

temporarily suspended for the sole and specific purpose of permitting photographs to be taken on February 11 or 12, 1999, during the roll call vote on the Articles of Impeachment in the impeachment trial of the President of the United States.

SEC. 2. The Sergeant at Arms of the Senate is authorized and directed to make the necessary arrangements therefor, which arrangements shall provide for a minimum of disruption to Senate proceedings.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TROOPS TO TEACHERS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, the Congress has an important opportunity to provide the youth of America with knowledge and experience that will benefit their future and therefore the future of this country. The Troops-to-Teachers program in the Department of Defense brings the technical talents and experience of retiring military personnel directly to American classrooms to benefit our young people. Former military personnel who enroll in Troops-to-Teachers bring essential mathematical, scientific, and technological expertise that our schools need in order to provide the nation with the technical talent we will need to face the future. This is a "win-win" program that brings together age and experience with youth and energy. This program rewards those in uniform who have served the nation by providing them with valuable training assistance needed for the transition to a classroom, and it rewards our young people with service professionals' knowledge and information gained while developing and using the latest technologies.

Congress established Troops-to-Teachers in 1993. Since then, over 3,000 men and women retiring from the military have received training to enable them to enter classrooms as qualified teachers. These men and women bring some very important fresh perspectives to American classrooms. About three quarters of the "Troops" are males, compared with about 25 percent male teachers in the nation's public school systems. Almost a third of them have science, engineering, and technology backgrounds which are sorely needed in our schools at all levels. About a third of the "Troops" are minorities, compared to less than 10 percent minority instructors in our public schools. Many minority retirees and half of the "Troops" overall elect to teach in inner city or rural schools—the schools that are often most in need of additional teaching expertise.

This bipartisan bill introduced by my esteemed colleague, Senator MCCAIN, would provide the critical financial support retiring service personnel need to gain teacher skills and would assist them in obtaining employment as teachers. I am honored to be an original cosponsor of S. 389, the Troops to Teachers Program Improvement Act of 1999. If enacted, this bill will provide a

\$2,000 stipend to help offset the cost of earning teacher certification. It would also provide grants to school districts for each new teacher they hire, and would set up Troops-to-Teacher Centers to manage the program in various states. Major grants up to \$825,000 would be awarded to Institutions of Higher Education located near military installations to establish teacher certification programs tailored to meet the needs of retiring military personnel. Placement and referral assistance would also be available to personnel who enroll in the program.

Mr. President, in 1993 Troops-to-Teachers was an important initiative to help meet the needs of military personnel leaving the military services during the drawdown of our military forces. The drawdown has been completed, but that no longer matters. During the past five years, I believe we now know how valuable this program is regardless of whether our military forces shrink or grow. Retiring military personnel who, by definition, are "public servants" have a valuable combination of skills and commitment to apply their public service in another venue—America's classrooms. America's youth and the nation's future will be the beneficiaries. I urge my colleagues to vote to enact the Troops-to-Teachers Improvement Act of 1999 and to extend the authority of this program for five more years. It's a great dividend from America's past and an important investment in America's future.●

##### TRIBUTE TO THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

• Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this month is the centennial anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church of Gulfport, Mississippi.

The First Presbyterian Church of Gulfport has a rich history serving the Lord and the Gulfport community. It was organized on February 17, 1899 by the New Orleans Presbytery. On January 30, 1904, the original frame church building was dedicated and a year later, Reverend F.L. McFadden was installed as the church's first Pastor. Reverend H.A. Jones was installed in December 1909 and served until his death in January 1915. Reverend A.C. Armond ministered to the church until World War I. Dr. Charles Newman followed, faithfully conducting worship for fourteen years. Reverend J.N. Brown served the Presbyterian Church during the Great Depression, World War II, and the Korean Conflict.

Installed in 1954, Dr. Richard L. Summers led the ministry until September 1986. It was during Dr. Summer's thirty-two year tenure that the present church at 1214 24th Avenue was dedicated and a number of important programs were instituted such as a week-day kindergarten.

The congregation joined the Presbyterian Church of America in 1982 and

was received in May 1983 by Grace Presbytery, P.C.A., at the First Presbyterian Church of Hattiesburg.

In July 1987, Reverend Danny Levi was installed, serving through December 1991. Reverend William R. Lyle was ordained in January 1991 and served as an Assistant Pastor until December 1992.

The First Presbyterian Church of Gulfport is now blessed to have Reverend Marshall D. Connor, a graduate of the University of South Carolina and the Reformed Theological Seminary, as its current Pastor. The father of seven children and the grandfather of two, Reverend Connor and his wife Linda have served the church since March 1993.

As the First Presbyterian Church reaches this significant milestone, it is appropriate to look back and reflect on the many lives touched by this institution. The thousands of worshipers who have achieved spiritual fulfillment. The children who received a strong religious education based on devotion to faith, family, and freedom and the biblical principles of integrity, conviction, and moral fiber. The sons and daughters who entered into the sacred bond of matrimony. The many devoted followers who regularly attended Sunday service, and who, in the Christian tradition, sought and received redemption. And the friends and family members who prayed for their loved ones and those in need.

The First Presbyterian Church has remained a center for community life and spiritual well-being for a century. This history will serve as a beacon for Gulfport as our nation moves forward into the next millennium.

For one hundred years, and with nine ministers, this congregation has stood as a strong testament to its glorious teachings. I am proud and honored to commemorate this historic achievement.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the First Presbyterian Church of Gulfport, Mississippi, and to wish the church and its many followers a joyous centennial anniversary.●

##### TRIBUTE TO DR. PAUL PHILLIPS

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Paul Phillips for his eight years of service representing Upper Providence Township on the Spring-Ford Area School Board in Collegeville, PA.

Dr. Phillips has been active in educational activities for more than 50 years. His extensive experience includes serving as former superintendent in the Morrisville School District in Bucks County and former principal in the Haverford and Lower Merion school districts. Recently, he has served as a president of the Spring-Ford school board and as School Director.

While School Director, Dr. Phillips' goal was to raise Spring-Ford High School SAT scores by 100 points. Not