

military force of enormous proportions, we should send such a force.

But that should not be a politician's decision. Nor a presidential candidate's decision. The reason we call General Shelton "Chairman of the Joint Chiefs" is because he is assigned the duty of designing the campaign plan to execute the will of the American people.

And his assignment should be simple. With minimum American casualties, in the shortest possible time, deliver victory, as defined by the president.

Having finished with Serbia, we should return briefly to Iraq, and the world will be safe for at least twenty years, because the world will have learned that when the American nation is serious, it is un-opposable.

But if we are irresolute in Serbia, if we accept a papered-over, phony victory, not all the press conferences and all the spinning in the world will convince the North Koreans, the Chinese, the Indians, the Iranians, the Iraqis, the Russians and others, that we are a nation to be dealt with seriously.

This president has put his stamp in the middle of the table. He has said the American nation is now committed, and NATO, which is essentially the American nation and its European allies, is now engaged, and we have to insist, for our children's safety, that we succeed.

Let me close, by first of all thanking all of you. As was mentioned several times, part of this resource is going to go to Juvenile Diabetes research. The rest is going to go to help launch our political efforts, to continue with vision and strategies and education.

Let me also close at a very personal level. In 1958, as many of you have heard me say, my step-father took me to the battlefield at Verdun. He was serving in the United States Army, as he did for 27 years. And he convinced me, at the end of my freshman year of high school, that civilizations die, that wars are real, that freedom is precious.

It has been for 40 years, 41 years this coming August, my privilege, as a citizen, to be a part of this extraordinary process by which the ethnically most diverse nation in the world governs itself, and seeks to provide opportunity for all of its citizens.

In that time, I've watched Barry Goldwater launch a movement that was considered a little nutty, and went down in glorious defeat in 1964, and created modern conservatism.

I watched Ronald Reagan give wonderful speeches, retire as Governor, emerge briefly to be defeated for the nomination, do a radio show from the ranch, and then emerge, in a magic moment, as America lost its way, as malaise took over, as the economy decayed, as the Russians invaded Afghanistan, and with Margaret Thatcher gave us a dual performance of the power of human leadership that changed the future. And in eight brief years he defeated the Soviet Empire, reestablished the American economy, reestablished American morale, and reminded us of the difference between evil empires and bastions of freedom.

I was privileged to serve with President Bush at a decisive moment, which is often forgotten by our friends, when every member of the Democratic elected leadership in the Congress voted against Desert Storm. We tend to forget after victory how rapidly they are forgotten. And yet President Bush had the courage, from day one, to insist that Kuwait would be taken, that Saddam's army would be destroyed, and that we would do what was necessary.

With your help, with your hard work, with your contributions and your tireless effort, we broke a 40 year monopoly, transferred power in the legislative branch, and truly changed the lives for millions of Americans.

As Mary said earlier so generously, all of us working together saved people with diabetes, we saved people with breast cancer, we put massively more money into medical research, we began a process of preventive disease approaches that I think are going to lead to wellness and major changes.

We saved hundreds of thousands of Americans from poverty by moving them into work and education, we taught their children that there is a better future than waiting on the check and sitting in public housing.

We created opportunities for our parents to have better choices in Medicare, and we began the slow, laborious process of rebuilding and rethinking our defense and our intelligence capabilities.

From that tiny country, on the fringe of the Atlantic Ocean, to a nation which stands astride the world, it has been an amazing process of two hundred and twenty-three years this July 4th. Our generation has a chance to extend that freedom, that prosperity, and that safety to every person in America, and to every person in the world.

It is, in Franklin Delano Roosevelt's words, our generation's rendezvous with destiny.

To each of you in public office I wish you God-speed. As Marianne pointed out the night we announced we would step down, we will be around in public life, and we will work with you in every way we can to give our children, and now my grandchildren, a better future. Thank you, good luck, and God Bless you.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ACT OF 1999

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Mississippi Valley National Historical Park Act of 1999. This legislation will establish a Historical Park on the former Eaker Air Force Base in Blytheville, Arkansas.

The former Eaker Air Force Base, which is located just outside of Blytheville in the Mississippi Valley region, is the site of 14 archaeological sites associated with Native Americans. The central and lower Mississippi Valley region contained the highest population levels and the most complex Native American societies north of Mexico before the arrival of European peoples in the 16th century. It has also hosted Spanish, French, English, and ultimately American societies at different times in the last 450 years.

Because of its value in illustrating and interpreting the heritage of the United States, these sites have been recognized by the National Park Service in numerous ways, such as designation as being placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984, and as a National Historic Landmark in 1996.

Archaeological sites such as these benefit, educate, and inspire present and future generations of Americans, but no unified heritage park for the central Mississippi Valley region exists within the National Park Service. This legislation will protect the archaeological sites located on the former Eaker Air Force Base, and preserve, maintain, and interpret the natural, seismic, cultural, and recreational heritage of the central Mississippi Valley region.

A TRIBUTE TO ARLO PETERSON

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize the important achievements of Arlo Peterson, a Minnesotan who was a pioneer and visionary leader in bringing affordable energy and electricity to thousands of rural and later suburban Minnesota residents. Arlo is retiring from his position on the board of Connexus Energy after 34 years of service to his state. Arlo served 25 of those years as Chairman of the Board of Directors. He took on this leadership position for one of the country's leading electric cooperatives upon the death of his father Ed Peterson in 1964, who had been a board member for 17 years. Together, these two men gave their state more than a century of service to help bring affordable electricity to their fellow residents.

A farmer from the small town of St. Francis, Minnesota, Arlo has been a model of stewardship for rural cooperative growth, ensuring that Minnesotans in his vast service area would have the energy and electricity they needed at rates they could afford. He has embodied a spirit of dedication and commitment to service for more than 34 years. Arlo took time from his primary endeavor as a family farmer to improve the lives of others in his own and neighboring communities, and helped to provide a national model of a successful electric cooperative. We are grateful for his tremendous contributions.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CROP INSURANCE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Crop Insurance Improvement Act of 1999. I am honored to have Representative THUNE, Representative MINGE, and Representative BOSWELL joining me as original cosponsors of this comprehensive crop insurance reform proposal.

The basis for this legislation is quite simple. Frankly, the current federal crop insurance program is broken and needs serious repair. Too many of our nation's farmers—especially in North Dakota—have suffered from severe weather disasters in recent years only to fall victim to a federal crop insurance program that does not protect them adequately. With so many producers being driven off the land because of uncontrolled circumstances caused by Mother Nature, the federal government must act quickly and thoroughly in enacting comprehensive crop insurance to allow our nation's farmers the opportunity to manage their risk. However, I caution that even though crop insurance reform is desperately needed, it is only the first step in reforming a safety net in American agriculture.

The Crop Insurance Improvement Act of 1999 reforms the current program by encouraging the broadest possible participation of producers in the program and to ensure greater affordability of the program for producers. It