

shaped the direction and progress of this great country.

In my own state of South Dakota, women of the plains have a long history of facing challenges with self-reliance and fortitude. Courageous women pioneers worked alongside fathers, husbands, and brothers to clear land, build homesteads, and establish schools, businesses and towns. In 1998, the women of South Dakota continue to build upon the legacy left by their foremothers of strong families and a better life for future generations.

Sadly, we lost one such woman this year. But the spirit of Sister Maurice Crowley of Aberdeen, South Dakota will remain alive in the hearts of all who knew her. Her legacy of laughter, joy and a lifelong commitment to education continues on in those whose lives she touched. As one of her first grade students more than forty years ago, I am one of those people.

Sister Crowley was an incredible human being blessed with great warmth, sharp wit and Irish charm. With characteristic humor Sister Maurice Crowley used to joke, God created Adam, stepped back, took a look, and said, "I can do better than that." Man or woman, we all benefit when we pay respect and honor those who make a difference in others' lives. It is with great respect and admiration that I pay personal tribute to Sister Maurice Crowley during Women's History Month.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, March 30, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,545,895,416,499.33 (Five trillion, five hundred forty-five billion, eight hundred ninety-five million, four hundred sixteen thousand, four hundred ninety-nine dollars and thirty-three cents).

Five years ago, March 30, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,225,653,000,000 (Four trillion, two hundred twenty-five billion, six hundred fifty-three million).

Ten years ago, March 30, 1988, the federal debt stood at \$2,487,434,000,000 (Two trillion, four hundred eighty-seven billion, four hundred thirty-four million).

Fifteen years ago, March 30, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,235,145,000,000 (One trillion, two hundred thirty-five billion, one hundred forty-five million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,310,750,416,499.33 (Four trillion, three hundred ten billion, seven hundred fifty million, four hundred sixteen thousand, four hundred ninety-nine dollars and thirty-three cents) during the past 15 years.

MR. DONNEE GRAY

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, last night millions of people across the country sat in their living rooms and at friends' houses, transfixed to the television sets as the Kentucky Wildcats

became the NCAA national basketball champions. One of our very own, an employee of the United States Senate, Mr. Donnee Gray, was at that game—not as a player or as a spectator, but as an official.

Mr. Gray has worked in the Senate Library for 22 years, diligently helping Senate staffs with legislative and legal research. His expertise is well known and respected.

For more than a decade, Mr. Gray also has been officiating basketball games at various levels of competition—from Olympic and international tournaments to NCAA Division I college games. During the past several years, Mr. Gray has been honored by the NCAA by being chosen to officiate the first round of the tournament. This year, Mr. Gray's involvement in March Madness began with the first round, continued in the Sweet Sixteen round and culminated last night in the final game. The NCAA's selection of Mr. Gray exemplifies his judgment and integrity, as well as his superior knowledge of the game and its rules.

This really is a remarkable achievement by a remarkable and talented young man. We are proud of Mr. Gray and congratulate him on his selection as an official in the national championship NCAA basketball game. We also thank him for his outstanding work here in the United States Senate.

NOMINATION OF JAMES C. HORMEL AS AMBASSADOR TO LUXEMBOURG

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I urge the Majority Leader to schedule a vote on the nomination of James Hormel as U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg.

Jim Hormel is a man of outstanding qualifications with a clear and deep commitment to public service, the promotion of human rights, and the national interests of the United States. America would be well served to have a leader of his high caliber representing this country in Luxembourg.

On the international level, he has recently completed his term as Alternate Representative of the U.S. Delegation to the 51st Session of the United Nations General Assembly. He was confirmed by the Senate for that position in 1997. He was also a member of the U.S. Delegation to the United Nations Human Rights Commission. In 1995 he participated in President Clinton's Conference on the Pacific Rim.

Jim Hormel is a talented lawyer who has shown his commitment to public service by establishing the James C. Hormel Public Service Program at the University of Chicago. This program is designed to encourage law students to enter careers in public service.

Jim Hormel is also a dedicated and energetic community activist. He was instrumental in developing resources for organizations serving people affected by HIV and AIDS, and he serves on the board of directors of the American Foundation for AIDS Research.

Recently, he was honored by Breast Cancer Action for his leadership of the Men's Campaign Against Breast Cancer. He has also been a leader for human rights in his capacity as a director of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation.

Jim Hormel is also a renowned philanthropist, and he has supported an impressively diverse array of causes, including the American Indian College Fund, the United Negro College Fund, Jewish Family and Children's Services, the Catholic Youth Organization, the NAACP, the San Francisco Symphony, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the San Francisco Public Library, the San Francisco Ballet, and the Virginia Institute of Autism.

It was entirely fitting that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee overwhelmingly approved his nomination last November. At the time, no Senator spoke in opposition. Only after the meeting did two Senators ask to be recorded against the nomination.

I share the concern expressed by other strong supporters of this nomination that action on Jim Hormel's confirmation is being delayed because he is gay. Delay on that basis would be irresponsible and unacceptable. Prejudice based on sexual orientation should have no place in this debate, no place in the Senate, and no place in America.

It is long past time for the Senate to vote on this nomination. Jim Hormel will be an excellent ambassador for the United States, and deserves to be confirmed as soon as possible.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORTS CONCERNING B-2 BOMBERS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 116

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 1998, Public Law 105-56 (1997), and section 131 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998, Public Law 105-85 (1997), I certify to the Congress that no additional B-2 bombers should be procured during this fiscal year.