has started several businesses, written several books, and became a pastor.