

Van Oosterhout, husband to Becky and father to Leah, Sarah, Joe and Andrew, will be remembered for his excellent service and dedication to the Department of State Police, friendly demeanor and concern for those he worked with. I extend my warmest congratulations to him on his retirement.●

MICHIGAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to honor five men who have been newly elected to the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame. Earvin "Magic" Johnson, one of basketball's all time greatest players who began his career with Michigan State University and gained further fame as a Los Angeles Laker; Leonard "Red" Kelly, one of the Red Wings greatest players who was recently named one of the 50 greatest players in NHL history; Bob Reynolds, the legendary sports broadcaster at the radio station WJR in Detroit; Isiah Thomas, possibly the greatest Detroit Piston of all time; and George Webster, All American linebacker from Michigan State University.

In addition to the inductees, Peter Karmanos, Jr., Chairman of the Compuware Corporation and owner of the Carolina Hurricanes of the National Hockey League will receive the Gerald R. Ford Sports Person of the Year Award. All of these men will be honored at the 44th Annual Induction Dinner of the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame on Wednesday evening, May 20, 1998 at Detroit's Cobo Center.

I want to extend my sincerest congratulations to all of these men. I am confident that the event will be a great success.●

COVERDELL A+ SAVINGS ACCOUNTS BILL—EXPLANATION OF VOTES

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, the Senate recently voted on an important piece of legislation, the Coverdell A+ Savings Account bill. I believe it is important to clarify my position on several amendments offered to this bill.

In general, I believe the best way to ensure effective education policy is to direct as many dollars and resources as possible to the local level. By giving localities the resources and flexibility they need, I am confident that communities and parents will best direct those funds to meet the unique and diverse needs of their children. For this reason, I support the Coverdell A+ Savings Account bill. This legislation, puts resources at the most local level: with parents. Parents will now have the ability to save for and meet the educational needs of their children. Whether it means hiring a tutor for their child, buying a home computer, finding an alternative educational setting, or saving for college, parents will be in the position to take positive steps towards providing a positive educational future for their children.

For similar reasons, I supported an amendment offered by Senator GORTON to give states the option of (1) continuing to receive federal education programs under the current funding system; (2) receiving federal education programs as a block grant going directly to the state without federal regulations; or (3) receiving federal education programs in a block grant going directly to the local education agency without federal regulations. By allowing local education agencies to receive federal resources without federal red tape and bureaucracy, we will be putting more power and flexibility in the hands of the people most closely involved with educating children. As a safe-guard to ensure that an appropriate level of federal funding continues, Senator GORTON's amendment insists that if future funding dips below the current level of funding, the programs would be forced back into the current categorical funding.

I also supported an amendment offered by Senators MACK and D'AMATO which would allow states to use existing block grant funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to fund teacher testing and merit pay programs in the state. I believe this amendment would allow states to develop important programs to help ensure quality teachers in the classroom and to pay those teachers accordingly.

Finally, I supported an amendment that was offered by Senator KAY BALLEW HUTCHISON which clarified the federal position on same-sex schools. This amendment would allow same-sex classrooms and schools to be eligible to receive federal funding as long as comparable education opportunities are offered for students of both sexes. I believe the federal government must allow states and communities to find creative solutions to meeting the educational needs of their children.

Again, I support the philosophy behind the Coverdell bill and the Gorton amendment which places control, resources, and decision making with parents and local communities. Unfortunately, most of the amendments offered by Democrats, while noble ideas, fund their programs by eliminating the education savings accounts and by focusing the programs and power at the federal level. While there were many interesting ideas debated, such as the amendment offered by Senator LEVIN which would increase the lifetime learning education credit for teachers or the amendment offered by Senator LANDRIEU to provide incentive grants for Blue Ribbon Schools, each proposal was paid for by defunding the A+ Savings Accounts. For that reason, I could not support these weakening amendments.

Senator GLENN offered an amendment which would eliminate the ability of parents to use their tax-free savings to pay for private school tuition or homeschooling expenses. The provision included in the A+ bill is identical to the provision supported by President

Clinton and the Democrats in the Balanced Budget Act which allows parents to save \$500 a year for college expenses. The Balanced Budget Act, which was signed into law by the President, does not differentiate between private and public colleges. It is inconsistent to subsidize a more limited number of college students and not offer the same benefit in K-12 education.

Senator MOSELY-BRAUN offered an amendment to eliminate the Coverdell A+ Savings accounts and to use the money instead to create a federal school construction program. While I recognize the need for adequate school construction, I believe the Coverdell bill more adequately addresses the needs for school construction through a provision included in the legislation offered by Senator GRAHAM. This provision fosters public private partnerships for school construction and maintains the function of school construction at the local level. The bill provides for \$3 billion in tax-exempt bond funding for school construction.

I voted against an amendment offered by Senator KENNEDY which would forgive a maximum of \$8,000 in student loans for teachers entering "high need areas or subjects" and would pay for this provision by eliminating the A+ Savings Accounts. I opposed this amendment because the Higher Education Reauthorization Act approved by the Senate Labor Committee contains similar incentives of student loan forgiveness for teachers entering inner-city or rural teaching environments.

I opposed an amendment offered by Senator BOXER which would create a new \$250 million federal after-school program. While I support after-school mentoring and tutoring programs for children, I believe these programs should be operated at the local level. In addition, the federal government already funds 4 after-school care programs and 19 existing federal programs that provide tutoring and mentoring for students on a one-on-one basis.

I am encouraged by the Senate's action on the Coverdell A+ Savings bill and the amendment offered by Senator GORTON. I look forward to additional debate on education issues and new and innovative proposals to place greater control and resources at the local level.●

REGARDING INTERNATIONAL PROJECT EVALUATING AND FACILITATING INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES

Mr. ROTH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 224, submitted earlier by Senator STEVENS and others.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 224) expressing the sense of the Senate concerning an international project to evaluate and facilitate

the international exchange of advanced technology.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, last spring, the Duma Chairman of the Committee on the Problems of the Russian North, Vladimir Goman, met with Senator COCHRAN and myself to ask us for our participation in a new project which would help facilitate Russia's efforts in the remediation of nuclear wastes.

Since that meeting, the Russian Duma has passed a Resolution pledging funding and infrastructure for the Advanced Technology Research Project (ATRP). In Europe, industry and key decision makers of the European Parliament, the German Bundestag, the Union of European Labor Parties, and several national nuclear waste management and research and development institutions, including the Swiss NAGRA, have all pledged their support for the ATRP.

This ATRP, originally proposed by the Russian Duma, with participation from academia, private industry and governmental and public organizations, is a privately funded, neutral organization. It will facilitate information exchange on nuclear waste management technologies, and the development of a worldwide nuclear waste management technology marketplace. It is the goal of this project to advance self sufficiency in nuclear waste management in Russia and to globally provide advanced and affordable solutions to nuclear waste.

ATRP will be entirely privately funded through private industry, public interest, and scientific organizations. This Private-Public Partnership will be implemented through ATRP's global nuclear waste technology clearinghouse, database, conferences, workshops, and trade shows worldwide. The objective is advanced, safer, and efficient nuclear waste management at the lowest possible cost.

The management of nuclear waste is one of the world's most pressing concerns and perhaps Russia's greatest ecological threat. ATRP will help Russia help itself by developing an international market for technology exchange. It will also benefit United States and all other nuclear nations by making nuclear waste management technology more readily available in the international market place.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this Resolution which will help us all work toward an international solution to this very pressing issue of nuclear waste management.

Mr. ROTH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the preamble be agreed to; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating to the resolution appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 224) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 224

Whereas currently in the post Cold-War world, there are new opportunities to facilitate international political and scientific cooperation on cost-effective and advanced innovative nuclear waste technologies;

Whereas there is increasing public interest in monitoring and remediation of nuclear wastes; and

Whereas it is in the best interest of the United States to explore and develop options with the international community to facilitate the exchange of evolving advanced nuclear waste technologies: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—the President should instruct the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and other officials as appropriate, to consider the Advanced Technology Research Project (known as "ATRP") and report to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate on:

(1) whether the United States should encourage the establishment of an international project to facilitate the evaluation and international exchange of data (including cost data) relating to advanced nuclear waste technologies, including technologies for solid and liquid radioactive wastes and contaminated soils and sediments;

(2) whether such a project could be funded privately through industry, public interest, and scientific organizations and administered by an international non-governmental, nonprofit organization, with operations in the United States, Russia, Japan, and other countries that have an interest in developing such technologies; and

(3) any legislation that the Secretary believes would be required to enable such a project to be undertaken.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE VICE PRESIDENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d-276g, as amended, appoints the following Senators as members of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-U.S. Inter-parliamentary Group during the Second Session of the 105th Congress, to be held in Nantucket, Massachusetts, May 14-18, 1998: The Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY); the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. GRAMS).

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1998

Mr. ROTH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 7, 1998. I further ask unanimous consent that on Thursday, immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted, and the Senate then resume consideration of the Thompson-Sessions amendment No. 2356 to H.R. 2676, the IRS reform bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. ROTH. Madam President, for the information of all Senators, tomorrow

morning at 9:30 a.m., the Senate will resume consideration of the Thompson-Sessions amendment to H.R. 2676, the IRS reform bill. Under the previous order, the time between 9:30 and 10 will be equally divided for debate on the Thompson-Sessions amendment. Following the conclusion or yielding back of the time, the Senate will proceed to vote on or in relation to the amendment.

Senators are reminded that a unanimous consent agreement was reached limiting amendments to the IRS bill. It is hoped that following the 10 a.m. vote, Senators will come to the floor to offer their amendments under short time agreements. The cooperation of all Members will be necessary in order for the Senate to complete action on this very important piece of legislation. Therefore, rollcall votes will occur throughout Thursday's session with respect to the IRS reform bill or any other legislative or executive items cleared for action.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. ROTH. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:21 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, May 7, 1998, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate May 6, 1998:

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

L. BRITT SNIDER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, VICE FRIDERICK PORTER HITZ, RESIGNED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

JOHN P. ABIZAID, 0000
JOSEPH W. ARBUCKLE, 0000
BARRY D. BATES, 0000
WILLIAM G. BOYKIN, 0000
CHARLES C. CAMPBELL, 0000
JAMES L. CAMPBELL, 0000
GEORGE W. CASEY, JR., 0000
DEAN W. CASH, 0000
DENNIS D. CAVIN, 0000
JOSEPH M. COSUMANO, JR., 0000
PETER M. CUVIELLO, 0000
ROBERT F. DEES, 0000
JOHN C. DOESBURG, 0000
JAMES E. DONALD, 0000
BENJAMIN S. GRIFFIN, 0000
DENNIS K. JACKSON, 0000
JAMES T. JACKSON, 0000
WILLIAM J. LENNOX, JR., 0000
ALBERT J. MADORA, 0000
DAVID D. MCKIERNAN, 0000
GEOFFREY D. MILLER, 0000
WILLIE B. NANCE, JR., 0000
ROBERT W. NOONAN, JR., 0000
KENNETH L. PRIVRATSKY, 0000
HAWTHORNE L. PROCTOR, 0000
ROBERT J. ST. ONGE, JR., 0000
ROBERT L. VAN ANTWERP, JR., 0000
DANIEL R. ZANINI, 0000

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

GEORGE P. NANOS, JR., 0000