

for H.R. 4894, the School Safety Acquiring Faculty Excellence Act.

As the father of three children, I know that nothing is more important than protecting their safety. We do everything to ensure that our children are safe while they are in our care. But just as important, we must do everything we can to make sure they are safe when we cannot be right there beside them. One of the ways we can accomplish this is to provide for a safe school environment.

We trust teachers, principals, coaches, and other school employees to teach our children, to protect our children, and to nurture our children during the school day. Therefore, it is imperative that our school districts have the necessary tools to thoroughly review all school employees before they ever come into contact with our children.

The School Safety Acquiring Faculty Excellence Act will help school districts better examine job applicants by having the Attorney General and the Department of Justice provide localities with direct access to the FBI's national crime information databases and assistance with fingerprint background checks for potential employees. Currently there are a myriad of laws across the States pertaining to background checks for school employees. This legislation will ensure a more thorough process and encourage information sharing across State borders.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, which is a step forward in promoting safe schools and protecting our children.

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR RECOMMENDATION

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I rise today to inform my colleagues of my request to Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to strongly recommend the nomination of MSG Woodrow W. Keeble for the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Last week, the Secretary of the Army made a recommendation to the Secretary of Defense that the late MSG Woodrow W. Keeble be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. I strongly encourage and request that the Secretary of Defense recommend Mr. Keeble for this award and that action be taken quickly, particularly for the sake of Mr. Keeble's widow, to recommend approval to President Bush.

Mr. Keeble was a full-blooded Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux, who fought in both World War II and the Korean war. He was born in Waubay, SD, and attended Wahpeton Indian School in North Dakota. While attending Wahpeton Indian School, Mr. Keeble excelled as a baseball pitcher. His outstanding athletic ability, for which he is remembered in the Wahpeton community, would later serve him well during his acts of bravery and courage in the Korean war.

The brave actions that make Mr. Keeble deserving of the Congressional Medal of Honor occurred during Oper-

ation Nomad of the Korean war on October 20, 1951. During the Korean war, Mr. Keeble was assigned to Company G, 19th Infantry, 24th Division of the U.S. Army. He was charged with leading the 1st platoon of Company G as master sergeant.

Mr. Keeble's actions on October 20, 1951, were reminiscent of Hollywood movies, but this was real heroism. On that date, Mr. Keeble's company was charged with the mission of taking and securing Hill 765, a steep rocky and well-defended terrain near Kumson, Korea. As they began to reach their final objective, the lead platoon of Company G was ambushed with heavy fire from three enemy machine gun nests. The platoon's situation became grave as Mr. Keeble, acting platoon leader of a support platoon, left his position of cover and bravely made his way forward and joined the trapped platoon.

It took Mr. Keeble little time to decide that immediate action had to be taken. He courageously crawled directly into the line of fire to take out the enemy machine guns. He successfully crawled up the rocky terrain and neutralized the first two machine gun nests by hurling grenades and rendering them useless. The remaining enemy machine gun nest brought terrific fire down upon him. Undaunted by the rain of concussion and fragmentation grenades, Mr. Keeble proceeded to disable the final enemy position. After missing the enemy with his last grenade, he launched a one-man assault with his M-1 rifle. By this time, he sustained multiple shrapnel wounds. Fearlessly, he took out the final machine gun position with his rifle. While awaiting the arrival of his fellow soldiers, he continued to singlehandedly take out two additional nearby trenches of enemy troops, and he effectively neutralized the enemy stronghold, involving a series of close combat struggles. Mr. Keeble's heroic actions led to the successful accomplishment of Company G's mission and, no doubt, saved the lives of many American troops.

Those who served with Mr. Keeble twice recommended him for the Congressional Medal of Honor, but the recommendations were lost. The first was due to the regiment's move from the Korean theater, and the second was an inability to meet mapping requirements. However, it should be noted that both instances of application only required two signatures, but in each case, all the men in Master Sergeant Keeble's company signed the Congressional Medal of Honor request. Eventually, the deadline for the Medal of Honor consideration passed, but Mr. Keeble's family was granted their request in 2002 that his file be reopened.

For his acts of heroism he was awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the Silver Star, and the Distinguished Service Cross. The criteria for the Congressional Medal of Honor include deeds of personal bravery, self-sacrifice, or an action that conspicuously

distinguishes the individual above his comrades. Should the President agree to this recommendation, Mr. Keeble would be the first Sioux Indian to be awarded the Nation's highest military honor if he is chosen to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. Certainly the courageous and patriotic acts exhibited by Mr. Keeble during times of war make him a long overdue and deserving recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Mr. President, I urge the Secretary of Defense to strongly recommend the nomination of MSG Woodrow W. Keeble for the Congressional Medal of Honor to the President of the United States, and I hope my colleagues will join me in saluting a truly brave and courageous American.

MAGNUSON-STEVENSON FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I thank Senators STEVENSON and INOUE, the chair and ranking member of the Senate Commerce Committee, for their efforts in incorporating my amendment into the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2005, S. 2012. My amendment makes Oregon's salmon fishermen eligible for disaster assistance. Their willingness to accommodate my concerns and help Oregon's salmon fishers means that I can withdraw the objection I issued 2 weeks ago to any unanimous consent request for the Senate to act on the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act. I also wish to thank Senator SMITH and Senator BOXER for their important contributions and assistance. I look forward to swift passage of the legislation, as amended.

The inclusion of the disaster declaration in the Magnuson-Stevens authorization is an important first step in getting relief for our salmon fishers and coastal communities that depend on salmon for their livelihoods. After waiting months for a disaster declaration from the administration, our salmon fishers now finally have some movement to help address their immediate financial needs.

Even with this important language, the fight to help Oregon's salmon fishermen is far from over, and I will continue to press for congressional appropriations to fund the disaster assistance fishing families and the coastal fishing communities need.

WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. As ranking member on the Special Committee on Aging, I am pleased that the international community has designated this day. It is important to recognize the grim reality of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation and focus on

what we can do to end these horrible crimes.

In the past 40 years, our Nation has struggled to address some of our society's worst ills: child abuse and domestic violence. Now we must confront elder abuse.

For the past 25 years, Congress has held hearings on the devastating effects of elder abuse, yet we have taken no comprehensive action. Abuse of the elderly is nothing new, but as our Nation has aged and the baby boom generation stands on the cusp of retirement, the prevalence of elder abuse will only get worse. The time to act is now. We can no longer ignore or tolerate the shame and scandal of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of our Nation's seniors.

I have long made ending elder abuse a top priority. I worked hard to develop a national criminal background check system for nursing home, home health, and other long-term care employees. While the vast majority of these employees are diligent, dedicated, and professional, it is too easy for people with abusive and criminal backgrounds to find work in long-term care. This is unacceptable. Today, seven States, including my home State of Wisconsin, are engaged in a pilot project based on my legislation which requires long-term care employers to run FBI criminal background checks on potential employees before they are hired and trusted to care for our loved ones. My hope is that upon completion of this pilot project, we will move to a national criminal background check system and protect seniors in all 50 States.

I am also a proud original cosponsor of the Elder Justice Act, which takes a number of steps to prevent and treat elder abuse. It will improve prevention and intervention by funding State and local projects that keep older Americans safe. It will ensure that health officials, social services, law enforcement, long-term care facilities, consumer advocates, and families are all working together to confront this problem; and, it will establish training programs so health professionals in both forensic pathology and geriatrics can better detect elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Finally, the bill will establish victim assistance programs, create "safe havens" for seniors in dangerous living situations, and help train law enforcement officers to prioritize and investigate cases of elder abuse.

Researchers have warned us that the reported cases of elder abuse might only be the tip of the iceberg; that is why World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is so important. We must spread the word: elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation is occurring every day and, if left unchecked, will only grow more prevalent. As I continue my efforts here in the Senate, I encourage my colleagues and Americans everywhere to join me in putting an end to this terrible scourge of elder abuse.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING 17 OUTSTANDING HOOSIER DADS

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, it is my privilege today to pay tribute to 17 Hoosier men whose outstanding commitment to fatherhood serves as example of how responsible, involved dads can promote stronger families and raise exceptional children.

This year, I invited Hoosier children to pay tribute to their dads by writing essays about what makes their father an Outstanding Hoosier Dad.

In a nation that leads the world in absentee fatherhood, it is particularly important this Father's Day to recognize outstanding dads who are doing their part to raise bright, healthy children. Children whose fathers are absent are five times more likely to live in poverty and twice as likely to commit a crime, drop out of school or become substance abusers. The essays provided a touching reminder to all men of the impact they have when they play an active role in their children's lives.

It is an honor today to recognize the 17 Hoosier children who submitted essays and their outstanding dads by reading their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States.

R. Bradley Allen, father of John Allen, South Bend
 Ronnie Asher, father of Jessica Asher, Martinsville
 Brian Bolsen, father of Brennan Bolsen, Chesterton
 Neil Day, father of Adam Day, Fort Wayne
 Chris Dixon, father of William Dixon, Bloomington
 Kevin Ford, father of Kimberly Ford, Schererville
 Jeff Gratz, father of Clare Gratz, Batesville
 Tom Gutzwiller, father of Lawson Gutzwiller, Batesville
 Samuel Hale, father of Greg Hale, Granger
 Dennis Mansfield, father of Alison Mansfield, Fort Wayne
 Matt McKaig, father of Caleb McKaig, Urbana
 Jonathan Plucker, father of Paige Plucker, Bloomington
 Frederick Richards, father of Corey Richards, Churubusco
 Andy Schultz, father of Mary Kate Schultz, DeMotte
 Mike Stefanski, father of Matthew Stefanski, Valparaiso
 Amitav Thamba, father of Aish Thamba, Fishers
 Wiley Traylor, father of Stephanie Traylor, Mooresville•

IN HONOR OF GEORGE WINGATE HIGH SCHOOL

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to honor George Wingate High School in Brooklyn, NY. Wingate High School, my alma mater, will graduate its last class on June 27, 2006.

In 1954, Wingate High School accepted its first class of students and had its first graduating class in 1957. It was the first high school built in New York after the end of World War II, and it embodied many of the ideals of the

baby boomer generation. Wingate High School was so different from the standard design plan for schools that it became known as "The Banjo School" because of its open design.

Wingate High School was also innovative in its approach to teaching. Instead of focusing strictly on academic classes, Wingate was one of the first high schools in the Nation to offer a comprehensive range of classes in vocational, commercial and academic fields. Wingate High School has been known for its outstanding aviation, culinary arts, nursing and law programs, and many of its students have gone on to become successful pilots, chefs, nurses and attorneys.

Wingate has had a few famous graduates such as former New York State senator and current Brooklyn Borough president, Marty Markowitz, and Roger Brown, a New York City playground legend who went on to greatness in the American Basketball Association. However, thousands of other Wingate graduates have made priceless contributions to their communities, in part because of the valuable lessons they learned there.

I firmly believe that a quality education is the key to our youths' success and our nation's future. I commend Wingate's teachers, faculty, staff, and volunteers for their many years of hard work and dedication to Wingate High School's students. Their work has resulted in thousands of students who are better prepared to face the world and its challenges. I commend them for their commitment to quality education. Their enthusiasm and love of teaching means a brighter future for all of our children.

Wingate High School's motto is: "Ad Astra per Ardua"—"To the stars through struggle." In its 52-year history, George Wingate High School has graduated thousands of students who have gone on to make the world a better place. Though the journey has not always been easy, I know that Wingate's 2006 graduates will go on to do great things.

I give my most sincere congratulations and best wishes for the future to Wingate High School's Class of 2006.●

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

• Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I rise in support of the National History Day program. A basic knowledge of history is essential for our Nation's children to become active participants in our democracy, and National History Day is promoting history education in Minnesota and throughout the Nation. National History Day empowers teachers to improve history education so that every student will have historical knowledge and skills to contribute to the public good of our Nation. The National History Day program also allows students to create exhibits, documentaries and performances, by using their critical thinking and research skills in the subject of history.