Cari believes that the student experience should never be boring. Each day, she works to create a space where students can truly enjoy what they are learning in her classroom. From composing a new song that helps with memorizing multiplication facts, to building igloo prototypes showing a better understanding of life in the Arctic regions, Cari goes to creative lengths to make both teaching and learning fun.

Cari is a literacy coach at Harbordale Elementary and has taught for 21 years. The success of her students serves as her inspiration, and she encourages them to make the learning process fun, not only in her class, but also in their future endeavors.

I extend my best wishes and sincere gratitude to Cari for her dedication to teaching. I look forward to hearing of her continued good work in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO KRISTA STANLEY

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I honor Krista Stanley, the Okeechobee County Teacher of the year from Yearling Middle School in Okeechobee, FL.

Krista is a sixth grade teacher and has taught at Yearling Middle School for the past 4 years. She serves as the school math representative, a mentor for new teachers, and facilitates professional development focusing on standards based instruction. Krista was previously named the Project One New Teacher of the Year for Okeechobee County in 2016.

Krista believes that all students can learn if they are given the opportunity to do so in the classroom. She is appreciative of her students and cares for them, considering them to be the reason for her success as a teacher.

Throughout the school year, Krista provides her students with the tools they need to be successful and dedicates each day to helping them in any way she can. Reflecting her commitment, in 2019, 86 percent of Krista's students earned a proficient score on the Florida State Assessment.

I extend my best wishes to Krista for her tireless efforts and care she gives to her students. I look forward to hearing of her continued good work in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING SERGIO'S FAMILY RESTAURANT

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize a small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit at the heart of our country. It is my privilege to recognize a family-owned small business known for its community leadership and authentic Cuban cuisine. This week, it is my pleasure to honor Sergio's Family Restaurant of Miami, FL, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1975, Blanca Cabrera opened what would become Sergio's Family Restaurant as a small sandwich shop off of Bird Road in Miami. Equipped with generations of family recipes, Blanca sought to honor her Cuban heritage. Her shop provided employment for several refugees, providing dignified work as they built new lives. She offered a fresh take on Cuban and American cuisine, and her sandwich shop became a local hit.

Today, Sergio's Family Restaurant has expanded to 13 locations in South Florida. Carlos Gazitua, the chief executive officer, is the third generation family member to lead Sergio's. Under his leadership, the business has expanded its community involvement and emphasized healthy living while retaining its signature flavor. Sergio's has been recognized by the Florida Department of Health as the first certified restaurant to take part in the Healthy Happens Here restaurant initiative, incorporating low-calorie versions of traditional Cuban eats on their menu.

At the local and State level and among its industry peers, Sergio's has been recognized for its outstanding cuisine. They were named Best Drive-Thru of 2015 by the Miami New Times, recognized as the 2017 Restaurant of the Year by the South Florida Tourism Professional Awards, and their traditional empanadas were featured in ''Florida's Best Cheap Eats'' by Travel & Leisure Magazine. Additionally, the city of Miami and Miami-Dade County mayors honored Sergio's with Croqueta Day on October 2, 2018. On this day, Sergio's served its 20 millionth croqueta—croquette.

As a community leader, Sergio's has advocated for several nonprofit organizations and local small businesses. In 2015, Sergio's donated food to a Live Like Bella Childhood Cancer Foundation event. Then-Governor RICK SCOTT recognized Sergio's service in 2017, when they collected and shipped food and supplies to Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria devastated the island. When Super Bowl LIV was held in Miami in 2020, Sergio's partnered with The Women's Fund of Miami-Dade to raise funds for its mission to create awareness and preventing sex trafficking. Additionally, Carlos has advocated for small business in local and industry events, including the ''Bring Small Business Back'' initiative.

Like many Floridian small businesses, Sergio's Family Restaurant stepped up to help its community during the coronavirus pandemic. They participated in several social media, radio, and video initiatives encouraging support for local, family-owned small businesses. Partnering with the Miami Heat and the Miami Dade County Public School Superintendent, Sergio's Restaurant provided meals for more than 500 people in the Liberty City area. Sergio's collaborated with Meals for Heroes Miami to feed local healthcare workers and first responders, including donating approximately 1,400 meals to the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue teams. Additionally, Carlos worked with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Florida Restaurant Lodging Association to provide more than 350,000 reusable masks for hospitality workers in South Florida.

When the U.S. Small Business Administration launched the Paycheck Protection Program, it provided a much needed lifeline to small businesses, including Sergio's Restaurant. The PPP provides forgivable loans to impacted small businesses and nonprofits who maintain their payroll during the COVID–19 pandemic. Thanks to a PPP loan, Sergio's was able to keep their employees paid until Miami reopened. Their community leadership and advocacy was recognized by Governor Ron DeSantis who visited Sergio's in early June.

Through their service and leadership, Sergio's Family Restaurant is an outstanding example of how small businesses uplift their communities. I commend their support for local small businesses. Congratulations to Carlos and the entire team at Sergio's restaurant. I look forward to watching your continued growth and success throughout South Florida.●

VERMONT STATE OF THE UNION ESSAY CONTEST FINALISTS

● Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I ask to have printed in the RECORD some of the finalist essays written by Vermont High School students as part of the 10th annual ''State of the Union'' essay contest conducted by my office.

The material follows:

MADELYN TRIMPI, WOODSTOCK UNION HIGH SCHOOL, JUNIOR

Plastic is destroying the earth and a federal law to restrict single-use plastics must be developed. Plastic is a huge contributor to climate change and greenhouse gas emissions that are warming the atmosphere. An article called ''How Plastics Contribute to Climate Change'' by Brooke Bauman from Yale Climate Connections states ''plastic originates as fossil fuels and emits greenhouse gasses from cradle to grave.'' At the beginning of its life cycle, gas and oil are fracked from the ground, then made into plastic releasing harmful pollutants like CO2 and nitrogen oxide that get stuck in the atmosphere and warm the earth. Along with greenhouse gas emissions, plastic pollutes the ecosystems by simply entering and never leaving. In the same article by Yale, scientists state ''plastics can break down into smaller pieces called microplastics through biodegradation or exposure to the sun, heat or water. These microplastics scatter to all comers of the globe and even to the depths of the oceans. Toxic chemicals can bind microplastics and create poison pills that marine animals eat'' When a foreign substance enters the ecosystem, it threatens all aspects of the life cycle; Including humans.

Biodiversity is the root of life on earth and when exposed to something like plastic, everything feels an effect. For example, research shows that plastic has entered into the human body most likely through food like fish and other meats. Animals eat the microplastics thinking they are nutrients; we eat the fish, therefore consuming the plastic in them. This can lead to many