

Zsquez Johnson and Geiselle LaVonne Johnson Edwards. His father Reverend Johnson, pastor of Truevine Missionary Baptist Church, is a distinguished pastor and community leader in the Mobile area, with whom I have worked on projects to make Mobile a better place for all. His family grieves for their loss but take comfort in the fact that he told his father, as he was leaving to go to Kuwait, he knew God was with him.

Private Johnson sacrificed his life for the betterment of America. This nation shall never forget all that he and many others have given to our country. Our prayers are that God will have mercy on all those who come before him; also, that he grant this family and the world the true peace that passes all understanding.

#### CBO REPORT

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, at the time Senate Report No. 108–21 was filed for S. 212, High Plains Aquifer, the Congressional Budget Office report was not available. For the benefit of the Members and the public, the following link to the CBO report is: <ftp://ftp.cbo.gov/41xx/doc4123/s212.pdf>.

#### MELTING GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, last week the Detroit Police Department destroyed 5,037 guns by taking them to the Rouge Steel Company in Dearborn, MI, and melting them into recycled steel. Two dump trucks traveled under guard to deliver the weapons, which apparently included AK 47s, sawed off shotguns, Uzis and machine guns, from police headquarters to the steel plant. At the plant, steelworkers melted the firearms by pouring 2,600 degree molten steel over them.

Detroit Police Chief Jerry Oliver said that taking these guns out of circulation will save lives. That is good news. Last year alone, 26 children lost their lives in incidents of gun violence in Detroit. The Detroit Police Department has been working hard to reduce gun violence in the city. And every gun that's taken off the street helps make this job a little bit easier.

The fight to reduce gun violence must be waged on many fronts. We need to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, prevent children from gaining access to firearms, and give law enforcement the resources they need to thoroughly investigate gun-related crimes. At the same time, we have to vigorously prosecute criminals who commit gun-related crimes.

We in the Senate should take up and pass common sense gun safety legislation. And we need to provide adequate resources to police departments. Unfortunately, we are fighting an uphill battle. Common sense gun safety legislation is blocked by the National Rifle Association and its allies. The President's budget proposes massive cuts to COPs and other critical law enforce-

ment programs. And Attorney General Ashcroft, while indicating the Bush Administration's support for the current ban on assault weapons, recently refused to support reauthorization of the ban.

Melting those guns in Dearborn last week was a welcome event for all of us who care about reducing gun violence. But it would surely have been better if those guns had never made it onto the street in the first place. Absent adequate funding for police departments and the passage of common sense legislation to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, I fear that truckloads of guns will remain on our streets, in the hands of criminals, threatening our communities. I urge my colleagues to join me in working to restore funding for COPs, close the gun show loophole, and reauthorize the assault weapons ban this year.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO THE MT. CARMEL REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

• Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Mt. Carmel Regional Medical Center in Pittsburg, KS for its 100 years of providing healthcare services to the people of Crawford County and the surrounding region.

From a handful of Sisters of St. Joseph of Wichita and only a few doctors a century ago to more than 800 employees, 200 volunteers and 50 physicians, Mt. Carmel Regional Medical Center has remained true to its founder's directive to "Do all the good you can, to all the people you can, in all the ways that you can, and just as long as you can."

On a rainy April morning in 1903, Mother Bernard Sheridan and five Sisters answered a call to serve in a region where countless immigrant miners and their families had flocked to work in the coalfields, a place where injury and illness were rampant. One of the Sisters described the deplorable conditions: "When the miner's wife or children fell ill as a result of these unsanitary conditions, or when the miner himself was carried out of the pit broken and bloody or overcome by gas or powder fumes, there was no sickroom but the hot, crowded, dust-covered, fly-infested shack." With faith and little more than \$5 in her pocket, Mother Bernard opened a hospital to serve those as they would "that God should deal with themselves and their loved ones." The hospital was the first of many healthcare ministries the Sisters would later sponsor throughout Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and California.

The little hospital could accommodate 20 patients at the time of its opening, and there was no paid staff. The six women worked 7 days a week attending to the nursing, cooking, laundry, cleaning and minding of the furnace. Eighteen-hour workdays were

common, and when time allowed, the sisters slept in the attic. To aid in the hospital's survival, the Sisters worked out an agreement with the Santa Fe Operating Companies to care for the firm's employees for \$80 and 15 tons of coal a month, an early example of managed care. The Sisters also created Kansas' first prepaid hospital insurance plan. For 25 cents a month, miners and their families were assured hospital care for as long as it was needed. Moreover, addressing their own nursing shortage, in 1904, the Sisters opened a school of nursing which continued into the 1970s when it was transformed into the present day university nursing education program.

Mr. President, 100 years later, Mt. Carmel Regional Medical Center is a state-of-the-art facility serving nine counties of southeast Kansas, and it continues to be a leader in meeting community need with creativity and innovation. Mt. Carmel has overcome the early-day adversities of Kansas blizzards and oven-hot winds, numerous epidemics, war, drought, floods, mine strikes and shutdowns; to present day difficulties of escalating operating costs, third party payer cutbacks and work force shortages. So well did the hospital adapt, that it was recognized by the American Hospital Association in 1991 as one of the three best hospitals in the Nation to respond to the changes in health care.

Mt. Carmel continues to meet the needs of those it serves, identifying health care issues and addressing them with the same ingenuity and collaboration its founder relied upon in the beginning. It holds fast to its mission of providing healthcare to all, regardless of ability to pay. Mt. Carmel has addressed the region's need for comprehensive cancer care with the creation of a certified community cancer center; and it is now aggressively fighting heart disease through the opening of a regional heart center. It has collaborated with others to create high quality, affordable childcare for working families and has provided accessible healthcare services through the creation of a community health clinic, recently transformed into a federally qualified health center. It has developed one of the few free dental clinics in the State, and a prescription drug assistance program to aid those who cannot afford them. Mt. Carmel has developed a congregational health ministry that actively involves and encourages area churches not only to take care of their own, but to put their faith in action for the betterment of their community.

On the occasion of its centennial, Mt. Carmel Regional Medical Center looks to the future as it completes the most significant expansion and renovation in its history. A \$16.5 million Outpatient Services project doubled the facility's ground floor square footage and included the opening of the heart center, and the installation of one of the most powerful MRI units in the region. Also