

the reporting and then make the reports public so they can be attained, and they can avoid going to court on cases and avoid trial lawyers. So this particular bill is agreed to by this particular trial lawyer—either the Senate or the House version this evening, right now. I would vote for either one of them. But I think we can get a much better bill with the Senate bill. I wanted to correct the comments made about the trial lawyers because they have been there bringing peace and justice and safety to America's consumers. They got us this far, and I am proud to commend the trial lawyers for doing their work and saving lives.

I yield the floor.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I have one comment in response to my friend. I knew any comment about trial lawyers would not go unnoticed by him. As always, I am very appreciative of his comments.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia is recognized.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I want to join the Democratic whip in propounding the identical unanimous consent request with regard to the bringing up of the DOD conference report as stated to the Senate by the distinguished majority leader just moments ago.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have no objection. The staffs of Senator LEVIN and Senator WARNER have worked out the problem.

Just a minute, Mr. President.

Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, we are not going to be able to do the agreement. There is a procedural problem with the Agriculture authorization, which goes first. We will work on that later.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I handed the Senator a colloquy which Senator LEVIN signed. The Senator raising the objection signed the colloquy.

Mr. REID. Why don't we have the Senator from Kansas speak, and we will see if anything can be done.

Mr. WARNER. I withdraw the request.

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#### MORNING BUSINESS

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURNS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

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#### TRIBUTE TO BRUCE VENTO

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, today I come to the floor to offer a tribute to a humble man.

Yesterday, while I was in Minnesota, I received word that one of my former colleagues from the House of Rep-

resentatives, Congressman Bruce Vento, had passed away after a battle with cancer.

My tribute cannot adequately communicate his successful career, because to Bruce, words always paled in comparison to acts.

Bruce was a tireless advocate for the residents of St. Paul, first in the State Legislature and, for the past 24 years, in the U.S. Congress.

He was a man of his word and a man of principle.

He was a man committed to doing the right thing for the right reason, no matter how long it took.

Take for example his work on behalf of Hmong veterans—a large number of whom reside in his Congressional district.

He worked on it for over a decade: educating his colleagues about the need to help their constituents and offering the compromises needed to get the job done.

I was pleased that after his tireless work Congress after Congress, year after year, Bruce's effort paid off.

Earlier this year, Congress passed and the President signed into law his legislation to facilitate citizenship to Hmong veterans who served with us in the Vietnam War.

Bruce was an effective Congressman for the St. Paul area.

We worked together on a number of fronts to support Minnesota and the people of St. Paul such as improving senior and low-income housing in St. Paul, supporting St. Paul's effort in becoming a Brownfields Showcase Community, and pursuing projects to improve the St. Paul Community.

Bruce is best known for his efforts to protect the environment and to improve our national parks and wilderness areas.

All Minnesotans will benefit from his work to ensure the outdoor activities we all enjoy will be there for our children and grandchildren.

That is his legacy, and we are all proud and grateful for his achievements.

Minnesotans were represented well by Bruce Vento, and he will be missed.

To his family and friends, I extend my deepest sympathy.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, we all in the Senate and the House have been saddened by the death of Bruce Vento. Congressman Vento came to the Congress 2 years after I did. We served together and worked together on many issues. He belonged, proudly, to a sort of informal Italian-American caucus. We would talk about from which parts of Italy our families had come, and we became close friends.

I remember talking with Bruce when he was first diagnosed with cancer. I told him he was in my prayers, my wife's prayers, our family's prayers. He was a good man.

I was sad when I heard him announce he would not run for reelection because

of his illness. Of course, we have been notified of his death.

There are Senators and House Members who come here who, under the old saying, some are show horses and some are workhorses. He was a workhorse. One of his priorities during his last year in Congress was the plight of the Hmong people, many of whom settled in Minnesota. They are people from Laos who had fought with the United States and its allies in the Vietnam war and came to the United States afterwards. They very much wanted to become citizens here but had great difficulty learning English because they come from a culture that does not have a written language.

Bruce Vento was the primary House sponsor of the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act, a bill that passed the House and Senate earlier this year and became law. This bill waives the English language requirement for naturalization, and provides special consideration for the civics requirement for Hmong veterans and their spouses and widows. It has been a small concession on our part in return for the great sacrifices these men made in fighting for the American cause in Southeast Asia. I am pleased that with the help of Senators WELLSTONE, FEINGOLD, HAGEL, MCCAIN, and others the bill became law before the Congressman's untimely death earlier this week.

There is another bill that addresses an outstanding issue in the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act. H.R. 5234, cosponsored by Congressman Vento, will extend the benefits of the new law to widows of Hmong veterans who died in Laos, Thailand, or Vietnam. The bill was passed by voice vote in the House on September 25. The Senate companion bill is strongly bipartisan with seven Democrats and five Republicans joining Senator WELLSTONE as sponsors. I urge my friends on the other side of the aisle to lift the hold they have on this bill and allow it to pass so we can complete our work on this important issue. We can do this in Bruce Vento's memory, but we can also rectify an injustice that has been done to the Hmong people who have come to this country.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I join my colleague from Minnesota, Senator WELLSTONE, in paying tribute to the life of our colleague, Congressman Bruce Vento. I learned of the Congressman's passing upon my return to Washington. I send my condolences to his wife Sue and his family, along with all of the people from the great state of Minnesota who mourn and who thank him for his many years of service in the House of Representatives. He is deserving of special praise in recognition of his tremendous efforts to use his status as a federal legislator to bring a voice to the voiceless and to defend

such interests as environmental protection, human rights, working families and community building.

Congressman Vento's career was a truly a remarkable one. He and I shared a profound affection for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, a place special to so many Wisconsinites and Minnesotans. Congressman Vento bravely agreed to chair the Ely field hearings on the creation of the Boundary Waters wilderness in 1977, a courageous decision for someone who was a Freshman member of the House at the time, and was a vocal champion of that wilderness throughout his career. As I work on wilderness issues, I am often reminded of Congressman Vento's comments on the House floor during consideration of the Boundary Waters bill. He said, "there ought to be an opportunity where someone can go and have some solitude, where someone can go and have an experience that is different."

Congressman Vento used his career to work to protect that "different" opportunity for all Americans in the Boundary Waters, the Arctic Refuge, Southern Utah and many other special wilderness areas. These places and the people who cherish them, myself included, owe him a great debt.

I also had the privilege of working closely with Congressman Vento in this session of Congress on the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act which is now federal law. Congressman Vento was actively involved in getting that legislation through the House.

I join with the Senate in letting Congressman Vento's family know how grateful we are for having known him, and how committed we are to ensuring that the causes to which he gave his heart and his career remain protected.

**SUBMITTING CHANGES TO THE BUDGETARY AGGREGATES AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ALLOCATION**

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, section 314 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended, requires the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee to adjust the appropriate budgetary aggregates and the allocation for the Appropriations Committee to reflect amounts provided for emergency requirements.

I hereby submit revisions to the 2001 Senate Appropriations Committee allocations, pursuant to section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act, in the following amounts:

(Dollars in millions)		
	Budget authority	Outlays
Current Allocation:		
General purpose discretionary .....	\$602,307	\$593,714
Highways .....		26,920
Mass transit .....		4,639
Mandatory .....	327,787	310,215
Total .....	930,094	935,488

(Dollars in millions)		
	Budget authority	Outlays
Adjustments:		
General purpose discretionary .....	+4,367	+3,384
Highways .....		
Mass transit .....		
Mandatory .....		
Total .....	+4,367	+3,384
Revised Allocation:		
General purpose discretionary .....	606,674	597,098
Highways .....		26,920
Mass transit .....		4,639
Mandatory .....	327,787	310,215
Total .....	934,461	938,872

I hereby submit revisions to the 2001 budget aggregates, pursuant to section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, in the following amounts:

(Dollars in millions)			
	Budget authority	Outlays	Surplus
Current Allocation: Budget			
Resolution .....	\$1,528,412	\$1,492,435	\$10,765
Adjustments: Emergencies .....	+4,367	+3,384	-3,384
Revised Allocation: Budget			
Resolution .....	1,532,779	1,495,819	7,381

**HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH 2000**

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to offer some remarks on a timely and important topic—our national celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Hundreds of years after the decline of the Spanish Empire, a new Hispanic presence is making itself felt on the world stage. Democracy is taking deep root throughout much of Latin America. Mexico just celebrated the selection of a new President in an election that is widely viewed as the freest and fairest election in that country's history. Central America is largely at peace. Free trade has spread south of our border, and will continue to spread further south.

And Hispanic Americans are taking their rightful place in this country as an important part of our thriving economy, as a wonderful contributor to the diversity of American culture, and as a powerful political force that deserves attention.

It is fitting, then—as National Hispanic Heritage Month is upon us—to recognize the Hispanic-American population for its many important contributions to the traditions and history of this nation. Started 32 years ago, this festive month acknowledges the great history of the Hispanic people, celebrate their past achievements, and recognizes that the Hispanic-American community is an essential component in the future of the United States.

Hispanics have immigrated to the United States for many different personal reasons. They have taken the journey to America in hope of a better life for themselves and their families. They have persevered throughout their struggle to maintain their own identity while learning to assimilate into American ways.

Today, the Hispanic population in the United States has expanded and be-

come more diverse. It is now our fastest growing ethnic group, its population increasing almost four times as fast as the rest of the population. The Hispanic population is projected to account for 44 percent of the growth in the nation's population between 1995 and 2025. Hispanics are literally changing the face of this nation.

The label "Hispanic-American" encompasses an enormous diversity of individuals. Hispanics are not a single ethnic group but are comprised of people from Puerto Rico, Cuba, Mexico, and the countries of Central and South America. This diversity has brought a tradition of resilience and excellence to the United States, a country that derives its strength from the diversity of its people.

There is an emerging awareness of the contributions and achievements Hispanics have made. Hispanic individuals are prominent in every aspect of American life. In the business world, such names as Adolfo Marzol, executive vice-president of Fannie Mae and George Munoz, CEO of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, are being recognized. Oscar Hijuelos, the first American-born Hispanic to win the Pulitzer Prize for fiction, is known as one of literature's award-winning authors. Maria Hinojosa, a CNN correspondent, was named one of the most influential Hispanic Americans by Hispanic Business magazine, and has received many awards for her reporting. These are just some of the extraordinary individuals who contribute to Hispanic-American culture in our country.

A few of the names of Hispanic-Americans from my home state of Illinois will resonate in history, like Luis Alvarez, the Nobel Price-winning physicist, who studied at the University of Chicago before going on to become a central figure in the Manhattan project during World War II. Others are heroes on a quieter scale, like Raymond Orozco who, until his retirement a few years back, headed the Chicago Fire Department with distinction, or Sandra Cisneros whose beautiful stories of women's courage in the midst of poverty have won her international acclaim. But most of all we benefit as a state and as a nation from the thousands of ordinary folks whose lives and dreams and everyday actions make this a richer, stronger, more interesting place to live.

The emergence of a sizable Hispanic-American population has been particularly notable in Illinois, to the great benefit of the state. More than a million Illinoisans are of Hispanic heritage. They own 20,000 businesses in the state and generate more than \$2 billion in commerce. More than a quarter of a million Hispanic-Americans are registered to vote here, and the state can boast over 1,000 elected officials—from school board members to members of Congress—of Hispanic heritage.