

ADF is strongly supportive of the Bush Administration and your Congressional leadership in highlighting the clear linkages between development and trade. The economic growth supported by free trade and open markets creates new jobs and increased income for many people. From our direct/experience working in Serbia, ADF sees a wonderful potential in further advancing such linkages. NTR for Serbia & Montenegro will promote its economic and social development and enhance the prospects for strengthening democracy. Perhaps most importantly, NTR for Serbia & Montenegro is in our nation's direct national interests. Open markets and increased investment will result not only in benefiting the people of Serbia & Montenegro but also U.S. investment, trade and other important strategic interests.

Thank you for championing S. 671. ADF looks forward to quick passage of the bill by the U.S. Senate.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL MILLER,  
*President.*

#### HEAD START PROGRAM

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today I rise to express my opposition to any proposed changes to Head Start that would dismantle the program. I understand the Bush administration is attempting to turn the Head Start program into a State block grant. A block grant is an amount of money that the Federal Government gives to the States for a specific purpose. Head Start is a well-respected program with a record of success. It is a comprehensive program that helps disadvantaged children and their families with early child development, literacy and health screenings. Why would we want to block grant a successful program? Too often block grants become an excuse to cut funding in the future. I do not believe that Head Start would be improved by changing successful local programs by imposing a new layer of administration at the State level. I am distressed to know that so many children of low-income families will be denied the opportunity to enhance their early childhood development.

The Head Start program was designed to help communities meet the needs of underprivileged preschool children from ages three to five and their families. Head Start provides diverse services in four areas—education, health, parent involvement, and social services. Head Start's educational program is designed to meet the needs of each child, the community served, and its ethnic and cultural characteristics. Every child is involved in a comprehensive health program, which includes immunizations; medical, dental, and mental health; and nutritional services. An essential part of Head Start is the involvement of parents in parent education, program planning, and operating activities. Finally, specific social services are geared to each family.

The West Virginia Head Start Association represents 24 Head Start programs statewide. Each Head Start program is unique in providing services to their families to meet the specific

needs in the community. In 2000–01, West Virginia Head Start programs received funding to enroll 6,700 children. Over the years, I have enjoyed visiting local Head Start programs to visit with children and meet with parents, teachers and staff about the importance of early education.

From the early stages of the Head Start program, Head Start has expanded to include services for pregnant women and children under the age of 3. The goal of Early Head Start is to encourage the development of infants and toddlers by assisting parents in recognizing their value as the caregiver and teacher of their children. Early Head Start provides services in and out of the home to families with young children and expectant families. They include parent education, nutrition services, case management, and support groups for parents. In 2000–01, West Virginia received funding to enroll 325 children in 12 counties.

Early childhood development provides a safe and structured learning environment that prepares our sons and daughters to succeed to the best of their abilities regardless of ethnic background and income level. Since 1965, the program has been providing services to increase a child's readiness for school. Rather than restructuring Head Start, we should build on its success and invest in professional development, quality and expansion to cover more children.

It is disappointing that the Bush Administration is trying to reorganize Head Start rather than investing in its strengths. I hope that the Senate will take a bipartisan approach to the reauthorization of Head Start, and build on the success of Head Start, not dismantle it. When I was Chairman of the Children's Commission years ago, our bipartisan Commission called for full funding of Head Start so that all eligible children were served. Serving all children and continuing to invest in quality should be our goals for the reauthorization of this program so that our children truly enter school ready to learn.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF STROM THURMOND

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, it is a privilege today to pay tribute to the memory of the late Strom Thurmond. Often outspoken, sometimes controversial, but always passionate, Strom was an unparallel servant of the people. He always put his Nation first, whether in combat on the beaches of Normandy or here in the halls of the Senate.

He made a career of giving back to his country. But he was also a wonderful human being.

Strom often reminded me that Colonel William Barret Travis, who was in command at the Alamo, was from his home county in South Carolina. While Strom himself missed the Alamo by a few years, he demonstrated that he too

embodies the spirit of the Alamo and the sense of duty and commitment to his country that we Texans associate with Colonel Travis.

Strom's journey into the history books began back in the 1920s when he graduated from his beloved Clemson.

He went on to become a teacher and athletic coach, county superintendent of education, town and county attorney, eleventh circuit judge, South Carolina governor, soldier, president of the Reserve Officers Association and finally, a U.S. Senator—a position he held for a remarkable 48 years. For many, that would be five lifetimes of careers. But not Strom. It was just enough to keep him busy for the century he was on this Earth.

Strom lived every day of his life to the fullest.

I'm still amazed that he volunteered to return to active duty military service, though he was way past the age of being drafted. At the age of 41 he flew onto the beaches of Normandy in a glider—staring death in the face, and smiling.

He served in the Pacific and European theaters, earning 18 decorations, medals and awards including the Legion of Merit, the Purple Heart, and the Bronze Star for Valor. He rose to the rank of Major General in the U.S. Army Reserves.

In the Senate Strom focused particular attention on taking care of our men and women in the military.

I served with Strom while he chaired the Armed Services committee and saw the reflection of his time in the service in everything he did. He worked for one purpose—to ensure our country's national defense remained strong. From military health care to quality of life for service members and their families, he knew that to recruit and retain our Nation's finest, we had to treat them well.

The Capitol has not been the same since Strom left last year. The wit and wisdom he collected over a century of living made him one of the most entertaining and enlightening figures in modern politics. There will always be an empty place in the heart of the Senate created by his absence.

The eulogies that came from both sides of the aisle at his memorial service last week were testament to the evolution Strom undertook during his time in the Senate. A career once marked by division ended in unity and with dignity.

He will be greatly missed by his family, friends, colleagues and his country. He began his career in public service as a coach—eight decades later he was a coach and teacher to us all to the very end.

#### TAIWAN

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I want to take a few moments and talk about Taiwan which has been a reliable friend and ally of the U.S. in Asia for over 50 years. After the terrorist attacks of