and child health. I commend the March of Dimes for its dedication in working toward a day when babies and their families no longer have to face the devastating consequences of premature birth.●

JOHN SPINA'S NAVY SERVICE

● Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, today I say thank you to a patriot and a technical expert, Mr. John Spina, who is retiring from civilian service to the Navy in December 2004.

John was born and was raised in the Philadelphia, PA area. He began his government career in 1954 at the Navy's David Taylor Model Basin in West Bethesda, Maryland, as a cooperative student while attending Drexel University. He received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Drexel in 1958. John continued his Federal career at the Model Basin—now NAVSEA, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division—culminating in 50 years of diligent service to the Navy. John and his wife Rosemary live in Virginia and have been married 46 years.

John's early assignments included travel to the David Taylor Model Basin's Field Station at Lake Pend Oreille in Bayview, ID where he led the initial testing at the large capacity haul down site, Wigwam, using 10-foot long rising bodies.

As part of the Acoustics and Vibration Laboratory, he conducted tests on body shapes for signal devices followed by tests with a special buoyantly-propelled device. He performed extensive torpedo tests with Pennsylvania State University, using buoyant, powered rise and ''gravity drop'' methods. He also participated in towed array tests with Bell Labs and was instrumental in testing the initial core samples of the bottom of the lake in the late 1960's in preparation for the first big haul down system to be used for large model, Kamloops.

John completed his master's degree at Catholic University in 1971. His work with large models and testing at the Bayview facility continued and led to the design, development, construction, and deployment of several large-scale submarine models: Steelhead, Mackinaw, S6W, Kamloops, and Dolly Varden, named after fish in Lake Pend Oreille. Unparalleled in the history of quieting, these models and the associated test programs were an immense success, contributing to the understanding and reduction of all aspects of submarine noise.

The introduction of Dolly Varden provided a valuable capability for investigating noise sources and mechanisms with the economy of cost and time not possible in full scale. As test requirements and submarine quieting demands changed, these models were modified and adapted to hundreds of unique configurations, demonstrating the performance of materials and shapes for submarine applications.

In the late 1980s, the Navy required powered model testing to further the science of quieting. A cooperative effort by the David Taylor Research Center and the Naval Sea Systems Command culminated in the design, construction, delivery, and successful operation and employment of the large-scale vehicle, Kokanee, in 1988. Again, John was actively involved, forming the crew, directing the logistics, and developing the operating plans and procedures. The results of the Kokanee testing offset over $1 billion in comparable full scale test and demonstrated superb prediction of full scale performance.

The success and accomplishments of the Kokanee program showed that large models provide a valuable contribution to submarine development and John again led the specification, design, and development process for a second powered vehicle, the 200-ton Cutthroat model of the Virginia Class.

In a parallel effort, static submarine tests also required additional test facilities and capabilities. Shortly after the deployment of Kokanee, plans were implemented for the construction of the Intermediate Scale Measurement System, ISMS. This multi-million dollar program provided a dramatic improvement in the ability to understand structural acoustics and to demonstrate advanced silencing theories and methods.

While others pioneered new designs, data acquisition, and processing methods, John supported testing through the development of model handling and alteration capabilities, and an infrastructure of dedicated, trained personnel, unique equipment, and documentation of test methods that has continually improved performance and reduced costs. It is, therefore, fitting that we recognize and honor him for his years of service, months of travel, and unwavering support for the facility at Lake Pend Oreille and the Navy.

John Spina has been a significant contributor to our nation's research and development in the area of quieting vessels and submarines, present and future capabilities, as well as numerous performance improvements for quieting operational and future vessels and submarines. I extend to John and Rosemary best wishes, fair winds, and following seas in their future endeavors.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. BILLIE TRAVIS

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I would like to honor Mrs. Billie Travis, a mathematics teacher at Scott County's Georgetown Middle School, who has been named the 2005 Kentucky Teacher of the Year.

For the past 19 years, Mrs. Travis has been teaching mathematics at the Georgetown Middle School. As a career educator she earned a bachelor's degree in education from Morehead State University and a Master's degree in education from Georgetown College. Mrs. Travis has taken her own Kentucky education and reinvested in the community. Whether it is serving on the regional board of the Kentucky Middle School Association or the Kentucky Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Mrs. Travis is a leader both inside and out of the classroom.

This is the fourth year that Ashland Inc. and the Kentucky Department of Education have sponsored the Kentucky Teacher Awards. I would like to congratulate Mrs. Travis again on her achievement and thank her for this significant contribution to middle school education in Kentucky.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT SNYDER

● Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a singularly worthy public servant, Mr. Robert Snyder, Senior Executive Service, who has served our country and the American people with great distinction for over 35 years. I make this statement to recognize his retirement from his current position as Executive Director and senior civilian of the Missile Defense Agency.

Rob Snyder has been uniquely qualified to discharge his responsibilities at MDA. A graduate of Temple University in business administration, he went on to earn two masters degrees, one in business and another in public administration. He is a graduate of executive programs at American University, the Federal Executive Institute, and Harvard. And he served with honor in Vietnam with the U.S. Army.

After working for almost two decades elsewhere in the Defense Department—most of that time involved in trench warfare over budgets—in 1988, he came to the missile defense business. That year, he was promoted to the Senior Executive Service as the Deputy Comptroller of SDIO, the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization. His maturity of judgment, breadth of experience, and absolute integrity quickly made him a driving force for getting things done, and done the right way. Five years ago, after earning several promotions, he was made the first Executive Director of what was then BMDO, the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, and is now MDA.

His responsibilities increased, but he never lost his focus on programmatic issues. When we, here on the Hill, needed accurate and timely responses to our detailed questions on what has always been a politically contentious program, more often than not, it was Rob Snyder who came over to brief us. We always came away from those meetings better informed of the specifics and purposes behind the issues at hand, and with a clearer understanding of the rationale for Agency decisions and recommendations.

We came to rely on him the same way that multiple Directors have, first, of SDIO, then, of BMDO, and now, of MDA. He has been, almost single-handedly, the missile defense program's institutional memory.