

the Senate for taking this action, and urge the House to do the same.

I want to thank the co-sponsors of this bill—Senators COLLINS, GRAMS, ROBB, TIM HUTCHINSON, DODD, ABRAHAM, SPECTER, BRYAN, GREGG, HELMS, and BIDEN. I am very pleased by the bipartisan support for the bill, and for the endorsements of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Sheriffs' Association and other law enforcement organizations.

This bill extends retroactively the benefits created under the 1992 law to the surviving spouses and dependent children of law enforcement officials who were killed between 1978 and the current start dates of the program.

It is important to extend these benefits back to the year 1978 because under the existing program, a large number of dependent children currently between the ages 8 and 21, those born between 1978 and 1992, are excluded from participating in the program merely because their parent was killed before 1992. Pushing back the date allows these dependent children, currently facing the prospect of paying for secondary education in the often financially strained environment of a single-parent family, also to benefit from this program.

This goal is consistent with the intent of the original law: an effort to show our gratitude to the maximum number of dependent children of slain law enforcement officers.

This provision affects the families of an estimated 4,100 officers, including more than 60 in Missouri. The bill makes these spouses and dependent children eligible for up to \$5820 a year for 4 years if they enroll in full-time study at an approved secondary school. In short, it helps the loved ones of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defending the rest of us by allowing them to pursue their dreams to move forward with their lives and continue their education.

On this occasion, I also want to thank a very important organization headquartered in Camdenton, MO—the Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. [COPS]. COPS was organized in 1984 with 110 members. Today COPS' membership is over 10,000 families. Concerns of Police Survivors, provides resources to assist in the rebuilding of the lives of surviving families of slain law enforcement officers.

Furthermore, COPS provides training to law enforcement agencies on survivor victimization issues and educates the public of the need to support the law enforcement profession and its survivors.

To help those families begin rebuilding their shattered lives, COPS is again hosting the National Police Survivors' Seminars as part of National Police Week—the second day of this seminar is occurring today in Alexandria, VA. For 15 years, COPS' National Police Survivors' Seminars have provided survivors of law enforcement officers

killed in the line of duty the opportunity to interact with other survivors and have access to some of the best mental health professionals available. I wish to thank COPS for the many programs that they operate in addition to the Police Survivors' Seminars, including scholarships, peer-support at the national, State, and local levels, "C.O.P.S. Kids" counseling programs, the "C.O.P.S. Kids" Summer Camp, Parents' Retreats, trial and parole support, and other assistance programs.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the hundreds of thousands of police officers who protect the lives and property of their fellow Americans. By the enforcement of our laws, these same officers have given our country internal freedom from fear and are responsible for helping our nation lower its crime rates again this year. These men and women, by their patriotic service and their dedicated efforts, have earned the gratitude of us all.

Officers who give their lives to protect our freedom leave behind families that must cope with the terrible loss. When this tragedy occurs, we have an obligation to help the spouses and children of fallen heroes. One way to help is to offer the opportunity to pursue their education. I thank the Senate for supporting this bill, and urge the House of Representatives to pass this legislation quickly.

BURMA'S FORCED MILITARY SERVICE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on Monday, the Financial Times carried a story headlined "Burma Regime Has the Most Child Soldiers." As Burma drives toward a goal of a half million man army, more than 50,000 children have been forced into military service, with orphans and street children the most vulnerable.

These are the facts of life in Burma that no longer surprise any of us who follow the region closely. Forced labor, forced relocations, arrests, detention, torture, even executions are more facts—repeated so often that it is easy to develop a tin ear to the unreal horrors these words convey about daily life in Burma. Add words like hunger, disease, and illiteracy—add unemployment, injustice and drug trafficking, and you get the full picture of the misery the Rangoon regime has created.

As acute as Burma's pain is, this is not a day of mourning. Today is a celebration of wisdom and courage—a tribute to Burma's citizens who 10 years ago defied all risks and elected Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy [NLD] to lift the nation from a deep swamp of poverty, brutality and repression to the solid ground of democracy and prosperity.

The army may have stolen Burma's elections and her rightful past, but they will not be allowed to diminish our faith nor discourage our service to her future—to Burma's freedom.

For 10 years, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has honored the wisdom and courage of

her constituents through countless acts of self-discipline, heroic judgment and profound humility. Treated with cruelty, especially during her husband's final days, her compassion has not withered. Imprisoned, isolated by house arrest, she finds strength to reach out for a peaceful, political dialog with her captors. Wounded with each report of a follower's detention or death, she does not scar with bitterness, she does not retreat from her destined course—democracy.

Today, Senator MOYNIHAN and I have introduced a resolution of support for that destiny—for the restoration of democracy. Joined by Senators LOTT, HELMS, LEAHY, ASHCROFT, FEINSTEIN, LUGAR, DURBIN, KENNEDY, SARBANES and WELLSTONE, we are honored to have the opportunity to pay tribute to those who persevere in the noble quest for Burma's liberty.

In particular, let me offer my appreciation to the Members and friends of the NLD who work tirelessly for Burma's free future and, especially the guardian angel of our common cause, Michelle Bohanna.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, May 15, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,665,244,853,842.93 (Five trillion, six hundred sixty-five billion, two hundred forty-four million, eight hundred fifty-three thousand, eight hundred forty-two dollars and ninety-three cents).

Five years ago, May 15, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,881,377,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred eighty-one billion, three hundred seventy-seven million).

Ten years ago, May 15, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,092,389,000,000 (Three trillion, ninety-two billion, three hundred eighty-nine million).

Fifteen years ago, May 15, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,750,555,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred fifty billion, five hundred fifty-five million).

Twenty-five years ago, May 15, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$520,101,000,000 (Five hundred twenty billion, one hundred one million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,145,143,853,842.93 (Five trillion, one hundred forty-five billion, one hundred forty-three million, eight hundred fifty-three thousand, eight hundred forty-two dollars and ninety-three cents) during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TAIWANESE-AMERICAN HERITAGE WEEK

• Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, this week I join people in Wisconsin and across the nation in celebrating Taiwanese-American Heritage Week. This week of celebration, from May 7 to May 14, honors the many diverse contributions of over 500,000 Taiwanese-Americans in the

United States. These Americans have contributed significantly to our social fabric, making notable contributions as medical professionals, Nobel Laureate scientists, business owners, human rights activists, and teachers.

While it is important to recognize the achievements of Taiwanese-Americans in the United States, Taiwanese-American Heritage Week also gives us the opportunity to celebrate the success of democracy in Taiwan. Since the lifting of martial law in 1987, Taiwan has made consistent strides toward becoming an open, democratic society where freedoms are respected and the will of the people is observed. To the credit of the many Taiwanese-Americans who fought to bring democratic principles back to the island, Taiwan is now a vibrant democratic member of the international community.

With the recent election of opposition leader Chen Shui-bian as President, Taiwan has again reaffirmed its commitment to the open electoral process that is the cornerstone of democracy. While this election bodes well for the future of a democratic Taiwan, many challenges remain. Taiwan must continue to resist internal anti-democratic forces, while also providing for its own security in a region with too few democratic neighbors. However, I am confident that Taiwan will meet these challenges and continue to play a productive role in the international community.

Mr. President, Taiwanese-American Heritage Week properly recognizes the longstanding friendship between the United States and Taiwan. Once again, I commend the accomplishments and on-going contributions of the Taiwanese-American community.●

RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ERUPTION OF MT. ST. HELENS

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I take the floor today to commemorate one of the most significant events in the history of my state—the eruption of Mt. St. Helens. On the 18th of May, 1980, Mt. St. Helens exploded with the force of a 24-megaton atomic bomb, scorching 230 square miles of picturesque Northwest landscape and triggered the largest known landslide in history, traveling at nearly 200 mph to bury Spirit Lake and the Toutle River. Tragically, fifty-seven men and women lost their lives, over 200 homes and 180 miles of road were destroyed and caused \$3 billion in damages.

Since that horrific day, the great people of Washington state began the long road to recovery. Today, I would like to recognize the astounding efforts of thousands of volunteers and donations from countless companies that have succeeded in making Mt. St. Helens a place where trees are growing at record speeds and animals are beginning to thrive in their new home.

Mt. St. Helens is now a place where tens of thousands of visitors flock

every year from around the globe to witness both the violent and healing powers of nature. Local residents devastated by the eruption have transformed their communities and now look to Mt. St. Helens to attract visitors and contribute to the local economy.

There is still, however, an enormous amount of work to be done to help Mt. St. Helens and the surrounding areas continue on this path to recovery. The local communities' dedication to rebuilding infrastructure and ecosystems, the creation of a renowned research facility, and the construction of a world-class tourist attraction have demonstrated the highest degree of responsiveness and resourcefulness.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Forest Service for their achievements and commitment in bringing Mt. St. Helens back to life.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, and a member of the Mt. St. Helens Institute Advisory Board, I am deeply committed to helping Mt. St. Helens make the best possible recovery and to finding federal dollars to keep Mt. St. Helens accessible and enjoyable for all visitors and to assist the surrounding communities in finding solutions to their many challenges.

I am confident that in the next twenty years the people of the Northwest will make even greater strides in reviving the beauty of Mt. St. Helens, making Washington state an even greater place to live.●

REFLECTIONS ON THE BOZEMAN DRUG COURT

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the innovative work of the Drug Treatment Court in Gallatin County, Montana.

Recently I worked for a day at the Drug Court, where I witnessed the process of evaluating drug court cases and determining who was following the rules—and who was not.

I must say, Mr. President, I was very impressed and inspired by the whole process—Judge Olson, his staff, the prosecutors, defense attorneys, parole and probation officer, counselors. And, most important of all, the people who have voluntarily decided to turn their lives around. This pilot project in Bozeman, Montana should be replicated around the state and nation.

In the morning, I sat in on the briefing, where judges and all the parties involved in sanctioning defendants discussed—with compassion and sometimes frustration—their attempts to help these people get off and stay off of drugs and alcohol.

Their discussions centered not on punishment, but on finding common-sense ways to help these people addicted to drugs and alcohol find ways to improve their lives and be positive contributors to their communities.

And, sitting later in court, I saw the genuine and sincere attempts of the defendants to correct their lives and stay out of jail.

Judge Olson was remarkable. He mixed just the right amount of compassion with tough love to help the defendants.

He counseled them, warned them, caajoled them, and told them he personally would help them find jobs so they could stay “clean.” His work is to be highly commended and copied throughout Montana.

The defendants also showed that they can beat drugs and alcohol. One middle-aged man told me later that the Treatment Court was the best thing that ever happened in his life. He had become clean for the first time in 30 years. He owed his life to the Treatment Court. Now he is trying to find ways to help other people.

The Treatment Court is a success story waiting to be copied. It is a way to keep people out of jail, off the streets and in a job.

Yes, some people slip up and don't abide by the rules. When they do, Judge Olson cracks down on them. But when they succeed, Judge Olson praises them, and shakes their hand.

His personal involvement in the lives of these people shows that justice does know compassion, that courts can be places where people headed for jail can make a detour—and be given a chance to redirect their lives. Mr. President, I want to say that I was inspired by what I saw last Friday in Treatment Court in Bozeman. And I want to help to find funding for the Bozeman Treatment Court, as well as funding for similar courts throughout Montana.

Such an investment in people—in helping them become positive citizens in their communities rather than burdens—will save us money—and lives—in the long run.

And I will also work hard to help the Treatment Court find funds to help defendants locate affordable housing, get a good education and good jobs. What struck me, Mr. President, was that many of the defendants suffered from a lack of education. My work day in Treatment Court reminded of the importance and power of education, as well as the importance of creating good-paying jobs.

Along with families, they are the building blocks of a strong and health society, and help keep people off drugs and alcohol.

Count me a supporter of this successful program.

The treatment court idea embodies steps crucial to curbing the influence of drugs on our society.

Nationally, such treatment courts are a relatively new idea. The first drug courts were created in Florida in 1989, under the supervision of Janet Reno.

She and others realized that the solution to the rising number of drug related cases was not to increase the capacity of the criminal justice system—but to reduce the number of drug users.