

body. Laws will not make the difference in the end—or in the beginning. Mothers are there at the beginning, and they start to form our lives right at that point. I have to tell you that this organization tries to improve motherhood, something that is already excellent. They know that it can be better. They know that if they work together, they can make this country better. I want to pass on to you a few of the suggestions they have for the homes of America.

They have a pledge that mothers who join sign on to. It covers some very basic things. They recognize that there are no quick fixes to problems facing families, but they suggest: Pray each day. Establish family traditions; share history. Inspire respect, a sense of belonging, a feeling of gratitude and responsibility. They suggest a daily devotion and having a family meeting once a week. That is included with eating together as a family at least once a day for a chance to compare notes; play together, learn, teach and model life skills, such as time management; love and nurture family members; monitor television viewing; promote patriotism; teach values; plan and spend time with your spouse; and learn the parenting skills.

They have some community goals: Reestablish the dignity and importance of being a mother; encourage community-wide needs assessment to identify and solve problems. They recognize that the moms can see the problems in the community, they can identify those needs and get people busy solving them.

They suggest implementing a mentor mothers program: Get the mothers who have some experience to help those who don't have experience yet to learn what the jobs are, and that can be done in a neighborhood sort of way.

They have a number of suggestions for the neighborhood: Create a nurturing neighborhood; community watch and safe neighborhoods; community cleanliness and beautification; recycling; emergency preparedness; gardens for the hungry; and neighborhood parties to create a sense of belonging. In this country, we have lost the sense of belonging as we get so busy and wrapped up in our jobs, and that is something to which mothers will bring us back.

They are emphasizing family time together, mothers helping other mothers, sharing the peace and power of prayer and providing quilts for at-risk babies—they go to hospitals all over the country and give quilts to babies who might otherwise be at risk—and also showing the appreciation of the role of mothers everywhere.

It was a tremendous adventure to attend their convention and see all of the different activities in which they are involved, things we ought to have more people involved in all over this country.

I encourage everyone to make Mother's Day special this year. Mothers help

us to have celebrations. They are cheerleaders for all of the events of our lives. Sunday is a good day to be a cheerleader for the events in their lives. Take a few moments and write down some of the fond memories of your mother and share those with your mother. It will be a pleasant experience for both of you. After all, your mother had the dreams and did the work that makes your day, today, a reality.

In a speech I saw once, there were some lines that go something like this: For 9 long months, your mother carried you next to her heart. There is nothing that you will ever be able to do that will exceed her secret expectations of you. And even if your actions sink to the lowest depths of human behavior, you can't possibly sink beneath the love of her for you.

U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 1ST

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute's report for the week ending May 1, that the U.S. imported 8,773,000 barrels of oil each day, an increase of 667,000 barrels over the 8,106,000 imported daily during the same week a year ago.

Americans relied on foreign oil for 57.7 percent of their needs last week. There are no signs that the upward spiral will abate. Before the Persian Gulf War, the United States obtained approximately 45 percent of its oil supply from foreign countries. During the Arab oil embargo in the 1970s, foreign oil accounted for only 35 percent of America's oil supply.

Politicians had better give consideration to the economic calamity sure to occur in America if and when foreign producers shut off our supply—or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the U.S.—now 8,287,000 barrels a day.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, May 6, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,485,513,178,742.02 (Five trillion, four hundred eighty-five billion, five hundred thirteen million, one hundred seventy-eight thousand, seven hundred forty-two dollars and two cents).

One year ago, May 6, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,337,029,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred thirty-seven billion, twenty-nine million).

Five years ago, May 6, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,244,490,000,000 (Four trillion, two hundred forty-four billion, four hundred ninety million).

Ten years ago, May 6, 1988, the federal debt stood at \$2,517,049,000,000 (Two trillion, five hundred seventeen billion, forty-nine million).

Fifteen years ago, May 6, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,255,688,000,000 (One trillion, two hundred fifty-five billion, six hundred eighty-eight million) which reflects a debt increase of

more than \$4 trillion—\$4,229,825,178,742.02 (Four trillion, two hundred twenty-nine billion, eight hundred twenty-five million, one hundred seventy-eight thousand, seven hundred forty-two dollars and two cents) during the past 15 years.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF RONALD E. WYNN

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the life of Ronald E. Wynn, who died Friday, May 1, 1998. I first met Ron as a patient in 1987. He bears the distinction of being the first African-American to receive a heart transplant at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and I had the honor of performing his surgery. While our relationship was initially that of doctor/patient, it later evolved into something deeper. Ron's wife describes him as someone who "always had a smile on his face" and who "always tried to help other people." These characteristics, along with our shared desire to promote the need for organ donation, caused our friendship to grow.

Several of my transplant patients came to me in 1987 with the idea of bicycling across the state of Tennessee to promote organ donation awareness. My initial thought was they were crazy. I told them, "It's one thing to go swimming and riding and jumping running around at a controlled event, where help is just around the corner. But to go pedaling across a state with nobody around to help and no place to go if you get in trouble—it's not twenty-five miles, with people standing cheering you on; it's five hundred miles, with long stretches of deserted road, and huge hills, and cars zipping past. It's too risky." Ron was one of those courageous souls who sought to publicize this worthwhile goal by participating in this event, and he, along with several others, eventually persuaded me that it could be done in a safe and effective manner. Because of their influence, I, too, became an advocate for this program and took an active role in publicizing and promoting this event. "Transplant Bikers Across Tennessee" became a phenomenal success which helped increase donor awareness across our state and our country.

Ron's contributions to our state spanned a wide range of achievement and service. One of our local papers, *The Tennessean*, chronicled Ron's life in its May 5, 1998 edition. Ron graduated from Pearl Senior High School in 1965 and from Fisk University in 1969 with a degree in physics. He then continued his education by doing graduate work at Fisk in physics and mathematics, and put that education to practice by working as a health physicist reviewing radioactive material applications. Ron also served as a reserve officer in the Navy and was the first African-American on the amphibious assault carrier the *USS Francis Marion*.