

Colonel Loper began his career more than 24 years ago when he pinned on the gold bars of a second lieutenant and the crossed muskets of the infantry. A product of Washington, DC's Georgetown University and the Reserve Officer Training Corps, Bill Loper was well educated, prepared, and trained for his ensuing career as an Army officer. His tours of duty included stints as an adjutant and Chief of Records for the 25th Infantry Division; as a personnel adviser in Pennsylvania; as the Secretary of the General Staff for the 19th Support Command, located in Korea; and ultimately, back to the District of Columbia where he was an assignments officer at the Army Personnel Center, and executive officer in the Army Legislative Liaison Office, where most of us have come to know him.

During his tenure in the Legislative Liaison Office, Colonel Loper has worked hard to represent the interests of the Army to Members of Congress, as well as tirelessly working to assist Senators, Representatives, and their staffs, in dealing with defense matters as well as constituent concerns and issues. I do not think any of my colleagues would disagree with my assessment of Colonel Roper, he is an individual who has always been prompt, responsive, and sensitive to the needs and requests of Members of Congress, and he has presented a positive and impressive image of the Army during the course of his duties here.

Mr. President, service and dedication to duty have been two hallmarks of Colonel Loper's career. He has served our Nation and the Army well during his years of service, and we are grateful for all his efforts and sacrifices in the defense of the United States. I am sure that everyone who has worked with Colonel Loper would want to join me in wishing him health, happiness, and success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. ARMY ON
THE OCCASION OF ITS 221ST
BIRTHDAY

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, the U.S. Army was born 221 years ago today on a village square in Cambridge, MA when a group of colonials mustered together to form an army under the authority of the Continental Congress. As this force went on to confront the Redcoats at Lexington, and to ultimately defeat the British in 1783, it is no exaggeration to say that the birth of the Continental Army resulted in the birth of our Nation. More than 2 centuries later, both the United States and its Army are recognized throughout the world as being unequalled, and I rise today to salute the Army on its birthday.

The history of our Nation and our Army are intertwined, and the battle streamers of that service stand not only as testament to the courage, fortitude, and abilities of those who served in the Army, but chronicle the

evolution of the United States. The Army was present when the shot heard around the world was fired, and in Yorktown when the British surrendered, not only admitting defeat to the Americans, but validating that we were a free and separate nation. It was Lewis and Clark, two Army officers, who explored the unknown west before that region became territories and states. It was the Army that entered Mexico City, and our victory in the war with Mexico helped to expand our southwestern borders. At Bull Run, Antietam, Gettysburg, and dozens of other blood stained battlefields, it was the soldiers of one American army fighting the soldiers of another American army for the very future of this Nation. In Havana and the Philippines, the American Army fought Spanish imperialism, and at Verdun, Doughboys battled German imperialism. Army Air Corpsmen lost their lives on that Day of Infamy that began World War II, and dogfaced GI's battled the Nazis, the Fascists, and the Imperial Japanese in North Africa, Sicily, Normandy, Arnhem, and throughout the Pacific. In the early days of the cold war, American soldiers dug in on the southern tip of Korea, creating the Pusan perimeter and holding the line against the advancing North Koreans, and it was American soldiers who stormed the walls at Inchon to turn the tide of the Korean conflict in favor of the United Nations. In the Ia Drang Valley, and in countless firefights in nameless locations throughout the jungles, mountains, and rice paddies of Vietnam, American soldiers valiantly fought to help the fledgling nation of South Vietnam become a democracy; and in Grenada, Panama, and Kuwait, the American Army deposed tyrants and brought terror-filled regimes of dictators to an end.

In its 221 years of history, the U.S. Army has distinguished itself time and time again, and though many things have changed about the Army, the quality and dedication of its soldiers has remained unwavering. The men and women who wear the Army green are individuals who willingly bear many sacrifices so that their countrymen may remain safe, secure, and free. Too few of us ever take the time to think of the soldiers patrolling the demilitarized zone of the Korean Peninsula where there is always the chance that hostilities may break out; or of the soldiers stationed on the Sinai, where they help to ensure the peace between Egypt and Israel remains strong; or of the young paratrooper at Fort Bragg who is ready to deploy to anyplace in the world at a moment's notice. To these soldiers the phrase "Duty, Honor, Country" is more than a collection of mere words, it is the creed by which they live their lives, and we are indeed fortunate for their dedication and selflessness.

For more than 30 years, it was American soldiers who faced down the Soviets across the Iron Curtain, and when

democracy and individual rights ultimately triumphed over communism and collective subjugation, it was thanks in large part to the vigilance of the thousands of soldiers who served on the front lines of the cold war. With the fall of the Communist bloc, the threats to the United States have changed, and the Army is redefining its mission. The Army must now be prepared to respond to regional crises, carry out humanitarian missions, and peacekeeping roles, as well as to be prepared to deal with terrorists and rogue nations. Rest assured, however, that with whatever task that the Army of the United States of America is charged, it will complete its assignment successfully, and it will remain the best trained and best equipped force in the world.

Mr. President, if the soldiers of the Continental Army could see their late 20th century brothers and sisters in arms, they would be amazed at the differences between the Minuteman and the soldier of Force XXI. Rifled muskets have given way to selective fire, magazine-fed weapons systems that allow soldiers to see in the dark and fire a multitude of munitions. The horse cavalry has been replaced by the Bradley fighting vehicle, a weapons platform that has the firepower of the divisions of old; and Army helicopters that comprise one of the largest air forces in the world, now transport and support with supplies and firepower the infantry. Combined, all these elements guarantee the success and superiority of the American Army and that wherever it goes, our soldiers will persevere over any foe. I am pleased to have this opportunity to celebrate the history of the U.S. Army, to thank those soldiers who have served in the past and who serve today, and to assure my colleagues that our Army will always stand ready to defend our citizens and our Nation from all who threaten us, just as they have for the past 220 years.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, June 13, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,139,481,774,943.05.

On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$19,389.23 as his or her share of that debt.

SOUTH DAKOTANS LEAD EFFORT
TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF LOW
CATTLE PRICES

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, the Advisory Committee on Agricultural Concentration has submitted its final report to Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman. The committee has been investigating the relationship between concentration in the livestock processing and packing industry and the record low prices in the cattle market. It did a tremendous job identifying the problems facing our Nation's livestock