

opportunities to participate in reading and writing projects. Recently, Challenger Elementary pupils partnered with the Arctic Cat Corporation to create educational books about snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles for elementary-age children. These books now are being sold nationwide.

Challenger Elementary has benefited greatly from the strong support of the school board, which backed the Literacy Collaborative financially, as well as the community, which donated more than \$40,000 for the school's book room. To date, staff members and volunteers have given more than 1,160 hours of their time preparing the book room, which boasts more than 5,000 volumes. Clearly, the Literacy Collaborative is more than a school initiative; it is also a prized community initiative that has been embraced by many volunteers and generous donors.

The program's success is evident in the students' strong test scores. Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment scores have improved since the initiation of the Literacy Collaborative, and Northwest Evaluation Association scores are also on the rise. In 2006, Challenger Elementary received four stars in reading from the Minnesota Department of Education.

Much of the credit for Challenger Elementary School's success belongs to its principal, Patrick Marolt, and the dedicated teachers. The children and staff at Challenger Elementary School understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where children can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and pupils at Challenger Elementary School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Challenger Elementary School in Thief River Falls for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

**BAXTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
BAXTER, MINNESOTA**

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I honor Baxter Elementary School, in Baxter, MN, which will soon receive an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Baxter Elementary School is truly a model of educational success. Located in one of Minnesota's most rapidly growing communities, Baxter Elementary School is setting a high standard for academic achievement throughout the school district. Baxter Elementary is committed to continuous curriculum review and staff development. The school offers a variety of enrichment opportunities to children, such as the Junior Achievement Program and the Junior Great Books Program. An after-school program called Pals at Play is offered for children who need support in certain curricular areas.

Baxter Elementary has developed an innovative program called Teachers Needing Teachers, designed to assist pupils who are struggling in the classroom but who do not meet the criteria for special education services. The Teachers Needing Teachers Program is composed of an intervention team of experienced teaching professionals: a representative from each grade level at the school, the principal, a special education teacher, and the school's home-to-school collaborative liaison. The team has helped colleagues improve the classroom performance of children who are challenged academically and/or behaviorally.

Baxter Elementary has an active Parent-Teacher Organization that contributes greatly to the excellence of the school. The recent efforts of the PTO resulted in a significant expansion of the book collection in the library, as well as upgrades to the computer lab, playgrounds, and the Literacy Collaborative book room.

The success of Baxter Elementary is also reflected in its test scores. In 2005, the school was awarded five stars in reading and math from the Minnesota Department of Education.

Much of the credit for Baxter Elementary School's success belongs to its principal, Erin Herman, and the dedicated teachers. The children and staff at Baxter Elementary understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where children can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and pupils at Baxter Elementary School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Baxter Elementary School in Baxter for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

**BADGER SCHOOL DISTRICT,
BADGER, MINNESOTA**

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I honor Badger School District, in Badger, MN, which will soon receive an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Badger School is truly a model of educational success. The school is dedicated to insuring that all students are prepared to function successfully and contribute to our ever-expanding world of technology and knowledge. Realizing that education is a multifaceted system involving the school, community, family, and governing bodies, Badger has developed an innovative curriculum that challenges students to achieve higher standards.

To prepare students to succeed in a global economy, Badger School recently received a grant to implement Project Lead the Way, a pre-engineering curriculum that promotes the integration of science, math, technology,

and engineering. The district has also partnered with Humanitarian Services for Children of Vietnam and has a sister school in Hanoi. Through this partnership, the children are learning about cultural diversity and helping those less fortunate.

Badger School District serves 217 students in kindergarten through grade 12. The elementary school was recognized by the Minnesota Department of Education as a four-star school in reading and as a five-star school in math in 2003 and 2004. In 2005, the school received five stars in both subjects. Badger Secondary School received a three-star rating in math and reading in 2004 and improved to a four-star rating in math in 2005. As further testimony to the exemplary performance of Badger School District, the district was named an outperformer in math and reading based on academic achievement levels compared with the percentage of economically disadvantaged students in the district by Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services.

Much of the credit for Badger School District's success belongs to its principal and superintendent, Gwen Borgen, and the dedicated teachers. The students and staff at Badger School District understand that in order to be successful a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where students can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and students at Badger School District should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Badger School District in Badger for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

**LAKEVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
LAKEVILLE, MINNESOTA**

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I honor Lakeview Elementary School, in Lakeville, MN, which will soon receive an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Lakeview Elementary School is truly a model of educational success, and its staff is committed to the success of every child. The school has developed an early intervention program to identify children, early in their school career, who could have difficulties in reading and to provide intensive assistance in both kindergarten and first grade. This program has been extremely successful and has served as a model for other Lakeville schools and other school districts throughout the State.

Lakeview Elementary challenges all pupils to excel in reading through participation in an extensive, out-of-school reading program called "Accelerated Reader." The AR program encourages children to read more and to increase comprehension through computer-based assessments, which the

children take after reading each book. For their efforts, pupils earn points, which they can then spend at the AR store twice a year.

Parents' involvement is another reason for Lakeview Elementary's exceptional performance. This fall, 99.6 percent of all parents attended their child's conferences. Parents are also very active in both the Lakeville Elementary Volunteer Organization and in the Parent Advisory Council. Last year, LEVO raised over \$17,900 to improve the educational program, providing a poetry residency for all pupils, funding two assembly presentations, purchasing lap-top computers for the children's use, providing funds for transportation for all field trips, expanding the number of AR tests available, and funding the new art bulletin boards.

Lakeview Elementary stresses the importance of being a good citizen through service projects. Last year, the children adopted an elementary school in Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and held a fundraiser to buy school supplies and coats for the displaced children. This service project created a strong bond between the two schools, and the children communicated with their counterparts throughout the school year. The children also held a fund drive for the Pennies for Patients Children's Leukemia Campaign for which they raised more than \$2,600.

Lakeview Elementary School has consistently been ranked a Minnesota five-star school over the past few years, recognized for excellence by the Minnesota Department of Education.

Much of the credit for Lakeview Elementary School's success belongs to its principal, Terry Lind, and the dedicated teachers. The children and staff at Lakeview Elementary School understand that in order to be successful a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where children can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and pupils at Lakeview Elementary School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Lakeview Elementary School in Lakeville for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

SCHOOLCRAFT LEARNING COMMUNITY, BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I honor Schoolcraft Learning Community, in Bemidji, MN, which will soon receive an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Schoolcraft Learning Community is truly a model of educational success. The school, which is designed according to the principles of "service and compassion," uses learning through

service as a supplement to scholarly study to deepen intellectual growth, build character, and contribute to the community in a meaningful way. The school views combining service with study as a powerful motivator for giving young people a purpose to learn. In the context of service work, students writing a letter, making a brochure, or creating a book are encouraged to perform at a higher level because the audience is a real one and because students have an authentic reason to communicate.

An integral part of the Schoolcraft culture is the weekly conflict management/resolution class, which teaches peacekeeping skills. A group of 29 students, part of a Students Teaching Attitudes of Respect—STAR—team, visits other schools to promote conflict resolution skills.

Schoolcraft deepens educational opportunities through a half-year integrated unit of study during which a student conducts an in-depth investigation of a theme or topic through authentic research, projects, field work, service, and reflection.

The success of Schoolcraft Learning Community is reflected in the students' development into self-directed, lifelong learners who have the skills and knowledge to navigate confidently and compassionately in the world. The school's strong test scores have also been recognized by the Minnesota Department of Education; in 2006, Schoolcraft Learning Community received four stars in reading from the department.

Much of the credit for Schoolcraft Learning Community's success belongs to its director and superintendent, Scott Anderson, and the dedicated teachers. The students and staff at Schoolcraft Learning Community understand that in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where students can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and students at Schoolcraft Learning Community should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Schoolcraft Learning Community in Bemidji for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

TRIBUTE TO CAROLE KELL OF COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute in the RECORD of the Senate to my friend Carole Kell, who is a great Georgian, a great American, and a great citizen of Cobb County. Next week Carole will be honored by the Cobb Chamber of Commerce as the East Cobb Citizen of the Year for her many contributions to the quality of life in Cobb County, GA.

Carole has a long and distinguished record as an educator in Cobb County,

where she has lived for over 40 years. During her career, she served as the principal of Dickerson Middle School and Hightower Trail Middle School. I believe education is the most important thing we can provide for our children and for our country's future, and I commend Carole for her dedication to the success of her students over the years.

Carole also has a long history of community involvement in my hometown of Marietta, GA, where she is a well-respected and dedicated leader. Although Carole has retired from the workforce, she has not "retired" from her commitment to her community. Hopefully, she never will.

Carole is a longstanding member of the board of directors of the Cobb YMCA and the Business Education Steering Committee of the Cobb Chamber of Commerce. She is the chair of the Committee for Election of the Cobb County Commission and chair of the Wellstar Cancer Council.

Carole also serves on the advisory board for Johnson Ferry Community Bank of the South, the Cobb and Douglas Board of Health, and the Cobb and Douglas Community Services Board. In addition, she is a member of the Cobb County Republican Women's Club and a board member of the Cobb Boys and Girls Club as well as a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Kell High School, which is named after her late husband.

Carole was an active member of Marietta Baptist Church, where she taught Sunday School for children, sang in the adult choir, and helped with the children's choir. She is currently a member of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church. Carole has also raised funds over the years for the American Cancer Society, the Leukemia Society, and the American Heart Association.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure and it is a privilege to recognize on the floor of the U.S. Senate the contributions of Carole Kell to Cobb County and the State of Georgia.●

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORCHARD HOUSE

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I speak today in honor of The Orchard House Adult Day Center and its hardworking and dedicated staff on the occasion of their 25th anniversary.

For the past 25 years, Orchard House has been serving the needs of the elderly and the disabled, with loving care. The center has provided medical monitoring, recreational therapeutic treatment, and innovative programs to the mentally and physically challenged adults of the Connecticut community. Hundreds of families from the greater New Haven area have been granted respite at the Orchard House and both the State and the Nation have recognized Orchard House with awards for service and humanitarianism.

The Orchard House's dedication and commitment to the citizens of Connecticut can be seen not only through