

and Habitat for Humanity. Everyday on television and in newspapers we are reminded in some way of the problems of our Nation's distressed urban areas. I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to one example of how community service is making a real difference in the area of affordable housing for hard-working families in cities across the country. On June 22, 1996, Habitat for Humanity sponsored the Home Stretch Build. Several hundred community volunteers and 75 Habitat AmeriCorps members from Americus and Savannah, GA; Miami, FL; Cleveland, OH and the District of Columbia built nine new homes in Southeast Washington, DC. That day Habitat for Humanity founder and president, Millard Fuller, said the following about the AmeriCorps Program:

There are a bunch of good folks out here today, doing something very, very worthwhile. I'm particularly pleased with the AmeriCorps people here, over 75 of them, and I want to salute you . . . for the outstanding work that you do. This army of peaceful people, who are making good news happen all over this Nation. Twenty-five thousand of them. And I want you to know that we at Habitat for Humanity feel privileged and honored to have the AmeriCorps people with us, and we want more of them as time goes on. We love to be partners with you in this work, and I salute all the AmeriCorps people.

Mr. President, this is another in the long list of examples of national service participants reaping the threefold benefit of national service—benefit to the community where the service is performed, benefit to the servers for serving their communities, and the benefit derived from the education of the servers in the future. I applaud the National Service Corporation for its ongoing efforts, and urge my colleagues to take note of the successes of these young people.

I yield the floor.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, September 23, the Federal debt stood at \$5,192,406,060,962.74.

Five years ago, September 23, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,628,836,000,000.

Ten years ago, September 23, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,107,785,000,000.

Fifteen years ago, September 23, 1981, the Federal debt stood at \$977,809,000,000.

Twenty-five years ago, September 23, 1971, the Federal debt stood at \$415,377,000,000. This reflects an increase of more than \$4 trillion, \$4,777,029,060,962.74, during the 25 years from 1971 to 1996.

#### BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION PERFORMING GREAT WORK

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, traumatic brain injury is a silent epidemic which afflicts one person in the United States every 15 seconds. Nearly 250,000

Americans suffer severe head injuries; and brain injury is the No. 1 killer of young Americans under the age of 40. More than 20 million Americans are affected one way or another by brain injury, with an estimated 60,000 deaths expected this year alone.

The Brain Injury Association, Inc., chaired by Martin B. Foil, Jr., of Concord, NC, was instrumental in the passage of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act which was signed into law on July 29, 1996. Mr. Foil, and his wife, "Puddin'," have worked tirelessly over the past 5 years to help pass this important legislation. The Foils' son, Philip, was injured in a car accident and suffered serious brain injury. The Foils turned that personal tragedy into a triumph for others. The Traumatic Brain Injury Act has focused a national spotlight on brain injury as a major health problem, and provides research grants for the prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of brain injury.

Mr. President, brain injury in the United States costs an estimated \$48.6 billion annually. Most of this expense is paid for by taxpayers through Medicare and Medicaid. It is hoped—and that is what the Traumatic Brain Injury Act is all about, providing hope—it is hoped that funds from the Traumatic Brain Injury Act will lead to innovative treatments which will help victims and their families better deal with this devastating injury.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a Charlotte (NC) Observer article regarding the Foil family dated August 4, 1996, be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Charlotte Observer, Aug. 4, 1996]  
CONCORD TEEN'S BRAIN INJURY LED PARENTS  
TO FIGHT FOR MORE PREVENTION AND RESEARCH

(By John Monk)

Between the grim aftermath of the crash of TWA Flight 800 and the attention riveted on Atlanta's Olympics, it passed almost unnoticed. But Martin Foil, wife "Puddin'" and son Philip of Concord pulled off their own Olympian feat last week.

President Clinton invited the family to the White House as he signed a bill aimed at preventing and researching traumatic brain injuries. For the Foils, the signing in the Oval Office culminated two long struggles: their 12-year-old battle with a brutal accident that left their son disabled, and their fight to find treatment for similar injuries.

"We've been working on this 5 years," said Foil, 63, CEO of Tuscarora Yarns, Inc. in Mount Pleasant, NC, and chairman of the Washington-based Brain Injury Association.

The bill authorizes \$15 million in research grants for the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of brain injuries. It allots an additional \$9 million for the Centers for Disease Control to monitor brain injuries.

The Foils' struggle began more than a decade ago.

In December 1984, Philip Foil was driving home from Concord High School. At 16, he was a bright, well-liked student who tutored colleagues in algebra and wanted to be a doctor. A car crossed a center line and slammed

into Philip's car. In an instant Philip suffered severe head injuries. For 114 days, he lay in a coma. He woke to a life where, because his brain can't signal his body, he would need rehabilitation and care the rest of his life.

The Foils discovered that many people with traumatic brain injuries fall through the cracks of the nation's medical system. Brain injuries are not always formally recognized. Families who must care for the victims undergo enormous stress.

"Many people have been denied benefits from government programs, from insurance companies, as a result," said Dr. George Zitnay, president of the Brain Injury Association.

In the first years following Philip's accident, the Foils concerned themselves with his rehabilitation. He has made enormous progress, now able to walk with assistance and talk with the help of a vocalizing machine.

These days, there are tens of thousands of people like Philip. Modern medical treatment means many more people than ever survive brain injuries. No one has exact statistics on the number of brain-injured people. But the association estimates that up to 56,000 Americans die and more than 300,000 are hospitalized each year. Of the hospitalized, nearly 100,000 will sustain lifelong disabling conditions from sports, gunshot, and traffic accidents.

Most people who survive brain injuries are likely to live out their normal life span in a handicapped condition, and the cost is prohibitive.

"The average cost for a debilitating brain injury is \$6 million or more," said Foil.

For years, Foil said, his grief over his son's injury kept him from getting involved in efforts to help publicize brain injuries. Gradually, he reached outward and contacted the association.

In 1992, when Foil became chairman, he gave top priority to passing legislation to research and prevent brain injuries.

Thousands of groups and lobbyists try each year to get legislators to introduce bills, but only a small percentage wind up as law.

Luck intervened.

Representative Jim Greenwood, R-Pa., was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1992. As a state senator, Greenwood had won reforms for brain-injured victims.

Once in Washington, Greenwood was assigned to the House Commerce Committee, where any brain-injury legislation would originate. He became an expert in health care and won GOP leadership backing for a bill involving about \$8 million a year for three years, a tiny sliver of the \$1 trillion-a-year Federal budget.

Meanwhile, Foil's group won allies in the Senate, including Sens. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kan. In July, Congress passed the bill that Clinton signed last week.

The Foils' battle is not over.

Their son, Philip, lives at home and will always need care. His parents are thankful he's a vital part of the family.

Congress may take a second action. Clinton signed an authorization bill—a law that allows money to be spent for a specific purpose. Now, Congress must pass an appropriations bill, which will actually permit the money to be spent.

"We'll get the money," said Foil. "Congress would be ashamed not to give it to us."

#### TRIBUTE TO SENATOR NANCY KASSEBAUM

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, it took many of us by surprise when the junior