

Ten years ago, March 20, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,020,566,000,000 (Three trillion, twenty billion, five hundred sixty-six million).

Fifteen years ago, March 20, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,707,839,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred seven billion, eight hundred thirty-nine million).

Twenty-five years ago, March 20, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$505,392,000,000 (Five hundred five billion, three hundred ninety-two million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,222,861,942,273.38 (Five trillion, two hundred twenty-two billion, eight hundred sixty-one million, nine hundred forty-two thousand, two hundred seventy-three dollars and thirty-eight cents) during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE 44TH ANNIVERSARY OF TUNISIAN INDEPENDENCE

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today in celebration of the 44th anniversary of Tunisian independence. On March 20, Tunisia—one of America's oldest allies—will mark its 44th year of independence, but our two nations have been sharing the ideals of freedom and democracy for a much longer time.

In 1797, our two nations signed a treaty calling for "perpetual and constant peace." Indeed, for the past 200 years, our two nations have enjoyed such a friendship. Whether protecting Mediterranean shipping lanes against Barbary pirates, opposing the Nazi war machine in North Africa, or supporting Western interests during the cold war, the United States could count on Tunisia. More recently, Tunisia displayed great courage in urging other Arab nations to seek an accord with Israel. Tunisia has built on that pioneering stand by playing an important role as an honest and fair broker at delicate points in the Middle East peace process.

By adopting progressive social policies that feature tolerance for minorities, equal rights for women, universal education, a modern health system, and avoiding the pitfall of religious extremism that has tormented so many other developing countries. Tunisia has built a stable, middle-class society. In stark contrast to its two neighbors, Tunisia has been a quiet and wonderful success. In fact, Tunisia became the first nation south of the Mediterranean to formally associate itself with the European Union.

Tunisia has been a model for developing countries. It has sustained remarkable economic growth, and undertaken reforms toward political pluralism. It has been a steadfast ally of the United States and has consistently fought for democratic goals and ideals. Tunisia has responded to President Dwight D. Eisenhower's request to con-

sider the United States as "friends and partner" in the most effective way—by its actions.

In commemoration of 44 years of independence for Tunisia, I urge my colleagues to reflect on our strong commitment to Tunisian people, who are still our friends and partners in North Africa.●

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL S. MCGILL

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my longtime friend and Chief of Staff, Michael S. McGill. I have known Mike for nearly two decades and have had the privilege of working with him when I was Mayor of San Francisco and during my tenure in the U.S. Senate. I have a great respect and appreciation for Mike, who has devoted his life to public service and served the state of California with excellence and honor.

Mike earned a B.S. in business administration at the University of Kansas, and is still an avid Jayhawks fan. He earned his Master's in political science at the University of Texas, which prepared him for a long and distinguished career in public service. In 1967, Mike joined the U.S. Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer and was assigned to the Model Cities Program in Fort Worth, Texas. There he committed his time and energy to issues affecting urban communities.

After moving to San Francisco in 1972, Mike developed a passion for water policy, the issue area in which he has provided me with indispensable knowledge and advice. He served for three years as executive director of the Bay Area Economic Forum, and for seven years as executive director of the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR). As head of SPUR, he faced competing agricultural, urban, and environmental interests, but he was able to mediate these differences to the benefit of California.

Since 1993, Mike has served as my Chief of Staff. He has done an outstanding job. He has managed my five Senate offices, which serve more than 32 million constituents. This in itself is a tremendous undertaking, and I am proud to say that Mike has succeeded in ensuring that the people of California are served with care, compassion, and efficiency.

As the cornerstone of my staff for the past seven years, Mike's dedication and integrity have earned him the respect of everyone he has worked with and advised. His door is always open, because no issue is too big or too small for Mike's attention and guidance.

In particular, Mike's advice in approaching and solving the water issues that impact California has been invaluable. In my state, water is our lifeblood, and this has made it a contentious issue. I have been thankful to have Mike's experience and insight on an issue that is by no means an easy one.

In my office, we can count on Mike and his wealth of knowledge that

ranges from politics to baseball to American history. He and his wife Mary enjoy traveling throughout the country, visiting presidential homes and Civil War battlefields. He is also a dedicated father to two wonderful daughters, Deidre and Erin, who are proud of his accomplishments.

Mike will be leaving my office to return to one of his passions, urban planning, this time at the General Services Administration. There he will work in the Public Buildings Service, managing and preserving historic buildings and landmarks. I have no doubt that Mike will be an asset to the GSA, just as he has been to my office.

It is with sadness, but also great pride, that we bid farewell to Mike McGill. He has been a true friend and a valued advisor throughout the years. Mike is one of California's treasures, and he will be sorely missed.●

RECOGNITION OF MIKE BUCK, ENUMCLAW HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER

• Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, two weekends ago I had the pleasure of joining a unique group of volunteers and high school students in Enumclaw, WA, in the first steps toward restoring a forested wetland on Newaukum Creek.

This project is sponsored by the city of Enumclaw and the Mid-Puget Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group (MPSFEG). MPSFEG and the city of Enumclaw have entered into an agreement for the group to remove non-native vegetation and plan various native wetland species. The group will monitor the project for 3 years to ensure success of the project.

MPSFEG's Troy Fields and Fiona McNair were kind enough to explain the challenges facing Newaukum creek salmon, and how restoring such wetlands will increase water quality and habitat, and therefore increase the chances of young fish surviving.

MPSFEG is joined in this effort by a group of enterprising students from Enumclaw High school, led by their teacher Mike Buck. Mr. Buck has used many different sites in the watershed including this one as an outdoor laboratory for his science classes. Projects have included water quality and stream insect monitoring and restoration.

Mike's approach to teaching is unique, and one that I am wholly impressed with. He has taken it upon himself to involve these young people in science-based restoration projects where they can best witness the results of their efforts—in their own backyard.

It is for this reason that I was proud to award Mike Buck with an Innovation in Education award for excellence and creativity in hands-on science learning. This project is yet another example of why decisions affecting our children's education should be made locally, not in Washington DC. No federal bureaucrat could understand the