

seek the common good and not appeal to our worst instincts.

This is a time for a new ethic—justice without vengeance. Let us come together to hold people accountable for their actions, to resist and condemn violence, to stand with victims of crime and to insist that those who destroy community, answer to the community. But let us also remember that we cannot restore life by taking life, that vengeance cannot heal and that all of us must find new ways to defend human life and dignity in a far too violence society.

This will be a long struggle. It begins by raising new doubts about the death penalty. It will require new and more serious efforts to address crime and reform prisons. But in the end, we cannot practice what we condemn. We cannot defend life by taking life. We cannot contain violence by using state violence.

In this new century, we join with others in taking a prophetic stand to end the death penalty. In doing so, we hope to share a new vision of society that is unambiguous and consistent in its defense of life. It will demand the courage and faith of many to see us through a long and challenging process of dialogue and conversion. It is a challenge, however, that is worth our best efforts.

Thank you.●

TRIBUTE TO MIKE AND JOANNE DUNCAN

● Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Mike and Joanne Duncan of Inez, Kentucky, for the successful internship program they continue to run for students in eastern Kentucky.

Mike and his wife Joanne founded an innovative summer-internship program in 1977 with the hope of encouraging young people to continue to work and live in their home state after college. To date, more than 100 people have participated in Mike and Joanne's program and have had the opportunity to intern at local businesses or participate in other leadership-building projects around the community. This program has given students a place to exchange ideas with each other and community professionals to help them prepare for their career. It is through experiences such as these that Mike and Joanne have helped to show interns that they can make a difference in their corner of the world. The program the Duncan's have created gives students an opportunity to see firsthand what the real, working world is like in their hometown and often results in the students' desire to return home after college to share their talents and skills with the community of their youth.

Mike and Joanne's work is known and appreciated throughout eastern Kentucky, and throughout the nation. In 1996, Mike was called the "Mentor to Eastern Kentucky," by the Journal of the Appalachian Regional Commission. Also, the Los Angeles Times once described the internship program as being "more akin to adoption." The impact of the Duncan's work reaches across county and state lines, and is surely an example for similar programs across the United States.

Mike and Joanne display an unwavering commitment to the people of Kentucky and possess the gratitude and respect of many. Their dedication to helping young Kentuckians succeed through countless hours of counseling and tutoring over the last 23 years is indeed admirable.

Congratulations, Mike and Joanne, on your tremendous success, and thank you for your many generous years of service to eastern Kentucky's youth. On behalf of myself and my colleagues in the United States Senate, thank you for giving so much of yourself for so many others.●

A TRIBUTE TO HEIDI KIRK DUFFY

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Heidi Kirk Duffy upon her receipt of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, First Class.

Heidi was selected to receive the Order of Merit to recognize her "outstanding contribution to the development of academic and economic interchanges between universities and companies of the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany." The Order of Merit will be bestowed upon Heidi in particular recognition of her commitment to the cultivation of a strong relationship between the University of Rhode Island's International Engineering Program and the Federal Republic of Germany.

A native of the Dusseldorf area, Heidi is currently the Chair of the Advisory Board of the University of Rhode Island's International Engineering Program. At the conclusion of this five-year program, graduates receive two degrees, one in English and the other in German. Recently, the University of Rhode Island has also added degrees in Spanish and French. This International Engineering Program is considered to be one of the most unique programs of its kind in American higher education.

Under her direction, the University of Rhode Island's Engineering Program provides both German and American students a global education. Due to Heidi's dedication and hard work, the Program has been truly successful in strengthening a transatlantic relationship between the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Heidi was notified earlier this year by the Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. P.C. Hauswedell, that she had been selected to receive the Order of Merit. The Verdienstkreuz 1. Klasse des Verdienstordens der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, as it is known in German, is one of the highest honors given to civilians by the Federal Republic. She will receive the Order of Merit on Friday, August 4th at ceremonies in her honor in the Rhode Island Capital.

I congratulate Heidi for her accomplishments and wish her luck as she continues in her endeavors.●

THE BEST 100 COMMUNITIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION IN AMERICA

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Farmington Public School District of Farmington, Michigan, for its outstanding achievement in music education. It was ranked number one (along with Coppell, Texas) on the list of 100 best communities in America for school music programs. This is a very special honor which emphasizes the importance of arts education to the lives of our children.

The rankings were the result of a first-ever nationwide survey of more than 5,800 public schools and independent teachers, district administrators, school board members, parents, and community leaders representing communities in all 50 states. The web-based survey assessed many aspects of music education, such as funding, participation, student-teacher ratios, and quality of facilities. The results indicate that superior programs exist both in areas that possess a wealth of monetary and material resources, as well as in those that must rely on more innovative means of funding and implementing ambitious educational endeavors. The key element of success, found in each of the top 100 communities, is the dedication and support of parents, teachers, school decision-makers, and community leaders. This landmark survey highlights the efforts of people who truly value quality music education and strive to make it a reality for today's youth.

The partnership that sponsored the study was comprised of the country's top organizations devoted to music and learning. National School Boards Association President, Clarice Chambers, commented on the significance of the results: "We already know that students who participate in music programs tend to be high achievers. Now we can use the data generated by this survey to identify the common characteristics of exemplary music programs. This information will be invaluable to school boards and communities as they go about the work of raising student achievement in their own school districts." Scientific research has revealed the impact of music education on a child's cognitive abilities, self-discipline, communication, and teamwork skills. The self-confidence gained through artistic accomplishment encourages kids to avoid drugs and alcohol and channel their energy into positive activities. Farmington's musical education program will serve as a model for shaping young lives in school districts across the nation.

I applaud the City of Farmington for the wonderful music education program that it has established. It has truly earned its status as America's best place for music education, and I am sure will be a leader in the cultivation of musical talent for many years. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I congratulate the City of