

of Macon, Mississippi, continued to publish the newspaper until 1993. Then Mr. Scott Boyd bought it and he continues to publish The Macon Beacon today.

The First Amendment to the Constitution indicates the importance of a free and vigilant press to our democratic republic. The Macon Beacon has lived up to these expectations by faithfully reporting community events for 150 years. The Macon Beacon has survived and flourished through three major wars, including the War Between the States, and the Great Depression. Each edition of The Beacon is eagerly awaited by the newspaper's 3,100 subscribers, more than a fourth of the county's population.

In the words of its founding editor, Mr. Henry C. Ferris, The Macon Beacon is "a semi-public institution dedicated to the service of the people." I want to congratulate The Macon Beacon on the celebration of 150 years of dedicated service to Noxubee County.

#### THANKS TO SENATE PAGES

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I would like to say farewell to a wonderful group of young men and women who have served as Senate pages over the last five months, and thank them for the contributions they make to the day-to-day operations of the Senate.

This particular group of pages has served with distinction and has done a marvelous job of balancing their responsibilities to their studies and to this body.

Page life is not easy. I suspect few people understand the rigorous nature of the page's work. On a typical day, pages rise early and are in school by 6:15 a.m. After several hours in school each morning, pages then report to the Capitol to prepare the Senate Chamber for the day's session. Throughout the day, pages are called upon to perform a wide array of tasks—from obtaining copies of documents and reports for Senators to use during debate, to running errands between the Capitol and the Senate office buildings, to lending a hand at our weekly conference luncheons.

Once we finish our business here for the day—no matter what time—the pages return to the dorm and prepare for the next day's classes and Senate session and, we hope, get some much-needed sleep. Even with all of this, they continually discharge their tasks efficiently and cheerfully.

Aside from their normal day-to-day duties, this class in particular has had some extraordinary experiences as they witnessed firsthand the democratic process with all of its strengths and its imperfections. On their first day as Senate pages, they were thrown into the middle of the impeachment debate. As their semester here progressed, they witnessed several historic debates such

as whether to send our country's armed forces into an international conflict far from home. And they watched our country struggle through the aftermath of tragedies such as Littleton, Colorado and the Senate's efforts to pass meaningful gun control legislation.

I hope every person in this page class gained some insight into the need for individuals to become involved in community and civic activities. By living and working together, they have gained knowledge about the political process that they could not obtain from a textbook alone. The future of our nation strongly depends on the generations who will follow us in this august body. I look forward to the possibility that one or more of this fine group of young people will return as a member of the U.S. Senate.

Mr. President, with your permission, I would like to insert in the RECORD the names and states of each of the Senate pages to whom we are saying goodbye. They are: Derek Alsup, New Hampshire; Devin Barta, Wisconsin; Halicia Burns, Michigan; Richard Carroll, Delaware; Micah Cermele, Alabama; Cathryn Cone, Missouri; Clay Crockett, Michigan; Danielle Driscoll, California; Mark Hadley, Virginia; Patrick Hallahan, New Jersey; Jessica Lipschultz, Idaho; Jennifer Machacek, Iowa; Brendan McCann, Virginia; Mark Nexon, Vermont; Chandra Obie, Montana; Stephanie Stahl, South Dakota; Marian Thorpe, West Virginia; Stephanie Valencia, New Mexico; and George Vana IV, Vermont.

I'm sure all my colleagues join me in thanking these fine young men and women, and wishing them well in the future.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize that 30 years of federal deficits have taken their toll on the federal budget.

Likewise, two budget "surpluses," although a step in the right direction, will scarcely make a dent on the actual federal debt oppressing both the government and the people. In fact, it does very little, but constrict the actual increase of the federal debt.

Even if the projected estimates from the Office of Management and Budget are correct, a surplus for 11 consecutive years will go hand-in-hand with a "gross federal debt" that will inch closer and closer to a 6 trillion dollar figure!—Now that, Mr. President, is a couple I do not particularly like to envision. But that is where we are. We are in a quagmire of debts.

I have heard comments that we—the Congress and this Administration—have taken steps to cut the federal deficit, but what is not being said is that the budget "surplus" has little effect on the federal debt. We have indeed

managed to cut the deficit out of the equation, but the answer to the relevant question—are we reducing the total federal debt at the same time—is NO. The surplus only cuts the debt's rate of growth.

With these thoughts in mind, Mr. President, I begin where I left off on Thursday:

At the close of business, Friday, June 11, 1999, the federal debt stood at \$5,606,704,532,050.51 (Five trillion, six hundred six billion, seven hundred four million, five hundred thirty-two thousand, fifty dollars and fifty-one cents).

One year ago, June 11, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,496,698,000,000 (Five trillion, four hundred ninety-six billion, six hundred ninety-eight million).

Fifteen years ago, June 11, 1984, the federal debt stood at \$1,519,173,000,000 (One trillion, five hundred nineteen billion, one hundred seventy-three million).

Twenty-five years ago, June 11, 1974, the federal debt stood at \$472,107,000,000 (Four hundred seventy-two billion, one hundred seven million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,134,597,532,050.51 (Five trillion, one hundred thirty-four billion, five hundred ninety-seven million, five hundred thirty-two thousand, fifty dollars and fifty-one cents) during the past 25 years.

#### WELCOME TO THE BOY SCOUTS FROM MINNESOTA

Mr. WELLSTONE. Madam President, we have Boy Scouts from the Minnesota troops here, and I would like to welcome them. They are up in the gallery. I mention that because the Scouts represent a real tradition of public service. Maybe I should not have done that. If not, I stand corrected. Let me just say the Scouts represent a real tradition of public service, and if Scouts should come here and visit and be in the gallery, then I would be very proud.

For the Scouts' information, there are certain rules of the Senate that govern what we say and don't say.

#### RICHARD ALLEN'S TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL BUD NANCE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the late Admiral James W. (Bud) Nance was eulogized in late May by an eloquent friend who knew Bud well, a friend who had worked with Bud on many occasions beginning with their respective responsibilities with President Reagan during the eight years of the Reagan presidency.

That eloquent friend is a friend of many of us, a remarkable American who understands the miracle of this great country, Richard V. Allen, Chairman, The Richard V. Allen Company.

Mr. President, Dick Allen was speaking at a dinner on behalf of a non-profit