

I have consistently supported stricter penalties for convicted arsonists. I have supported the efforts of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms that assist our fine state and local fire investigators. I have also supported the United States Fire Administration which provides valuable research grants and public education efforts geared toward controlling arson.

Mr. President I remind all Americans that arson is still a serious problem, one we must continually work together to solve.●

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN L. REICHERT

●Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I come to the floor today with a heavy heart. If it hadn't happened already, the Yugoslav conflict just hit home.

Early yesterday morning, NATO experienced its first fatalities in its campaign against Yugoslavia. And Chetek, Wisconsin found its way into the news.

Army Chief Warrant Officer Kevin L. Reichert, of Chetek, Wisconsin, was killed aboard an Apache helicopter during a nighttime training mission in Albania. My thoughts, prayers, and sympathies go out to the friends and family of Kevin Reichert. We can all be proud of Kevin's service to his country.

The 28-year old from Wisconsin's Chippewa Valley leaves behind his wife of eight years, Ridgeley, and 3 kids. I thank the proud residents of Chetek and of Barron County, Wisconsin, for helping to raise such a brave and dedicated American. I hope the Reichert family and the 1,700 people of Chetek will take solace in the gratitude of our Nation.

The NATO effort in Yugoslavia has its costs. Kevin's death, and that of his co-pilot, David Gibbs, of Ohio, are sad reminders that conflicts like the one in Yugoslavia, while they seem far away, have a very real impact at home.

Mr. President, I am sure my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Kevin Reichert for his dedicated service to the United States.●

HONORING ELMA F. BRITTINGHAM

●Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, it is with utmost respect and admiration that I rise today to acknowledge the contributions of a woman who, at the age of 99, has never tired of giving her all to her country and to the men and women of the Mill Creek Fire Company—Elma F. Brittingham of Marshallton, Delaware, affectionately known to everyone as "Mom." On May 8, 1999, Mill Creek will honor her at its 72nd Annual Dinner for 72 years of unmatched volunteer service to the Mill Creek Fire Company. Yes, Elma is a charter member of the Mill Creek Fire Company and she remains an institution in the Fire Hall.

This well-deserved recognition is much less than I or anyone in Delaware

could ever do to capture just how significant Elma's life has been to everyone with whom she has come in contact. Her legacy is etched in the memory of every fire service professional and volunteer in our State and her life continues to be an inspiration to all of us.

While many remember Elma for her 50 years of preparing turkey dinners for the Annual Volunteer Fire Conference, or her playing Yen Man in the company minstrel show, she is most remembered for her work on the front-line, fighting fires under the most dangerous circumstances. The one she most vividly remembers was during World War II when she helped put out a fire at an old prison farm on Duncan Road in Wilmington during a thunder and lightning storm. With this same energy and vigor, Elma is as spirited today, five decades later, as she was more than a half-century ago.

I know that there may be someone like Elma Brittingham in other States, but none can be more important to a community than this totally committed, selfless woman that I honor today. She is what we, as Americans, should aspire to be—a loyal public servant, an example of excellence and achievement in everything she has committed to accomplishing, and a credit to her community and to her country. I am deeply privileged to know this woman and proud to call her a heroic Delawarean and an outstanding American.●

TRIBUTE TO BETTY FRANKLIN-HAMMONDS

●Mr. FEINGOLD. On April 28th, Madison lost a dedicated advocate and a dear friend: Betty Franklin-Hammonds.

Betty's life story is a catalogue of remarkable achievements. From her tenure as the executive director of the Madison Urban League, where she spearheaded a study on the gap in achievement between black and white students in the Madison school system, to her leadership at the Madison Times and the numerous awards she received for her work, there are countless examples of Betty's effectiveness as an advocate in the community.

But it was her character, more than any title or award, that defined Betty and made her such a powerful presence in our community. She was a truth teller who never backed down from a fight, a woman who led by example and wasn't shy about asking others to make the commitment to change she demanded from herself.

Betty was a unique combination of a quiet dignity and a fierce passion for justice that could only be quenched by constant motion. She worked tirelessly, as a social worker, at the Madison chapter of the NAACP, at the Urban League, and at the Madison Times, to make our city a better place.

Her own words tell us more about Betty than any tribute ever could. After receiving an award for her humanitarian work, she once told a crowd that "everybody can be great because everybody can serve." By that measure, Betty Franklin-Hammonds was great indeed.●

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I have several unanimous consent requests. All of them are agreed to on both sides of the aisle. Let me just go through them.

DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MAY 2 THROUGH 8, 1999, AS THE 14TH ANNUAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK, AND DESIGNATING TUESDAY, MAY 4, 1999, AS NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed immediately to the consideration of S. Res. 97, submitted earlier today by Senator COVERDELL for himself and others.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative assistant read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 97) designating the week of May 2 through 8, 1999, as the 14th annual Teacher Appreciation Week, and designating Tuesday, May 4, 1999, as National Teacher Day.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 97) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 97

Whereas the foundation of American freedom and democracy is a strong, effective system of education where every child has the