

Congress does not have to pass Canadian-style gun control laws to reduce the number of American firearm casualties, but surely we need to reduce access to firearms among minors.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, April 26, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,718,483,607,979.32 (Five trillion, seven hundred eighteen billion, four hundred eighty-three million, six hundred seven thousand, nine hundred seventy-nine dollars and thirty-two cents).

One year ago, April 26, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,591,807,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred ninety-one billion, eight hundred seven million).

Five years ago, April 26, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,848,089,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred forty-eight billion, eighty-nine million).

Fifteen years ago, April 26, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,730,404,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred thirty billion, four hundred four million) which reflects a debt increase of almost \$4 trillion—\$3,988,079,607,979.32 (Three trillion, nine hundred eighty-eight billion, seventy-nine million, six hundred seven thousand, nine hundred seventy-nine dollars and thirty-two cents) during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEMPLE BETH EL

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to the first Jewish congregation in the state of Michigan, Temple Beth El. The congregation, whose first services were held in 1850 by twelve families in Detroit, begins the celebration of its 150th anniversary this year with a series of special events. Beginning in May with a Musical Revue and concluding with a benefit in November, the events will bring together members of the congregation as well as thousands of others from throughout the metropolitan Detroit area.

Founded at a time of unrest in our nation—when the debate over slavery was intensifying, the economy was booming, and the railroad was transforming American culture—Beth El began with German immigrants. Members of Beth El later joined in the Reform Judaism movement. By 1867, the congregation had replaced German with English as the language of instruction, and in 1873 Beth El was one of the charter members of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations which brought together the Reform synagogues of America to establish an American rabbinical seminary.

Over the years, the congregation experienced steady growth, locating at several notable sites in Detroit. These include a temple that was constructed

at Woodward and Eliot in 1903 (now the Bonstelle Theater which is owned and operated by Wayne State University) and a temple that was designed by the late Albert Kahn in 1922 and built at Woodward and Gladstone. Like these formidable architectural works that bear witness to the congregation's vision and contribution, Beth El's rabbis were pillars in the community and were instrumental in building and developing the Detroit Jewish community and the national institutions of the Reform movement. Rabbi Louis Grossman, Rabbi Leo Franklin, Rabbi B. Benedict Glazer, and Rabbi Richard Hertz are among those who are well-remembered for their significant leadership and prominent roles in helping to strengthen human relations and the cause of social justice.

In 1973, the congregation opened its doors to its newest home in Bloomfield Hills. Today it has a membership of over 1600 families. Under the spiritual leadership of Rabbi Daniel Syme, Rabbi David Castiglione, Rabbi Sheila Goloboy and Cantor Stephen DuBov. Temple Beth El continues to play an important role in the metropolitan Detroit Jewish community, and it is recognized as one of the foremost Reform congregations in the United States.

Mr. President, I would like to express my best wishes to Temple Beth El on the celebration of this milestone in their history as a major contributor to America's cultural strength and religious tradition. We all profit from the preservation and celebration of individual and religious freedom that Temple Beth El so well embodies. I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating the congregation of Temple Beth El and Rabbi Daniel Syme for achieving 150 years as a "home that welcomes all of Detroit's Jewish community" and as a hallmark of spiritual development.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO MAYOR EMMA GRESHAM

• Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the great civil servants of my state. On April 14, 2000, Mayor Emma Gresham of Keysville, Georgia, received an Essence Award from Essence Magazine for her outstanding service to the community. This award is a fitting tribute to a lady who has brought so much to her community and Georgia as a whole.

Emma Gresham was born on April 13, 1925, the youngest of eight children. As the daughter of a pastor and a missionary, Emma Gresham's desire to help other people was established at a young age. During her youth she served as a scoutmaster, and went on to work as a teacher at her local church. All of her life Emma Gresham has sought to make other people's lives better.

While Mrs. Gresham's commitment to the people of Keysville has existed for decades, the town of Keysville has not. Although the town had held a charter since 1890, it stopped having

elections and essentially dissolved in 1933. In the mid-1980's the charter was rediscovered and found to be valid, and in 1985 the townspeople chose Emma Gresham as their mayor.

Ms. Gresham enjoyed her position for less than a day because the charter was revoked due to concerns over the city's boundary. Following a drawn-out process that involved excavations to discover a long-lost landmark, the city's charter was reactivated and Ms. Gresham was elected again in 1988. Since taking office, Mrs. Gresham has served for free.

Once in office, Mayor Gresham set to work. Since the town government had been dormant for so long, Keysville lacked many of the necessities most small towns enjoy. The city lacked clean water, streetlights, and even a fire department. In addition, the town's adult illiteracy rate was dangerously high.

Today, thanks to Mayor Gresham's leadership and commitment, Keysville has a water tower and a fire station. The first street lights were recently installed, and the town started a medical clinic. Last, but certainly not least, Keysville has an established adult literacy program as well.

The citizens of Keysville are now talking of building a new city hall and elementary school. This is quite a feat for a town that virtually did not exist twelve years ago.

Now 75, Emma Gresham is likely to retire when her current term as mayor ends in 2002. We can only hope that her successor will follow in her footsteps and be as effective an advocate for Keysville as Mayor Gresham.

Mr. President, the town of Keysville is certainly blessed. Without Emma Gresham's leadership, it is quite possible that it would not have made the strides that it has in the last decade. I offer my sincere congratulations to Mrs. Gresham for the award she earned through years of commitment to Keysville and its people, and wish continued success for her and the community she leads.●

CAPTAINS JOHN AND GLORIA CAFFREY

• Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to honor Captain John (Jack) and Captain Gloria Caffrey as they retire after more than sixty years of combined dedicated service in the United States Navy. These two outstanding Navy Nurse Corps officers culminate their distinguished careers at the Naval Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida, where Captain Jack Caffrey served as the Director of Operational Medicine and Captain Gloria Caffrey as the Director of Nursing Services and Associate Director of Clinical Services.

Captain Jack Caffrey has distinguished himself as a true leader and pace setter in the Navy Nurse Corps. In addition to his last assignment in Operational Medicine, highlights of his

career include serving as the Commanding Officer and Executive Officer of the Naval School of Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. His strong leadership and dedication to excellence in education and training programs led to unprecedented technological advances in training materials and methodologies. For more than thirty years Captain Jack Caffrey has met every challenge and every assignment with enthusiasm and zeal. He has served as a positive role model for all Nurse Corps officers and his contributions will positively impact military nursing and health care for years to come.

Captain Gloria Caffrey has also distinguished herself as an outstanding Nurse Corp officer for more than thirty years and has excelled in numerous executive and clinical assignments. While her accomplishments have been many, highlights of her career include serving as the Head of the Nurse Corps Assignment Section in the Bureau of Naval Personnel. In this role, she expertly managed the assignment of 3,200 Nurse Corps officers to billets Navy-wide. Captain Gloria Caffrey was instrumental in increasing the number of Nurse Corps officers selected to Executive Medicine billets and was key in developing policy changes affecting Defense Officer Personnel Management Act grade relief and subspecialty reductions. Her superior leadership, vision, and dedication to duty has been an inspiration to all military nurses. Captain Gloria Caffrey leaves a lasting legacy of excellence.

Mr. President, more than fifty years ago, as I was recovering in a military hospital, I began a unique relationship with military nurses. The Caffreys embody what I know military nurses to be—strong, dedicated professional leaders, stepping to the forefront to serve their country and committed to caring for our Sailors, Marines, Airmen, Soldiers and family members during peacetime and at war. Captains Jack and Gloria Caffrey's many meritorious awards and decorations demonstrate their contributions in a tangible way, but it is the legacy they leave behind for the Navy Nurse Corps, the United States Navy and the Department of Defense of which we are most appreciative. It is with pride that I congratulate both Captain Jack Caffrey and Captain Gloria Caffrey on their outstanding careers of exemplary service.●

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, next Monday, May 1, 2000, is the first day of the first National Charter Schools Week in our nation's history, an event modeled after similar state level celebrations in Michigan and California. I feel that this is a momentous occasion which provides the nation with an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the hard work and many accomplishments of charter school teachers,

students, parents, administrators, and board members. Charter schools are a relatively recent phenomenon, but they have already established their mark on our nation's public education system.

Mr. President, I am extremely proud of the role the State of Michigan has played in the development of charter schools. Since 1993, when Michigan became the ninth state to grant citizens the freedom to establish charter schools, 173 public school academies, as they are called, have been founded. This places Michigan third in the nation in number of charter schools, behind just Arizona and California. In the fall of 1999, over 50,000 students attended these public school academies, up from 30,000 in 1998. More importantly, 91 percent of Michigan parents said their charter public school did a better job of educating their child, and eight of ten said charter schools are better at motivating students.

It is my feeling that these numbers are an indication of the many benefits charter public schools offer to communities. They provide parents and students with choice in education. They allow teachers a degree of flexibility that cannot be found in traditional public schools. Furthermore, they allow administrators and board members a certain amount of innovation in the founding, and also the funding, of schools, and in the decisions that are made in how they are to be run.

Mr. President, what charter schools do, first and foremost, is give teachers, students, parents, and administrators the ability to experiment, to tinker with the system in the hopes of improving it, and they do this while at the same time remaining accountable to local and state school boards. If our educational system is to improve, if we are truly going to strive to provide our nation's children with the education they deserve, I feel that charter schools are going to play a vital role in this process.

Indeed, Mr. President, in charter schools, we have a situation where everybody wins. Parents are able to send their children to a safe school environment where they will have more say in the entire process. Teachers are able to find new ways to do their own work, to work together with one another, and to work with members of the community. Administrators are lifted from many of the restraints of the traditional public school system. And the greatest benefactor of all this will be our nation's public school students. They are the ones who will benefit from the competition, the experimentation, and the innovation, because of the effect that these things will have on our entire public education system.

Mr. President, I have long been a supporter of charter schools and the many opportunities they offer. It was my pleasure last year to have secured \$925,000 in funding for Central Michigan University, which will use this money to establish a national Charter Schools

Development and Performance Institute. The grand opening of the institute is May 1, 2000, which also happens to be Michigan's Third Annual Charter School Day. The goal of the institute is to foster high-performing students and effectively run charter public schools by promoting development, achievement, and accountability. It will also disseminate information on and assist schools with the design and the implementation of charter school models.

Mr. President, I am extremely excited that the week of May 1–May 5, 2000, is being officially recognized as National Charter Schools Week. I am hopeful that this will help to make our nation more aware of charter schools, and the wonderful opportunities they offer to teachers, parents, and students throughout our nation. The sooner we fully realize the potential of charter schools, the sooner they will be able to fully reach this potential.●

DR. WILLIAM SLOANE COFFIN

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, May 6th marks the 75th birthday of Dr. William Sloane Coffin. Protestants for the Common Good is celebrating that day with a tribute to Dr. Coffin in Chicago, and I want to take a moment to call the Senate's attention to the life of this remarkable man.

I should begin by mentioning that since his retirement, Bill has lived in Vermont, and I am proud to represent a man whose dedication to peace, the environment, and social justice I have long admired.

William Sloane Coffin first came to the world's attention during the 18 years he served as the Chaplain of Yale University. As an outspoken and courageous supporter of civil rights and a founder of Clergy and Laity Concerned for Vietnam, he often sacrificed his own safety to ensure and protect the rights of others. He protested against segregation laws in the South, and with Dr. Benjamin Spock against the war in Vietnam. Anyone who was fortunate to hear him speak on these great moral issues of our time remembers his tremendous eloquence, passion and conviction. What many people may not know is that he also served his country as an infantry officer in Europe during the Second World War.

From New Haven, Dr. Coffin moved to New York City where he became the Senior Minister at Manhattan's Riverside Church. His soaring oratory inspired people from all walks of life.

Regularly challenging those who attended his services to seek justice in their own lives, Dr. Coffin set an example by consistently doing so himself. He founded the Church's well-known disarmament program, traveled throughout the world promoting peace and respect for human rights, and remains the President Emeritus of "SANE/FREEZE: Campaign for Global Security."

Mr. President, I have been fortunate not only to know of William Sloane