

Bernardino campus. By 1994 he served as acting vice president for academic affairs, and was named provost a year later. Since then, Dr. Fernandez has served the university and the surrounding communities by working to secure a sound academic plan for academic growth, a responsible university budget, and a university-wide commitment to student diversity.

For several years, Dr. Fernandez chaired the National Association of Geology Teachers Minority Affairs Committee. He served on the National Science Foundation's Advisory Committee to the Earth Sciences. He chaired the American Geological Institute's Minority Participation Program Advisory Committee, and as a member of the Geological Society of America's Ad Hoc Committee on Minorities, and the National Association of Geology Teacher's Minority Scholarship Program. For his broad service and leadership, the Hispanic Caucus of the American Association of Higher Education awarded him the Outstanding Support of Hispanic Issues in Higher Education Award.

Throughout his long career in education and public service, Dr. Louis Fernandez has consistently worked to foster stronger communities and attain higher education ideals. I am pleased to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on his retirement.●

2008 WE THE PEOPLE NATIONAL FINALS

● Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, from May 3-5, 2008, more than 1,200 students from across the country visited Washington, DC to take part in the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution National Finals. We the People is the most extensive educational program in the country developed to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

While in Washington, the students took part in a 3-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which they "testify" before a panel of judges. Students demonstrated their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles as they evaluated, assumed, and defended positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. It is important to note that results of independent studies of this nationally acclaimed program reveal that We the People students have knowledge gains that are superior to comparison students. Students also display a greater political tolerance and commitment to the principles and values of the Constitution and Bill of Rights than do students using traditional textbooks and approaches. With many reports and surveys indicating the lack of civic knowledge and civic participation, I am pleased to support such a superb pro-

gram that is producing an enlightened and engaged citizenry.

I am proud to announce that a class from Elkins High School in Missouri City, represented the State of Texas at this prestigious national event. These outstanding students, through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, won their statewide competition and earned the chance to come to our Nation's Capital and compete at the national level.

Mr. President, the names of these outstanding students from Elkins High School are: Krystal Castillo, Andrea Cavazos, Deborah Choate, Andrew Cockroft, Lucretia Eiler, Jimmy Guerrero, Josh Hanks, Lara Hogue, Nick Johnson, Tiffany Kell, Curtis Kelso, D.J. Kinneman, Matt MacKo, Colton Mendez, Jonny Murthy, Olusola Oyewuwo, Tej Pandya, Bryan Philpott, Justina Rodriguez, Deepa Sabu, Nick Shipman, Piarose Siatong, Ivette Soto, Achal Upadhyaya, Courtney Williams, Angela Wu, and Arif Yusuf.

I also wish to commend the teacher of the class, Marilyn Ellington, who is responsible for preparing these young constitutional experts for the National Finals. Also worthy of special recognition is Jan Miller, the State coordinator who is responsible for implementing the We the People program in my State.

I congratulate these students on their exceptional success at the We the People national finals.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. TIMOTHY WHITE

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize the close to 4 years of dedicated service and leadership provided by Dr. Timothy White, outgoing president of the University of Idaho. Son of immigrants from Argentina to Canada and then to the United States, Dr. White is a first-generation college graduate. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, and is known internationally for his work in kinesiology, gerontology and human biodynamics, working in those fields at the University of Michigan and at Berkeley. Before coming to Idaho in August 2004, Dr. White served as provost and executive vice president at Oregon State University and as interim president.

Dr. White put his vision of excellence in research, math and science into practice at the University of Idaho. Indeed, he shares my strong belief in the critical importance of math and science to education, from primary school to graduate degree programs. In a recent guest editorial, Dr. White stated: "Idaho will prosper in the global economy if our work force is better prepared in the areas of math, science, technology and engineering Critical-thinking and reasoning abilities—cornerstones of an educated citizenry and work force—are also dramatically aided by strong math and science skills." And Dr. White put ideas into action, overseeing critical programs

that bridge the gap between middle and high school teachers and students and the University. While serving as president, Dr. White oversaw both the Gateway to Mathematics Program, which provides middle school teachers the chance to improve math teaching skills through interactive distance technology, and the Gateway to Calculus Program, which offers rural high school students an opportunity to learn calculus online when their particular school cannot offer such courses. He also oversaw the innovative and nationally acclaimed Polya Mathematics Learning Center at the University which helps undergraduate students master entry-level mathematics in an interactive and creative way, using both advanced technology and teaching staff to help students of varied learning styles overcome aversions to math.

Dr. White's influence reached beyond math and science programs and initiatives. He created the Plan for Renewal of People, Programs and Place, based on the report of a task force he established to reinforce and enhance the university's academic and institutional excellence in today's world. The plan centered the University's resource allocation and mission, vision, and values around five key academic areas: science and technology, liberal arts and sciences, entrepreneurial innovation, the environment, and sustainable design and lifestyle. He saw the university engage in programs such as Operation Education Scholarship, Water of the West, Building Sustainable Communities, Bioregional Planning and Community Design and Biological Applications of Nanotechnology. During his term as president, the University of Idaho has been involved in many public-private partnerships with science and technology across the State, particularly in agriculture research. In 2006, the university opened an aquaculture biotechnology laboratory at its Hagerman fish culture experiment station, and University scientists now conduct cutting edge small grains germplasm research together with USDA Agriculture Research Service staff at a new addition to the ARS Aberdeen research facility, also opened in 2006. Under the direction of Dr. White, the University of Idaho continued its efforts to open a critical agriculture research endeavor the Idaho Center for Livestock and Environmental Studies that will serve as an environmental research center for dairy and livestock and operate as a self-sustaining animal feeding operation. And agriculture is not the only science and technology partnership the university has pursued under Dr. White's leadership: it is a partner with the Idaho National Lab in a multiuniversity public-private research and development endeavor in Idaho Falls called the Center for Advanced Energy Studies.

Dr. White has worked diligently over the past 4 years to adapt the University of Idaho to our changing world,

meeting students' educational needs and keeping the university on the cutting edge of innovative education, research, and academic excellence. I wish Tim and his wife Karen all the best as they move to southern California and he assumes the chancellorship of University of California, Riverside, this fall.●

HONORING DON BRIGHT,

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Don Bright, who has served as supervisor of the Nebraska National Forest since 2001. In this capacity, Don has overseen the management of nearly 1.1 million acres of public land, including the Buffalo Gap and Fort Pierre National Grasslands, in my home State of South Dakota. I have enjoyed working with Don and value his hard work and leadership. I know that Don will carry this same degree of professionalism with him to his new position at the Albuquerque Headquarters.

I want to take a few minutes and explain to the Senate the role Don has played in shaping the relationship of the Forest Service and local communities. As supervisor of the Nebraska National Forest, Don guided a revision of its Land Management Plan and took the lead in addressing complicated, yet important, prairie dog management issues. By working with area ranchers to find solutions to managing local resources, Don helped foster a spirit of collaboration that benefits all involved.

For the past 8 years, South Dakota has faced a devastating drought and continual threat of fire throughout its grasslands. In response to this challenge, Don has improved fire and fuels management plans and worked hand-in-hand with local volunteer fire departments to form lasting bonds of cooperation that help protect both lands and citizens.

Most importantly, Don is someone that is trusted by and has worked well with the many groups interested in public lands management throughout South Dakota and Nebraska. His countless hours of hard work have undoubtedly had a positive impact for the Forest Service.

In closing, I want to thank Don Bright for his professionalism, service and assistance over these many years and wish him the best of luck in his new position. I know that Don can leave knowing that future generations will be well-served by his efforts.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL KENNETH O. MCCREEDY

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I wish to publicly commend and congratulate Colonel Kenneth O. McCreedy, U.S. Army, upon his retirement after 28 years of military service. I have come to know and respect Colonel McCreedy over the last 3 years, while he served as the installation commander of Fort

Meade, MD. His tenure as the installation commander was highlighted by his constant civic engagement with the Fort Meade military and civilian community. During this time he signed the first Army Community Covenant in Maryland, solidifying support for servicemembers and their families.

Colonel McCreedy was proactive in working with surrounding counties to prepare them for the growth challenges of BRAC 2005. Placing a heavy emphasis on strong community engagement, he worked closely with the Anne Arundel County School Board to secure the International Baccalaureate Program and Homeland Security Signature Program for Meade High School. Colonel McCreedy spearheaded the first two Meade Alliance Education Summits that focused on working with school boards and colleges to develop programs and initiatives to prepare today's students for future careers in the Federal Government. I am extremely grateful for the outstanding leadership and keen sense of community service that Colonel McCreedy has brought to the servicemembers, families, and civilian employees of Fort Meade.

Commissioned as a military intelligence officer, Colonel McCreedy first served at Fort Riley, KS as the S2 and Scout Platoon Leader of 3-37 Armor and assistant S2 of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. After completing the Post-Graduate Intelligence Program at the Defense Intelligence College and Spanish instruction at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA, Colonel McCreedy was assigned to the U.S. Southern Command in Panama as a country analyst in the J2. Following Operation JUST CAUSE, he was assigned to Fort Hood, TX, where he was a G2 Operations Officer in the Third Corps, commanded a CI/IPW Company in the 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion, and served as the S3 Plans Officer for the 504th Military Intelligence Brigade.

After attending school at Fort Leavenworth, KS, Colonel McCreedy served in Germany as the V Corps G2 Plans Officer, S3 of the 302nd Military Intelligence Battalion, and S3 of the 205th Military Intelligence Brigade. He then served as a member of the Commander's Initiatives Group while on duty in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Returning from Europe in 1999, he served as a Fellow at the National Security Agency at Fort Meade, prior to his assignment to Fort Gordon, GA, as commander of the 201st Military Intelligence Battalion. He next was appointed professor of military science at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA. After attending the Army War College, Colonel McCreedy worked in the Force Transformation Office in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Colonel McCreedy holds a bachelor's degree in history from Washington and Lee University, master's and doctorate degrees in history from the University of California, Berkeley, a Master of Military Art and Science from the

Army Command and Staff College, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the Army War College. He is a graduate of both the Army's School of Advanced Military Studies and the Advanced Strategic Art Program.

Among his awards and decorations, Colonel McCreedy has earned the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, and the NATO Medal.

Mr. President, the Army, the State of Maryland, and the Nation are lucky to have had the service of such a great soldier. He will be sorely missed. Best wishes to Colonel McCreedy and his family.●

HONORING THE BAKER COMPANY

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I congratulate the Baker Company, a cutting-edge small company from my home State of Maine that has earned tremendous recognition as the Maine International Trade Center's 2008 Exporter of the Year. The award will be presented to the company at the Maine International Trade Day dinner this Thursday, May 22. The company's leadership on a host of safety issues—and the loyal customer base it has earned around the world, including in Europe, Asia, and Africa—make the Baker Company most deserving of this award.

Founded in 1949, the Baker Company, headquartered in Sanford, has consistently been a leader in designing and manufacturing biological safety cabinets, fume hoods, and clean benches. These products make laboratories worldwide safer, more efficient, and better equipped to focus on essential scientific research. From its beginnings, the Baker Company has always been at the forefront of crafting new and unique products to lead the industry. In 1951, the company unveiled the very first clean air cabinet. The firm's solid commitment to craftsmanship and its stellar reputation gained the Baker Company significant acknowledgement over the years. In 1979, Lockheed Aircraft Biosystems chose the company to build a biological safety cabinet for a NASA shuttle flight. Since that time, the firm has only increased its ingenuity and has worked with enterprises worldwide to make improvements to their technological safety.

To best promote its role at the vanguard of laboratory safety, the Baker Company founded the Eagleson Institute in 1989. Dedicated to the memory of the firm's longtime president, John M. Eagleson, the nonprofit institute promotes the practice of lab safety through a variety of mediums, including seminars, lectures, and interactive CD-ROMs. The seminars comprise a vast array of topics, from fundamentals of laboratory safety to safety cabinet technology. The seminars are delivered through a variety of instructional techniques, including role playing, problem solving, and demonstrations.