

are over 114,000 attempted abductions of children by nonfamily members, 4,500 child abductions reported to police, and 438,200 children who are lost, injured, or otherwise missing. These numbers are truly cause for concern by all Americans.

As a parent, I believe local communities, schools, faith-based organizations and law enforcement should be encouraged to work together to protect the most vulnerable members of our society—children. From a federal perspective, I am proud to be a cosponsor of legislation to reauthorize the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program through the next five years. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children operates under a Congressional mandate and works in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice on Delinquency Prevention. I know my colleagues would agree that the Center has an outstanding record of safely recovering missing children across the country, and most recently achieved a 91 percent recovery rate.

Mr. President, as we remember the many missing children across the nation today, I want to especially recognize the relentless work and effort to protect our nation's children by Minnesota's Jacob Wetterling Foundation. The Foundation was established by Jerry and Patty Wetterling after their son, Jacob, was abducted by a masked man at gunpoint near the Wetterling home in St. Joseph, Minnesota. Today, the Jacob Wetterling Foundation is a national, non-profit foundation committed to preventing the exploitation of children through educating, raising awareness and responding to families who are victims of abduction.

Mr. President, our children represent our future and we must continue our work to keep them safe. Again, I commend the numerous volunteers, organizations, and government agencies who all work on a daily basis to find missing children and prevent others from disappearing.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH A. GELLER

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President I rise today to pay a well-deserved tribute to Ruth A. Geller, MSW on the occasion of her retirement from the Connecticut Mental Health Center after 25 years of service as a psychiatric social worker supervisor.

Ruth has demonstrated exceptional compassion, dedication, and professionalism in caring for the severely, chronically mentally impaired of Connecticut. As a mentor and teacher, Ruth has trained a generation of mental health professionals with the same devotion she has brought to her clinical work. As a result, Ruth has instilled in them the ability to become respectful, empathetic mental health providers.

I am proud to stand before the Senate to congratulate Ruth Geller upon

her retirement and thank her for an outstanding career which has enhanced the lives of so many. I wish her continued success in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO IRENE AUBERLIN

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Irene Auberlin, the "Mother Teresa" of Detroit.

Mrs. Auberlin is the founder of World Medical Relief (WMR), an organization which, to date, has distributed more than \$500 million worth of medical goods both in Detroit area, where she lived, and abroad.

Mrs. Auberlin was a quiet homemaker until she saw a television program about orphans in Korea in 1953. She provided supplies to the nuns who ran the orphanage, thus beginning over 46 years of service to the poor. Since then, WMR has sent food, medical equipment, and supplies throughout the United States and to over 120 countries. In 1966, WMR began a monthly prescription program that still exists today, providing medicine to elderly poor in the Detroit area.

Mrs. Auberlin received over 60 awards and commendations, including The President's Volunteer Action Award and Silver Medal, presented to her by President Reagan.

On behalf of the residents of Michigan, the United States, and elsewhere, I want to thank Irene for all that she did to help those in need.●

NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS IN MARYLAND

• Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I am pleased to announce that ten elementary schools throughout Maryland have been named Blue Ribbon School Award winners by the United States Department of Education. These schools are among only 266 elementary schools nationwide to be honored with this award, the most prestigious national school recognition for public and private schools.

The designation as a Blue Ribbon School is a ringing endorsement of the successful techniques which enable the students of these schools to succeed and achieve. Over the past few years, I have made a commitment to visit the Blue Ribbon Schools and have always been delighted to see first hand the interaction between parents, teachers, and the community, which strongly contributed to the success of the school. I look forward to visiting each of these ten schools and congratulating the students, teachers and staff personally for this exceptional accomplishment.

According to the Department of Education, Blue Ribbon Schools have been judged to be particularly effective in meeting local, state and national goals. These schools also display the qualities of excellence that are necessary to prepare our young people for the challenges of the next century. Blue Ribbon

status is awarded to schools which have strong leadership; a clear vision and sense of mission that is shared by all connected with the school; high quality teaching; challenging, up-to-date curriculum; policies and practices that ensure a safe environment conducive to learning; a solid commitment to family involvement; evidence that the school helps all students achieve high standards; and a commitment to share the best practices with other schools.

After a screening process by each State Department of Education, the Department of Defense Dependent Schools, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Council for American Private Education, the Blue Ribbon School nominations were forwarded to the U.S. Department of Education. A panel of outstanding educators from around the country then reviewed the nominations, selected schools for site visits, and made recommendations to Secretary of Education Richard Riley.

The ten winning Maryland elementary schools are as follows:

Ashburton Elementary School, located in Bethesda, is home to 515 students and 64 staff members which provide for a richly diverse school community with an exemplary record of student achievement and an outstanding academic program. This award also credits the SHINE Program—Successful, Helpful, Imaginative, Neighborly, and Enthusiastic—with recognizing students who participate positively in the school community.

Brook Grove Elementary School, located in Olney, not only has a commendable academic strategy, but also is recognized as a school that encourages excellence in the arts and in athletics, and values individuality and diversity as critical to the well-being of the student body.

Our Lady of Mercy School is a co-educational Catholic school in Potomac that combines traditions of academic excellence, intellectual curiosity and fundamental moral and religious values in a successful program that has almost half of its 283 students meeting the criteria of giftedness set by the Institute for the Academic Advancement of Youth.

Oak Hill Elementary School, the most culturally and economically diverse school in the Severna Park area, prioritizes parental involvement in the successful pursuit of quality education for its students. The concept of the "Oak Hill School Family" aims to provide a safe and nurturing school environment, a strong academic program and a philosophy that encourages community involvement.

Salem Avenue Elementary School, located in Hagerstown, has made great strides in the last decade and, as a leader in Washington County, is a school of many "firsts," including being the first Title 1 school to receive a satisfactory or excellent rating in all areas of the Maryland School Performance Assessment Program (MSPAP);