

General Shelton's awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal (with two oak leaf clusters), Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit (with oak leaf cluster), Bronze Star Medal with V device (with three oak leaf clusters), and the Purple Heart.

He has also been awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Air Assault Badge, Military Freefall Badge, and Special Forces and Ranger Tabs and numerous foreign awards and badges.

Mrs. Shelton is the former Carolyn L. Johnson of Speed, NC, who was young Hugh Shelton's high school sweetheart. As Mrs. Hugh H. Shelton, she has been actively involved with service issues and support to military families throughout General Shelton's career. The General and Mrs. Shelton have three sons: Jonathan, a special agent in the U.S. Secret Service; Jeffrey, a U.S. Army Special Operations soldier, and Mark, their youngest son.

Mr. President, Dot Helms and I are proud to have General Shelton and Carolyn as our very special friends—and to be theirs. The General has represented the U.S. military with great distinction for the past four years as its senior military officer.

This splendid North Carolinian has participated in policy-making at the highest levels of Government but he never lost the common touch with our men and women in uniform. He will be remembered as a soldier's soldier and a quiet professional, along with his lovely wife and three sons.

RETIREMENT OF GENERAL MICHAEL E. RYAN

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor General Michael E. Ryan, the Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force. General Ryan is a great American and, more important, and I'm sure no surprise to my colleagues, he is a fellow Texan. General Ryan has long been a tribute to Texas, the Nation, and especially to the Air Force.

General Ryan graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1965, and during his 36 years of service he commanded at the squadron, wing, numbered air force and major command levels, and accumulated more than 4,100 flying hours in seven different aircraft with 153 combat missions. He flew combat in Southeast Asia, including 100 missions over North Vietnam, and he served in key staff assignments at the major command level, at Headquarters U.S. Air Force and the Joint Staff. As commander of 16th Air Force and Allied Air Forces Southern Europe in Italy, he directed the NATO air combat operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We owe him a huge debt of thanks for just this duty alone as his leadership directly contributed to the Dayton Peace Accords.

General Ryan is, fortunately, not an unsung hero as he has received many decorations and medals including: the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal with 11 oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters and the Vietnam Service Medal with three service stars.

After serving as the commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe and commander, Allied Air Forces Central Europe, General Ryan "took the stick" of the Air Force as its 16th Chief of Staff. During his tenure, he has exemplified the quiet dignity and honor of that office through his leadership, integrity and foresight. A true leader who understood that his role was to set the course for our 21st Century Air Force and then clear the path to allow his commanders to truly lead their units, General Ryan personifies once said: "I don't think leadership should be personalized. Good ideas are best when they don't have a single identity. Leadership is a team effort."

This is a lesson those of us here in Congress would be wise to learn!

Meanwhile, General Ryan's accomplishments are critical and easily quantifiable. He and his leadership team successfully arrested the Air Force's readiness decline of the last decade, and built stability into the expeditionary operations our nation demands by reorganizing the service. At the same time though, General Ryan ensured that despite the Air Force being an all-volunteer force competing in a strong job market, its retention and recruiting efforts never sacrificed quality for quantity. He also led the effort to provide lifetime health care to our men and women who willingly put their lives at risk, as well as a retirement system that properly compensates their service to country.

In a period of leadership challenges and chaos, General Ryan led our Air Force, balancing reductions in forces with dramatically increased operational tasking. Without question, the U.S. Air Force is the world's premier force and our country owes a debt of gratitude to Mike Ryan.

At the same time, we owe a debt of gratitude to the person General Ryan owes much of his success—his wife, Jane Ryan. With dignity and grace she selflessly gave her time and attention to the men and women of the Air Force family. Her sacrifice and devotion have served as an example and inspiration for others. The Air Force will lose not one, but two very exceptional people.

In fact, General Ryan's departure from active duty will signal an historic occurrence for the first time in 63 years, there will no longer be a Ryan in the ranks of the United States Air Force. While General Ryan distinguished himself as an airmen, leader,

and trusted advisor to both the President and the U.S. Congress, his father, General John Ryan, also served as the senior uniformed Air Force officer.

The Air Force is a better institution today than it was four years ago. General Ryan's distinguished and faithful service provided a significant and lasting contribution to our Air Force and to our Nation's security. He has served our Nation with honor and distinction. I know the Members of the Senate will join me in paying tribute to this outstanding American patriot upon his retirement from the Air Force. We thank him and wish him and his family much health, happiness and Godspeed.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, September 5, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,769,122,055,290.29, five trillion, seven hundred sixty-nine billion, one hundred twenty-two million, fifty-five thousand, two hundred ninety dollars and twenty-nine cents.

One year ago, September 5, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,678,475,470,839.16, five trillion, six hundred seventy-eight billion, four hundred seventy-five million, four hundred seventy thousand, eight hundred thirty-nine dollars and sixteen cents.

Five years ago, September 5, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,225,564,391,083.90, five trillion, two hundred twenty-five billion, five hundred sixty-four million, three hundred ninety-one thousand, eight-three dollars and ninety cents.

Ten years ago, September 5, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,623,548,000,000, three trillion, six hundred twenty-three billion, five hundred forty-eight million.

Fifteen years ago, September 5, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,112,803,000,000, two trillion, one hundred twelve billion, eight hundred three million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$3 trillion, \$3,656,319,055,290.29, Three trillion, six hundred fifty-six billion, three hundred nineteen million, fifty-five thousand, two hundred ninety dollars and twenty-nine cents during the past 15 years.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll. The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SECTION 245(i) EXTENSION ACT OF 2001

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now turn to the consideration of calendar No. 73, H.R. 1885, the 245(i) family unification bill; that the bill be amended