

earthquake damage prevention, advanced automotive technologies, renewable energy, wireless communications, and Arctic impacts of Soviet nuclear contamination.

Some of my colleagues have suggested that we don't need an OTA—that is, our own group of experts in the legislative branch capable of providing us with these highly technical analyses needed for developing legislation. How many of us are able to fully grasp and synthesize highly scientific information and identify the relevant questions that need to be addressed?

The OTA was created to provide the Congress with its own source of information on highly technical matters. Who else but a scientifically oriented agency, composed of technical experts, governed by a bipartisan board of congressional overseers, and seeking information directly under congressional auspices, and given the Congress and the country accurate and essential information on new technologies?

Can other congressional support agencies and staff provide the information we need? I am second to none in my high regard for these agencies, but each has its own distinct role. The U.S. General Accounting Office is in effective organization of auditors and accountants, not scientists. The Congressional Research Service is busy responding to the requests of members for information and research. The Congressional Budget Office provides the Congress with budget data and with analyses of alternative fiscal and budgetary impacts of legislation. Furthermore, each of these agencies is likely to have its budget reduced, or to be asked to take on more responsibilities, or both, and would find it extremely difficult to take on the kinds of specialized work that OTA has contributed.

I hope that the Congress does not become a body that ignores common sense. If it is to remain the world's greatest deliberative body—possible only because of access to the best and most accurate and impartial information and analysis—the Congress must retain the OTA.●

ERRATA IN CONFERENCE REPORT ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 67

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, due to a printing error, the table in the conference report on House Concurrent Resolution 67 setting forth the budget authority and outlay allocations for Senate committees incorrectly shows a budget authority allocation of \$1,400 million to the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee for 1996.

The 1996 budget authority allocation to the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee is actually \$1,440 million. Therefore, the Veterans' Affairs allocation for fiscal year 1996 is as follows:

[In millions of dollars]

Committee	Direct spending jurisdiction		Entitlements funded in annual appropriations	
	Budget authority	Outlays	Budget authority	Outlays
Veterans' Affairs	1,440	1,423	19,235	17,686

RECOGNIZING RECIPIENT OF THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD FROM THE STATE OF MARYLAND

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, each year an elite group of young women rise above the ranks of their peers and confront the challenge of attaining the Girl Scouts of the United States of America's highest rank in scouting, the Girl Scout Gold Award.

It is with great pleasure that I recognize and applaud Kerri Marsteller of Monkton, MD, who is one of this year's recipients of this most prestigious and time honored award.

Kerri is to be commended on her extraordinary commitment and dedication to her family, friends, community, and to the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

The qualities of character, perseverance, and leadership which enabled her to reach this goal will also help her to meet the challenges of the future. She is our inspiration for today and our promise for tomorrow.

I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kerri Marsteller. She is one of the best and the brightest and serves as an example of character and moral strength for us all to imitate and follow.

Finally, I wish to salute the families and Scout leaders who have provided Kerri and other young women with continued support and encouragement.

It is with great pride that I congratulate Kerri Marsteller on this achievement.●

RESTORATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I support the President's decision today to restore full diplomatic relations with Vietnam. This would not be an easy decision for any President to make. President Clinton has shown courage and honor in his resolve to do so.

President Clinton, like Presidents Bush and Reagan before him, took very seriously his pledge to the American people that the first priority in our relationship with Vietnam would be the accounting for Americans missing in action in Vietnam.

Given the importance of that commitment, President Clinton insisted that Vietnam cooperate with our accounting efforts to such an extent that normalization was clearly justified and that tangible progress toward the fullest possible accounting be clear enough to assure us that the prospects for continued cooperation were excellent.

Vietnam has shown that level of cooperation. The President has kept his commitment. Normalizing relations with our former enemy is the right thing to do.

In 1991, President Bush proposed a roadmap for improving our relations with Vietnam. Under its provisions, Vietnam was required to take unilateral, bilateral, and multilateral steps to help us account for our missing. Vietnam's cooperation has been excellent for some time now, and has increased since the President lifted our trade embargo against Vietnam in 1994.

That view is shared by virtually every American official, military and civilian, involved in the accounting process, from the commander in chief of U.S. Forces in the Pacific to the enlisted man excavating crash sites in remote Vietnamese jungles. It is also shared by Gen. John Vessey who served three Presidents as Special Emissary to Vietnam for POW/MIA Affairs, as capable and honorable a man as has ever worn the uniform of the United States.

It is mostly my faith in the service of these good men and women that has convinced me that Vietnam's cooperation warrants the normalization of our relations under the terms of the roadmap. It would be injurious to the credibility of the United States and beneath the dignity of a great nation to evade commitments which we freely undertook.

I should also note that Adm. Jeremiah Denton, my acting senior ranking officer at the Hanoi Hilton and a courageous resister, as well as my dear friend Ev Alvarez, the longest held POW in Vietnam, join me and many other former POW's in supporting the restoration of diplomatic relations.

Other factors make the case for full diplomatic relations even stronger. Increasingly, the United States and Vietnam have a shared strategic concern that can be better addressed by an improvement in our relations.

I am not advocating the containment of China. Nor do I think such an ambitious and complex strategic goal could be achieved simply by normalizing relations with Vietnam. But Vietnam, which will become a full member of ASEAN later this month, is an increasingly responsible player in Southeast Asian affairs. An economically viable Vietnam, acting in concert with its neighbors, will help the region resist dominance by any one power. That is a development which is clearly in the best interests of the United States.

Human rights progress in Vietnam should also be better served by restoring relations with that country. The Vietnamese have already developed complex relations with the rest of the free world. Instead of vainly trying to isolate Vietnam, the United States should test the proposition that greater exposure to Americans will render Vietnam more susceptible to the influence of our values.

Vietnam's human rights record needs substantial improvement. We should