

Amend the title so as to read "A Bill to authorize the Federal Aviation Administration's research, engineering, and development programs for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and for other purposes."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

VETERANS DAY PRESENTATION OF THE SILVER STAR MEDAL TO ALBERT SPONHEIMER, JR.

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, on Veterans' Day, I will be participating in a very special ceremony for a very special individual. The occasion is the presentation of a Silver Star Medal 53 years after the event to a World War II veteran named Albert Sponheimer. It gives me great pleasure to submit, for the RECORD, the text of my remarks:

The remarks follow:

SILVER STAR MEDAL PRESENTATION TO ALBERT SPONHEIMER, JR.

I am so proud to be here today to honor Al Sponheimer in front of his family and friends and, of course, all of you in the audience—students who are fortunate enough to witness this historic event.

This is the part of my job I love the most—the fact that we are all here today, 53 years, 5 months and 5 days after the event to witness the presentation of a Silver Star Medal for heroism. Al Sponheimer, a veteran of the Second World War, is a testament to the saying that perseverance pays off.

Al Sponheimer first contacted my office back in December 1994. In a characteristically modest manner, he asked for information about how he might get his Silver Star, in the absence of official documentation, 50 years after the fact. I could see that Al was not comfortable pursuing this, but was probably goaded into it by the four gentlemen sitting next to him today.

Anyway, back to the story. Soon after, we received a letter from Captain Heitz outlining Mr. Sponheimer's heroic actions on June 6, 1944. He wrote:

"PFC Sponheimer was one of two aides men assigned to my battery. In fact, I was his first battlefield patient. He was seen giving first aid to anyone who needed it, not necessarily Battery A personnel. He roamed almost the full length of Omaha Beach, helping where he could while many around him were wounded by flying shrapnel or ricocheting bullets fired from the Germans on the bluff of Omaha Beach"

Once the Army read this letter, I thought for sure they would send Mr. Sponheimer's medal by return mail. This was not the case. The time for consideration of WWII medal requests had expired. We had to apply to the Board for Correction of Military Records where the average length of time for consideration of these requests is about 2 years. The application was sent in on February 7, 1996. 18 months later the Board made a favorable decision—Al would finally receive his Silver Star.

And that is what brings us here today—appropriately on Armistice Day—to correct a 53-year-old record and honor a person who, under enemy fire, performed heroically.

Mr. President, thank you again for this opportunity to submit my remarks for the RECORD. I hope Mr. Sponheimer's story will inspire other veterans to pursue their entitlement to military medals or awards, even if the lapse in time seems insurmountable.

I also want to extend my condolences to the Sponheimer family at the recent

and untimely passing of Al's wife, Audrey. I know her absence will be deeply felt by Al, their children and grandchildren on this special day. •

THE WALT DISNEY CO.: 1997 CORPORATION OF THE YEAR

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Walt Disney Co. for being honored as the 1997 Corporation of the Year by the Minority Business Enterprise Input Committee of the Southern California Regional Purchasing Councils [SCRPC], a group of 225 large-scale purchasers located in a 13-county area of southern California.

Formed in 1975, SCRPC seeks to stimulate economic growth and help develop enterprises that can provide useful goods and services at competitive prices, increase employment for underemployed groups, and help bring disadvantaged enterprises into America's market economy.

The Walt Disney Co. earned this prestigious award through its leadership in working with minority-owned businesses. Disney has operated a Minority and Women Business Enterprise Program for more than 15 years, and now does business with more than 900 minority-owned and 600 female-owned businesses.

This special recognition by the SCRPC reflects the high regard suppliers have for Disney's outreach and diversity policies.

It is a great pleasure to honor and recognize the initiative and leadership that has led to this outstanding honor for the Walt Disney Co. •

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT W. MOORE

• Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to Albert W. Moore for his leadership in a critical American industry. Mr. Moore is retiring after serving 8 years as president of the Association for Manufacturing Technology [AMT], a trade group which represents 374 American builders of machine tools and related equipment. His distinguished career in the industry has spanned 43 years.

The machine tool industry is vital to our country, making possible the production of almost every product which our society today enjoys. More important, these powerful and precise machines are a vital key to the Nation's defense.

During his tenure as president, and earlier as the elected chairman of the association. Mr. Moore has worked to ensure that the U.S. industry was technologically equal to any in the world, and that its companies are strong and well run.

Mr. Moore's efforts have greatly enhanced the position of our machine tool industry, and I congratulate him for a job well done. •

WELCOME HOME 452D ARMY RESERVE ORDNANCE COMPANY

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to

welcome home the men and women of the 452d Ordnance Company, an Army Reserve Unit based in Aberdeen, SD, and congratulate them on successfully completing their recent mission to Hungary in support of Bosnian peacekeeping efforts.

The 452d is one of only six direct support ordnance units in the entire U.S. Army. The 452d is also a tier 2A high priority unit, which means that the members of this unit are well-trained, have adequate manpower, and have a high level of readiness. The men and women of the 452d pride themselves on their ability to quickly and effectively mobilize when their country calls upon them.

The 452d has an impressive history of serving the Nation. The 452d Ordnance Company was the first unit in the 6th Army to be deployed during Operation Desert Storm. The members performed extremely well during this mobilization and received the Meritorious Unit Commendation from the Secretary of the Army for their outstanding service. As you know, Mr. President, this is an extremely prestigious award with only a handful of National Guard and Reserve units having ever received it. Furthermore, the 452d was recently inspected and found to be performing at such an outstanding level that the unit is being recommended for the Meritorious Unit Commendation once again. Most units would be honored to simply be nominated for this award, and it is truly a sign of the 452d's excellence that it may receive the award twice.

In addition to helping lead coalition forces to victory in the Middle East, the 452d brought relief to many in their hometown of Aberdeen, SD, by aiding emergency management efforts in recent winter storms and flooding. The 452d is a shining example of how reserve units across the country are being called upon more frequently to serve their country both at home and abroad.

The men and women of the 452d began their most recent, and perhaps most demanding, mission in March of this year when 83 members of the unit were mobilized for duty in Europe. For the past 8 months, these individuals were stationed at Tazsar Air Base, Hungary, supporting peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia. Unit members were rotated into Bosnia from time to time, venturing inside one of the most politically volatile areas in the world.

Of course, the soldiers who were mobilized were not the only ones who sacrificed in service to their country. The families of these servicemembers also exhibited extreme courage in facing new challenges and additional responsibilities in the absence of their loved ones. To help with that transition, the 452d Family Support Group provided guidance, assistance, and support. In fact, during the Persian Gulf conflict, the 452d Family Support Group received the Best Small Unit Family Outreach Program Award from the 96th Army Reserve Command. The 452d

Family Support Group met every Wednesday to discuss the ways in which they could best support family members of the mobilized soldiers. On Saturdays, they frequently showed videos of the mobilized soldiers stationed in Hungary and provided access to e-mail for communication between soldiers and their family members.

Each and every family member deserves recognition, but at the risk of leaving someone out, I would like to mention the following officers of the 452d Family Support Group: Sandy Robinson, South Dakota Reserve Family Support leader; Ronnie Evenson, unit leader; Becky Parker, group leader; Lois Beckner, group leader; Mary Ewalt, group leader; and Donna Schulte, assistant group leader.

I would also like to mention the important service provided by the unit members who were not mobilized, but who remained in South Dakota and provided the ever-important moral support to their colleagues serving overseas. These individuals, including mechanics, administrative personnel, and others, continue to ensure that the unit is ready to serve their nation at a moment's notice.

It is also important to recognize those employers who stood by their employees called upon to serve their nation. The commitment of employers like these allow our country to rely so heavily on its reserve and guard forces.

It is with much relief and pride that I join the family members of the 452d and all South Dakotans in welcoming the following troops safely home from their mission. It is from this service that the 452d has formed a strong bond with the community of Aberdeen and the State of South Dakota, and I thank them for their service.

Sgt. Brian Allmendinger, Spc. Joellen Allmendinger, Spc. J. Arlt, Spc. Travis Atkinson, 1st Sgt. Troy Beckner, Spc. Michael Bell, S.Sgt. Chad Bierman, Sgt. Kirk Bierschenk, Sgt. Scott Black, Pfc. Wileen Blacklance, Spc. Hollie Breitag, S.Sgt. Rodney Buck, CW2 Aaron Donat, Sgt. Eric Donat, S.Sgt. Joel Donat, S.Sgt. Mark Dunwoody, Sfc. Ronald Evenson, S.Sgt. Michael Ewalt, Sgt. Janel Fonder, Spc. Robin Freeland, Sgt. Calvin Gardner, Sgt. Chad Gardner, Sgt. Brian Grabowska, Sgt. Kevin Gustafson, Sgt. Daniel Haberling, Spc. Kristi Heintzman, S.Sgt. Brabdon Herold, Sgt. Adam Heyd, Spc. Joshua Horner, Sgt. Sean JOHNSON, S.Sgt. Stanley Kannas, Spc. Justin Kappes, Sgt. Daniel Karst, Sgt. Jyson Karst, S.Sgt. Daryl Kiefer, S.Sgt. Gary Kindle, Spc. Deric Knutson, Sgt. Deidra Kolb, S.Sgt. Gene Kopetsky, S.Sgt. Donald Kraemer, S.Sgt. Scott Lane, Sfc. THOMAS Mailloux, S.Sgt. David Manning, Sgt. Philip Marnette, Spc. Rebecca McGannon, Pfc. Shawn Nash, Spc. John Naumann, Spc. Britt Nelson, Sgt. Jeffrey Norden, Spc. Benjamin Ochs, 1st Lt. Kritina Ochsner, Sgt. Lance Ordal, S.Sgt. Darrell Pfeifle, Sgt. Jerry Plank, Spc. Derrick Quitsch, Spc.

Jammy Rawden, CW4 Freddie Robinson, S.Sgt. Kevin Roush, S.Sgt. Jason Rydberg, Spc. Joshua Ryowski, S.Sgt. Todd Salfrank, Sgt. Robert Sayer, Sgt. Justin Scepaniak, S.Sgt. Paul Schilling, Sgt. Dawn Schlotte, 1st Lt. John Schulte, Sgt. Jeffrey Severson, Spc. Cassandra Shaffer, Sgt. Michael Stofferahn, Sgt. Kenneth Sutton, Sgt. Wade Taylor, Sgt. Tonda THOMAS, S.Sgt. Terry Thue, Sgt. Joseph Thyne, W0C David Trego, S.Sgt. Chad Vetter, S.Sgt. Tamera Voss, Sgt. James Welch, Spc. Charles Willis, Sgt. Shannon Wright, and S.Sgt. Kenneth Young.●

INTERNATIONAL SATELLITE REFORM

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, in recent days, Chairman MCCAIN and I have addressed the Commerce Committee's communications agenda for next year. I expect the Communications Subcommittee, which I chair, to have an active and full slate of issues as we approach the second session of the 105th Congress.

Chairman MCCAIN and I have agreed that the Communications Subcommittee will hold a series of oversight hearings on the implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. We will examine the degree to which the act has met its objectives of promoting competition and deregulation. We will examine the level of competition in the local and long-distance markets, between cable companies and alternative video providers, competition in the wireless industry and other important issues. We will devote considerable attention to interconnection issues and universal service.

I would like to address in some depth an issue that will be one of the most important issues before the Communications Subcommittee, that of international satellite reform.

The Communications Subcommittee has already begun to examine the international satellite communications market. On July 25 of this year, the subcommittee held a very informative hearing on this vital issue. We learned of the need for further changes in the regulation of the international market. We need to promote greater competition internationally while lifting unneeded regulations domestically. The issues in this debate are complex—they involve trade policy, fair treatment for those with existing investments, allocations of spectrum and orbital slots, market access, and elimination of outdated regulations.

Recently, my colleague from Hawaii, Senator INOUE, introduced S. 1328, which is virtually identical to a bill introduced earlier this year in the House by Chairman Bliley. Senator INOUE has stated that he hopes his bill will help "spur debate on this important issue." I share this hope. Senator INOUE's bill has been referred to the Commerce Committee. I look forward to working with him and others next year to develop an appropriate inter-

national satellite policy for the future, and also to address other domestic satellite issues.

As we move forward, I am going to be guided by the principles of former President Ronald Reagan. In 1984, President Reagan signed an Executive order that effectively eliminated outdated regulations and allowed U.S.-licensed satellite companies to compete around the world. That competition has resulted in greater consumer choices, lower prices, and the ability to reach anyone anywhere in the world.

Now as we approach the turn of the century, we need to complete President Reagan's vision. The Satellite Act, which was enacted in 1962 at a time when satellites were still experimental, has become outdated. This country cannot afford to have an industry guided by rules that were created in the days of Sputnik. We need to look forward at ways to roll back unwarranted regulations and fully unleash the potential that this industry holds.

I share the goals of increasing competition, privatizing intergovernmental organizations, and enhancing market access abroad for American satellite companies. Any legislative action should be designed to promote opportunities for American businesses, while making sure they are not harmed by the very effort that seeks to enhance their ability to succeed in the international marketplace. These are extremely complex issues and there may be different paths that lead to the same goals. The approach the subcommittee will take in further exploring these issues will be balanced. We will examine in detail how best to eliminate outdated regulations, address universal service concerns and provide for the needed flexibility to achieve an international agreement on satellite policy.

I will continue to work with the Communications Subcommittee on this critical issue. I look forward to holding further hearings, and intend to develop legislation with Chairman MCCAIN, ranking member HOLLINGS, Senator INOUE, and other committee members to establish fair rules that are competitively neutral for the international market.●

THE "ONE GOOD COW" PROJECT

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of two outstanding Montana cattlemen, Michelle Tebay and Lisa Schmidt of Whitehall, MT.

This past year has been tough in Montana and across the West for many cattle producers. They incurred severe losses due to floods and blizzards. But thanks to the hard work and vision of Michelle Tebay and Lisa Schmidt, hope is on the horizon. They initiated a project called "One Good Cow," and it certainly deserves our attention.

In Montana, we pride ourselves on looking out for one another—especially