

review the Interior Department's budget request for the coming fiscal year. The Interior Secretary is always seated, front and center, at the main table in our hearing room ready to answer the myriad of questions coming from our subcommittee's members. And despite the sometimes obscure nature of the questions asked, the Secretary has always been able to offer a timely, if not credible, answer. That ability to respond is more often than not due to the fact that, seated immediately next to the Secretary, has been John Trezise and the fattest looseleaf binder any of us has ever seen. No matter what is asked, John has been able to reach into that book and almost instantly retrieve a figure or some other pithy explanation that nearly always seems to satisfy the inquiring Senator. It is a magical exercise that must be seen to be believed.

Mr. President, too often the word "bureaucrat" is used as a pejorative. But in the case of John Trezise, those of us on the Interior Subcommittee have come to learn that he exemplifies the best in civil service. And so I join Senator BURNS in saying to Mr. Trezise that he can be justly proud of his service to the American people and that we wish him and his family all the best in the coming years.

RETIREMENT OF MR. ANTHONY J. "TONY" ZAGAMI

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, at the end of this year, a longtime employee of the Congress and the legislative branch will retire from Federal Service. On January 3, Anthony J. "Tony" Zagami will leave the U.S. Government Printing Office, having been the longest serving general counsel in the agencies history.

Tony Zagami began his career as a page in the U.S. Senate in the mid 1960s as I was completing my first term as a U.S. Senator from Hawaii. His late father, Dino, also served the U.S. Senate at that time as a member of the Official Reporters of Debates. I had the pleasure of knowing and working with both of the Zagami's during that period of time. Dino retired in 1972 as Tony's congressional career was just getting underway.

Tony held a number of positions on the Hill while pursuing an undergraduate and law degree. He spent a total of 25 years working for the Congress in positions ranging from Senate page to committee general counsel, before leaving in 1990 to become the general counsel for the Government Printing Office. As you know, the GPO is responsible for producing and distributing our CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and other vital Government documents on a daily basis.

After 40 years of dedicated Government service, Tony Zagami has decided to move on to the next chapter of his life. As he ends a distinguished career, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tony Zagami for his many

years of public service to our Nation and wish him and his family the very best in all future endeavors.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, at the end of this year, Anthony "Tony" Zagami will retire after 40 years of public service, including the last 16 years at the Government Printing Office, which publishes the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for all of us every day.

I first met Tony when I served in my first term in the Senate. He was working as a legislative assistant in the Democratic cloakroom. He spent 25 years working in the Congress, including general counsel to the Joint Committee on Printing.

In 1990, Tony left to become the general counsel at the Government Printing Office. When he retires it will be with the distinction of having been the agency's longest-serving general counsel.

As he moves on, I know all my colleagues join me in thanking him for his dedicated service, and wish him the best for the future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO PAIGE McPHERSON

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Paige McPherson of Sturgis, SD, for her success in the martial art of tae kwon do. Paige is considered one of the top female Tae Kwon Do fighters in the country in the 130- to 139-pound weight class.

Paige McPherson trains and teaches out of the Black Hawk tae kwon do center in Black Hawk, SD. She has successfully competed in tae kwon do tournaments at the national level and has secured a spot for the 2007 Senior National Team and Pan American Game Trials.

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Paige McPherson on this special occasion and to wish her continued success in the years to come.●

SHIRLEY HILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL, MOUND, MINNESOTA

• Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I honor Shirley Hills Primary School, in Mound, Minnesota, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Shirley Hills Primary School is truly a model of educational success. The teaching staff believes wholeheartedly that all children can succeed, a philosophy that has led to performance rates that are among the best in the State. The learning environment values strong character in addition to academic achievement. In addition, the vibrant school community offers a pre-school program, to help ensure a smooth transition to kindergarten.

Shirley Hills Primary School is particularly proud of its designation as a Minnesota five-star school, recognized for excellence by the Minnesota De-

partment of Education. The school recently received the Parent Involvement School of Excellence Award from the National PTA, recognizing its strong partnership with parents. The Westonka School District which includes Shirley Hills Primary School has also earned the What Parents Want Award, given by SchoolMatch, the Nation's largest school-selection consulting firm. The award was earned by fewer than 15 percent of the Nation's public school districts. The Westonka District was also 1 of 22 Minnesota school districts named academic outperformers by Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services.

Shirley Hills Primary fosters the development of strong character by recognizing children for demonstrating responsibility, respect, and honesty. An all-school assembly every month includes the presentation of a trophy, given successively in due course to a child who has demonstrated one of these qualities. Shirley Hills pupils know that good character is lived out, in all areas of life; it is how they choose to live, not just how they behave in school.

In the belief that children can succeed better in the global economy when knowledgeable about other languages and cultures, Shirley Hills offers before- and after-school Spanish classes for kindergarten through fourth grade. The school district is also pursuing a secondary-level educational exchange program with China.

Shirley Hills' staff encourages families to expect great test scores but not to settle for that alone. The school proudly has high expectations for achievement and behavior, and just as proudly provides educational experiences that take into account the whole child. Teachers know each child's strengths and growth areas, and they work together with parents to help every child grow as a learner, as well as a valued human being.

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

I congratulate Shirley Hills Primary School in Mound for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

LAKE MARION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, LAKEVILLE, MINNESOTA

• Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Lake Marion Elementary School, in Lakeville, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence