

turn around a failing school, and this bill gives them the arsenal to do so. I believe the new accountability provisions empower local leaders, with State and Federal guidance, to pursue the improvement strategies best suited to their local needs.

These accountability measures are vital if we are to guarantee that the ideals our students pledge allegiance to every day, justice and liberty for all, are manifest in the education we provide for our youngest Americans.

With this goal in mind, I am also pleased that ESSA includes my amendment to support homeless and foster youth, by ensuring educators and the public are aware of how foster and homeless children and youth are performing on critical elements compared to their peers by adding reporting for these groups on graduation rates to the State and school district report cards.

The role of teachers is also prioritized in ESSA, and I was especially proud to see the amendment I authored that helps support teachers by asking school districts to identify opportunities to make working conditions better and more sustainable.

With these improvements made and the spirit of the bill as an important piece of civil rights legislation maintained, I wholeheartedly support the reconciled version that has passed the House and Senate and that was signed by the President today.

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL CHRISTOPHER J. PAUL

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the service of RADM Christopher J. Paul, Deputy Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, who is retiring from the United States Navy after more than 38 years of faithful service to our Nation.

Having enlisted in the Navy in 1977, Rear Admiral Paul went on to attend the U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School and U.S. Naval Academy, where he distinguished himself as a valued leader of the varsity cross country, indoor, and outdoor Track teams under famed coach Al Cantello and a 10-time letterman. After graduating from the Naval Academy in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science degree in physical science, RADM Paul served on USS *KIDD*, DDG 993, a destroyer homeported in Norfolk, VA, until 1987 and qualified as a surface warfare officer during deployments to the Atlantic and Indian Oceans; the Mediterranean, Black, North, Baltic, Red, and Caribbean Seas; and the Arabian Gulf.

Rear Admiral Paul's Pentagon staff assignments included service on the Joint Staff as an action officer in the Operations Directorate J-3 and U.S. Senate liaison officer and assistant surface warfare program officer in the Secretary of the Navy's Office of legislative affairs from 1987 to 1991. During that assignment, Rear Admiral Paul had the opportunity to work on behalf of Members of Congress on the Senate

Armed Services Committee and was subsequently assigned to serve in my office to help write a \$600 million package of veterans benefits for servicemembers and veterans of Operation Desert Storm. While working on that legislative matter, I had the privilege of promoting then Lieutenant Paul to the grade of lieutenant commander, when he transitioned to the Navy Reserve, which allowed him to continue to serve on my staff in Washington, DC, while also serving at the Pentagon's Navy Command Center as assistant operations department head.

Rear Admiral Paul went on to faithfully serve on my Senate legislative staff for a total of 16 years, followed by 6 years as a professional staff member on the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services, while simultaneously serving in numerous Navy positions of increasing responsibility over the course of more than 22 years. Those assignments included serving on the Chief of Naval Operations staff as executive officer of Reserve Component Augment Units to the director of Surface Warfare OPNAV N86 and the director of Expeditionary Warfare OPNAV N85 between 1997 and 1999.

Rear Admiral Paul's Navy Reserve unit command assignments included CVNE-0109, from 1999 to 2001, supporting AIRLANT aircraft carriers, during which he was recognized with the Commander Naval Air Force Reserve Robert I. Barto Award; Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head, from 2001 to 2003; and, rapid response to full unit-mobilization in support of Operation Noble Eagle, which was recognized by the Secretary of the Navy with the Meritorious Unit Commendation. His command assignments also included Navy Region, Mid-Atlantic, from 2003 to 2005, where he was mobilized in support of Joint Task Force Katrina as chief of staff, Joint Force Maritime Component Commander; U.S. Forces, Japan from 2005 to 2007, where the unit received the Joint Meritorious Unit Award for its contingency and exercise support that greatly enhanced the U.S.-Japan Security Alliance; and deputy regional commander to Commandant, Naval District Washington, from 2007 to 2008, supporting the Navy Total Force in the national capital area.

During Rear Admiral Paul's flag officer assignments, he led several type commands responsible for manning, training, and equipping naval warships and expeditionary forces. In his first flag assignment, Rear Admiral Paul served as deputy commander, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command from 2008 to 2011, receiving the Navy Unit Commendation for its outstanding success in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom; deputy commander, Naval Surface Forces Atlantic from 2011 to 2012; and deputy commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet from 2012 to 2015, where he culminated his Navy career. During his flag officer positions, Rear Admiral

Paul distinguished himself in the performance of his duties while demonstrating a uniquely comprehensive knowledge of manpower, personnel, training, enlisted personnel distribution, and surface warfare officer career management issues. His effective leadership and initiatives helped transform how surface forces are trained and prepared to fight in naval warships during a vital period of change in the surface warfare community.

As a loyal and dedicated member of my staff for over 22 years, Rear Admiral Paul worked tirelessly as a valued legislative aide to me in my U.S. Senate office and on the professional staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee. In that capacity, Rear Admiral Paul played an important role in policy matters affecting our Nation and the U.S. military, helping to advance countless legislative initiatives enacted into law that will have a lasting impact on U.S. policy, including the Detainee Treatment Act of 2005, which prohibits the inhumane treatment of prisoners of the United States; legislation that reauthorized the FAA in 1996, which is still recognized as the largest aviation reform law since the deregulation act of 1977; laws that help improve the lives of our servicemembers, veterans, and military families; and numerous provisions that have improved the ability of the military to procure needed combat capability, enhanced the readiness of ships, submarines, and aircraft, and maintained global superiority—all while ensuring that the Department of Defense acts as a responsible steward of diminishing defense dollars.

As a determined Reserve Component surface warfare leader and dedicated public servant, it is fitting that we honor Rear Admiral Paul's service during the centennial of the U.S. Navy Reserve. Rear Admiral Paul embodies the moral character and dedication of our Nation's citizen-sailors who bring unique skill sets through their military and civilian training and serve our country honorably by the core values of the United States of America. I heartily thank Rear Admiral Paul; his wife, Shannon; daughter, Catherine; and son, Christopher, for their honorable service to our Nation and the U.S. Navy; and wish Rear Admiral Paul fair winds and following seas as he concludes a career in the U.S. Navy exemplary in honor and distinction.

Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO JIM SMITH

• Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a great South Dakotan on his notable accomplishments and his career, starting as an elevator operator in the Senate. His career spanned seven decades, 10 Presidents, and 32 Congresses. To say Jim Smith is an institution in Washington, DC, would be an understatement.

Jim Smith was born in Aberdeen, SD, but spent the majority of his childhood