

New Mexico. We must raise the standard of living in my State and one concrete way to accomplish this is by fostering the development of small businesses that provide good wages and good benefits for their employees.

ARLINGTON

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, in early March of this year I received a letter from Charles R. Mariott, of Louisville, Tennessee, in which he enclosed a stirring poem, written by his wife Ruth and dedicated to Arlington Cemetery. The poem shows great talent and I want to bring it to the attention of my colleagues and to the audience of listeners throughout the country as we approach the Memorial Day weekend. It is a poem that exudes a spirit of patriotism which, I believe, will inspire all freedom loving Americans everywhere.

ARLINGTON  
(By Ruth Mariott)  
FIRST CANTO

I saw his name engraved in granite  
in the shadow of the ivy covered oak—  
a long time tenant in that sacred grove  
The wind moves now and then through barren branches  
A bird alights sometimes, as if by chance,  
it chirps—and then flies on  
All else is mute . . .  
The marble tomb nearby where night and day  
the sentries stand with steadfast vigilance  
it bears no name.  
During the changing of the guards—  
at preset daytime hours—  
upon command the sentries spring to life  
and to action.  
They walk with slow, precisely measured steps  
clicking their heels at certain intervals  
toeing the line invisible  
across expanse of marbled ground  
presenting arms and slapping rifle  
Flawless in execution and procedures  
flawless in bearing and attire  
one is the perfect mirror of the other  
down to the last detail: just so, no more, no less  
Their buckles shine. The honor badge is gleaming  
They are the heroes of the Old Guard Regiment  
Instant obedience and discipline  
thus manifest, are but reflections  
of inner core of strength, esprit and gallantry  
submerging self for Cause and Greater Good,  
(attained by very few)  
The changing of the guard has been accomplished  
The last command has been obeyed  
The guard on duty now enters his station  
stands at attention once again over the tomb  
Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

SECOND CANTO

The people come from far, here to these hallowed hills to witness and be cast in ceremony. They stand in silence and they stare with awe,  
They think their solemn thoughts with somber eyes,  
Transported by the mesmerizing ritual into the Presence of a Greater Truth and Order  
and brushed by gentle wings of Destiny,

they seem to hear faint echoes stirring from the vault of sky and time  
evoking visions in their souls and puzzling memories of what? from where?  
Thus paying tribute to the One Unknown  
(and with him to the many like him  
whose burial mounds and crosses are stretching far below The Tomb)  
they sense that he who sacrificed his life decades ago—nay centuries—was now exalted.  
(and with him all the many like him)  
exalting Gallantry and Loyalty, Honor and Valor.

Spectators in this Shifting scene on patriotic stage the people leave reluctantly, the Nation's Shrine still pondering.  
They wander down the soddy path  
They speak in muffled tones, shuffling their feet before they exit slowly through the Outer Arch.

THIRD CANTO

I saw his name engraved in granite  
enlaced with ivy from the nearby tree  
I plucked a sprig of living ivy  
and took it home with me  
Planted in a pot of earth  
upon my window sill  
the climbing vine has taken root  
and it is greening still  
Your body may be buried  
you may be long since gone  
but cherished memories of you  
and your name live on.  
I stepped out of my cabin door  
and looked up at the sky  
I saw a golden eagle soar  
I heard the eagle cry.  
The eagle soared into the sun and soon was lost from view  
The spirit of the Unknown One and you.

FOURTH CANTO

Down through the corridor of Time  
the eagle sounds its piercing cry  
keening over all the fields  
where the fallen warriors lie.  
Their tattered uniforms and bones  
have mouldered in their narrow grave  
White crosses bear a name and date  
so young—and all so brave.  
Through countless wars in global spots  
they fought in air, on land and sea  
They paid the price, They gave their life  
so others could be free.  
They fought chaotic battles  
to victory or defeat  
and now they lie in long, long rows  
orderly and neat . . .  
A bugle in the sunset's glow  
is sounding Taps from far away  
Soon now the winds of night will blow  
And tomorrow is another day.

EPILOGUE

The Stars and Stripes wave on the ridge  
High above Arlington Bridge  
in between are stretched the grounds  
with all its heroes earthen mounds.  
From up on high the spirits chide  
Forever shall our flag abide  
in Freedom—Honor—Valor!

RURAL HEALTH CARE  
PROTECTION ACT OF 1997

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I introduced S. 817, legislation designed to maintain rural communities' access to hospital care.  
Today many rural Americans live in fear that they may lose access to local and regional hospital care. In these rural areas, where serious accidents,

often related to farm equipment, are a constant threat. Access to an emergency care hospital within 35 miles can mean the difference between life and death. The ability to be referred to a major regional hospital for more specialized care can be of like importance. Congress must recognize the special needs of rural America and work to meet them. This bill is a step in the right direction.

The Rural Health Care Protection Act of 1997 focuses on providing support to Sole Community Hospitals and Rural Referral Centers. Sole Community Hospitals [SCH's] are hospitals located at least 35 miles from other hospitals and are often the sole source of emergency care or inpatient services in their areas. There are currently 728 SCH's in 46 States. There are 11 in my home State of Iowa. Rural Referral Centers [RRC's] are relatively large and specialized rural hospitals which receive referrals from community hospitals throughout a region. There are currently 142 RRC's in 39 states, including five in Iowa.

This legislation contains four proposals designed to help keep these care centers operating. First, the act would give SCH's the option of choosing an updated fiscal year 1994-95 base year for Medicare funding instead of the outdated base years which they must currently use. Second, the act would permanently grandfather as an RRC any hospital that has previously qualified as an RRC. Third, the act would exempt the RRC's from the statewide rural wage index threshold for geographic reclassification. Finally, the bill would allow rural hospitals that meet the reclassification criteria to be reclassified as urban hospitals for purposes of disproportionate share hospital [DSH] payment adjustments.

This bill would help ensure that rural Americans maintain access to these essential care centers. I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in support of this measure.

MEASURE RETURNED TO  
CALENDAR

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senate Concurrent Resolution 27 be placed back on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORIZING PRINTING OF  
PUBLICATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Senate Resolution 90 submitted earlier today by Senators BYRD, COVERDELL and CLELAND.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows.