

over 30 species of shorebirds, eight species of flycatcher, six species of thrush, and 35 species of warblers. Rhode Island's location makes it a key stopover spot for many neotropical migrants to refuel and rehydrate.

In addition to an excellent location, Rhode Island has important habitat for migratory birds. Its combination of fruit-bearing shrubs and forest provide ample cover and food for these birds to take a break during their migration. The many wetlands found in the state also provide excellent areas to rehydrate, one of the most important needs on a bird's trip north or south.

Even with high quality habitat still available in parts of the United States, tragically, many of these species are in real danger. The greatest human threat to neotropical migratory birds is the loss of habitat, particularly in the Caribbean and Latin America. Many neotropical migratory birds stop to rest and feed at several relatively small patches of habitat along their long migrations between continents. Destruction of these stopover areas can have a devastating impact on a species. In addition, overharvesting of timber, loss of wetlands and heavy use of pesticides exact a heavy toll on the habitats on which neotropical migrants depend. As noted in the Committee Report, 90 species of migratory birds are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, and approximately 210 species in the United States are in serious decline.

The challenge of protecting migratory birds is complicated by the reality that many of the most effective conservation measures must be implemented overseas. Migratory birds cross oceans, time zones, and national boundaries. Preservation of these species must involve close partnerships and cooperation with our Caribbean and South American neighbors.

Senator ABRAHAM's bill will help address the multitude of threats facing migratory birds by encouraging partnerships between private and public entities and across international boundaries to help protect and restore habitat of neotropical migrants. Importantly, there are ongoing efforts aimed at stopping the decline in migratory bird species; however, these efforts could be enhanced through better coordination and increased funding. S. 148 furthers both goals. Under the bill, the Secretary of the Interior is directed to facilitate the exchange of information among the various groups, and to coordinate existing conservation efforts. The bill also authorizes \$25 million over five years in grants for projects to conserve neotropical migratory bird populations. Three-quarters of this funding must be used for projects in other countries to ensure that scarce resources will be focused where they are needed most.

In closing, I would like to relate a story that my father used to tell about a family friend traveling in China. This fellow noticed that his surroundings

there were strangely silent. Upon reflection, he attributed the ominous quiet to the total lack of birds in the environment. Apparently, in parts of China the destruction of habitat and the commercial bird market have resulted in the virtual elimination of songbirds. What a terrible loss. We must work together to prevent such tragedy from occurring in the Western Hemisphere. And, Senator ABRAHAM's bill is a good step in the right direction. I applaud my colleagues for supporting this measure to help prevent the further decline in our neotropical migratory birds. And, I hope the President will act swiftly to enact the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, June 29, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,645,427,846,938.37 (Five trillion, six hundred forty-five billion, four hundred twenty-seven million, eight hundred forty-six thousand, nine hundred thirty-eight dollars and thirty-seven cents).

One year ago, June 29, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,640,577,000,000 (Five trillion, six hundred forty billion, five hundred seventy-seven million).

Fifteen years ago, June 29, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,798,529,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred ninety-eight billion, five hundred twenty-nine million).

Twenty-five years ago, June 29, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$536,081,000,000 (Five hundred thirty-six billion, eighty-one million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,109,346,846,938.37 (Five trillion, one hundred nine billion, three hundred forty-six million, eight hundred forty-six thousand, nine hundred thirty-eight dollars and thirty-seven cents) during the past 25 years.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRINIDAD STATE JUNIOR COLLEGE

• Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, Trinidad State Junior College, the oldest two-year college in Colorado, is celebrating 75 years of excellence. Established in 1925 by the Colorado Legislature, the College can look back with pride over its 75 years of service to its community, the State of Colorado, and the Nation.

Throughout its history, Trinidad State Junior College has attracted students from across Colorado, from many areas of the United States, and from numerous foreign countries. The result has been the creation of an environment that is significantly more cosmopolitan than is found in other rural two-year colleges.

Trinidad State Junior College will carry forth its strong tradition of scho-

lastic excellence into the new century and will continue to provide its students with the knowledge, skills, and experiences necessary to meet their educational and personal goals.

Congratulations to Trinidad State Junior College on its seventy-fifth anniversary.●

#### OCCASION OF THE 2000 PARALYMPIC TRIALS

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, this past week, culminating on Saturday, June 24th, the 2000 Paralympic Trials for track and field were held on the campus of Connecticut College in New London, Connecticut.

Almost 150 athletes competed in a dozen events including the 100 meter race, 10,000 meter race, shot put, long jump and high jump. Seventy-one athletes earned the right to represent the United States at the 2000 Sydney Paralympic Games, which will be held October 18th-29th.

The Paralympic movement is relatively young, but in recent years it has grown rapidly. In 1948, Sir Ludwig Guttmann staged the first International Wheelchair Games to coincide with the 1948 London Olympic Games. These first Games focused on World War II veterans with spinal cord-related injuries. Later, other disability groups established international sports organizations which arranged various competitions. As time went by, multi-disability competitions developed. These events were brought together for the first time under the banner of the Paralympic Games in 1960 in Rome.

Since then, the games have grown in success and popularity. Always held in tandem with the Olympic Games, the Paralympic athletes move into the Olympic village shortly after the Olympic athletes move out and many times compete at the same venues as their Olympic counterparts.

From Seoul to Barcelona and most recently in Atlanta, the Paralympic Games have blossomed into a major international sporting event. This year's Games in Sydney will continue the momentum generated over the last decade. In fact, more athletes will compete at the Sydney 2000 Summer Paralympics (4,000 athletes from 125 nations) than in the 1972 Munich Olympics.

To those who competed last week in Connecticut, I think I speak for all of our colleagues in applauding their efforts. Like all athletes, they remind us of the timely and timeless virtues that sports teach us—virtues like self-reliance, discipline, cooperation, and modesty in victory as well as defeat. In striving to do their best, they inspire others to do their best, as well—be they disabled or not.

To those who will represent the United States in Sydney, we wish them luck. And we are confident that they will do our nation proud.

I ask that the names of these athletes be printed in the RECORD.

ATHLETES NOMINATED TO THE 2000  
PARALYMPIC ATHLETICS TEAM

Rodney Anderson, Daniel Andrews, Ken Bair, Bob Balk, Lisa Banta, Jennifer Barrett, Cheri Beccerra, Thomas Becke, Trent Blair, Cheri Blauwet, John Brewer, Ted Bridis, Shawn Brown, Jeremy Burleson, Bert Burns, Lynne K. Carlton, Joseph Christmas, Wiley Clark, Ed Cockrell, Shea Cowart, Keith Davis, Ross Davis, Troy Davis, Gabriel Diaz DeLeon, Barton Dodson, Jean Driscoll, Rob Evans, Mark Fenn, Brian Frasure, Jessica Galli, Roderick Green, Deborah Hearn, Jacob Heilveil, Doug Heir, Scott Hollonbeck, and Larry Hughes.

Tony Iniguez, Val Jacobson, Eric Kaiser, Michael Keohane, Dave Larson, Jeff Lauterbach, Cheryl Leitner, Joseph LeMar, Arthur Lewis, Kenneth Marshall, Vince Martin, Pan McGonigle, Asya Miller, Royal Mitchell, Nancy Moloff, Edward Munro, Lindsay Nielsen, Paul Nitz, Albert Reed, Freeman Register, John Register, Ian Rice, Rich Ruffalo, Payam Saadat, William Schneider, Marlon Shirley, Judy Siegle, Matthew Smith, Amie Stanton, Laura Terry, Tony Volpentef, Lynn Wachtell, Chris Waddell, Tim Willis, and Dana Zimmerman.●

FARGO-MOORHEAD, ALL-  
AMERICAN CITY

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate the City of Fargo, North Dakota, on its recent selection with neighboring Moorhead, Minnesota, as an All-American City by the National Civic League.

This is a prestigious but well deserved honor. The Fargo-Moorhead metro area is one of the most vital and fastest growing in the Upper Great Plains. The region is home to three highly respected colleges and universities. It is a major medical and commercial center. And in recent years, the area has seen remarkable growth in high technology.

But modern infrastructure and economic vitality are only part of the story of this award. Fargo was recently ranked the best medium-sized city in America in which to raise children. It offers the sort of civil society with safe streets, strong families, and functioning and responsive government that comes to mind when people all over this country think of what it means to live in America's heartland.

It was pleasant news but no surprise that Fargo-Moorhead was one of 10 communities that were winners in the national All-America City competition, hosted by the National Civic League. The league could not have chosen better.

As I have discussed on the Senate floor, recent storms dumped over seven inches of rain on Fargo in just over seven hours, inundating the city and causing hundreds of millions of dollars of damage. These torrential rains have also meant something else, however—another chance for the area's residents to show their resilience, compassion, and community spirit. Already, Fargo-Moorhead is coming back, stronger than ever.

Mr. President, I would like to pay special tribute to the cooperation between Fargo and its sister city to the

east, Moorhead. Rather than a basis for rivalry, the proximity and common experience of Fargo and Moorhead have proven compelling rationales for cooperation. The joint award to Fargo and Moorhead of All-America City honors recognizes the daily cooperation and friendship that characterizes relations between these neighboring communities.

Numerous volunteers invested thousands of hours of work in preparations for the recent competition, and deserve sincere thanks. Let me make special note of the efforts of Fargo Mayor Bruce Furness and Moorhead Mayor Morris Lanning for their leadership and vision. In helping to make this award a reality, they are allowing the nation to see what we in North Dakota and Minnesota have known for years—that Fargo-Moorhead is shining example of the American dream made reality, a truly All-America City.

Again, on behalf of the United States Senate, I offer my most sincere congratulations to Fargo and Moorhead for being recognized as an All-America City.●

HONORING ARDYCE HABEGER  
SAMP

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to publicly commend Ardyce Habeger Samp of Flandreau, South Dakota on being named for the prestigious 2000 Dakota Conference Award for Distinguished Contribution to the Preservation of Cultural Heritage of South Dakota and the Northern Plains.

Ms. Samp is a freelance writer, with more than 125 published short stories and two books, entitled "When Coffee Was a Nickel" and "Penny Candy Days." She is an active member of her community, serving on various boards, clubs and church organizations.

This past May, Governor Bill Janklow issued an honorary executive proclamation, declaring May 26, 2000 "Ardyce Habeger Samp Day." Also recently, Ms. Samp received the prestigious 2000 Dakota Conference Award for Distinguished Contribution to the Preservation of Cultural Heritage of South Dakota and the Northern Plains.

Mr. President, Ardyce Samp's scholarship and literary talents have enhanced the lives of South Dakotans. Her role in community leadership serves as a model for other South Dakotans to emulate. We are grateful for her continued work to tell the story of the Northern Plains. I am pleased to be able to share her story with my colleagues and to be able to publicly commend her work.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages

from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:47 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1304. An act to ensure and foster continued patient safety and quality of care by making the antitrust laws apply to negotiations between groups of health care professionals and health plans and health insurance issuers in the same manner as such laws apply to collective bargaining by labor organizations under the National Labor Relations Act.

The message also announced that the House of Representatives has passed the following concurrent resolutions, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 125. A concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 5(a) of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Act (36 U.S.C. 101 note), the Speaker has appointed the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission: Mr. LAHOOD of Illinois and, in addition, Ms. Joan Flinspach of Indiana and Mr. James R. Thompson of Illinois.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 5(a) of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Act (36 U.S.C. 101 note), the Minority Leader appoints the following individuals to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission: Mr. David Phelps of Illinois and Ms. Louise Taper of California.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 4425. An act making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

MEASURE PLACED ON THE  
CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 4680. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a voluntary program for prescription drug coverage under the Medicare Program, to modernize the Medicare Program, and for other purposes.