

the quality of life for America's families. Groundbreaking research, development of drug therapies and new medical procedures, all of these steps move us closer to life-saving medical breakthroughs that can detect, prevent, and eliminate life-threatening disease.

I have also been pleased to support Senator MACK's effort, along with Senator GRAHAM, to restore the Everglades. His work to preserve and restore this unique and beautiful area, home to fragile habitats and many endangered species, will undoubtedly be one of his greatest legacies.

It has been a pleasure to serve with Senator MACK over the last seven years. As he leaves the Senate, I wish him all the best and thank him for his many years of distinguished public service.

TRIBUTE TO BOB KERREY

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, when I first heard that BOB KERREY had decided not to run again, I knew the Senate was losing a true American original, and a big part of what makes the Senate special.

From my first moments in the Senate back in 1993, there was one thing I could tell right away—BOB KERREY is a true leader. In an age of poll-driven politics, BOB KERREY isn't afraid to ruffle a few feathers to raise the level of debate and work for the greater good. He has sparked debate on the big issues: saving Social Security, controlling federal spending, guaranteeing the right to health insurance, and helping the poor, just to name a few.

I was proud to work with him on the bipartisan deficit reduction package he spearheaded with former Senator Hank Brown of Colorado, and I'm proud to have a colleague with such a sincere commitment to fiscal responsibility. He fought to balance the federal budget when others said it could not be done. As Chair of the Bipartisan Commission on Entitlement and Tax Reform, BOB KERREY directed our attention to the long-term challenges that we need to heed.

BOB KERREY is a pleasure to work with, but he is also a courageous public servant who is willing to stand alone when it is necessary. In addition to his heroic record of public service, he is a hero who served his country valiantly in the Vietnam War. BOB KERREY brings great honor to the Senate as only the fifth Medal on Honor winner to serve in this body, and while he never makes a big deal about the honors he has received, every day he has served in the U.S. Senate, BOB KERREY has exhibited the strength of character that befit those tributes.

And while all those things are important, it is also essential to have a sense of humor, and we all know that BOB possesses that quality in spades. He is a pleasure to be around, and a good

friend. I wish him all the best as he moves on to head the New School, and in everything he does.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK LAUTENBERG

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, as this Congress draws to a close, I want to take a moment to thank my friend FRANK LAUTENBERG for his 18 years of service in the body. The people of New Jersey are losing a skilled legislator and a gifted advocate. Whether he is fighting racial profiling or taking on the tobacco industry, FRANK LAUTENBERG has consistently fought for a healthier, safer, more just world for all of us.

After a successful career in the private sector, FRANK ran for the U.S. Senate motivated to give something back to his state and the nation. And never has he had greater success than during his 18 years in public service. It has been a pleasure to serve with Senator LAUTENBERG on the Budget Committee, where he has provided outstanding leadership as the committee's ranking member. Senator LAUTENBERG played a crucial role in crafting the bipartisan budget agreement of 1997 which led to the balanced budget, and putting this body back on the road to fiscal responsibility.

I stood side by side with Senator LAUTENBERG in the fight to implement the gift ban in 1995. And I've been especially proud to work with him to end racial profiling—the abhorrent law enforcement practice that targets African Americans, Hispanic Americans and other minorities for traffic stops based on the color of their skin. Together Senator LAUTENBERG and I introduced S. 821, the Traffic Stops Study Act, to require the Attorney General to conduct an initial analysis of existing data on racial profiling and then design a study to gather data from a nationwide sampling of jurisdictions. We've worked together on this issue for more than two years, and I believe our legislation will prevail, if not in this Congress, then in the next one.

I will proudly continue the fight to pass the Traffic Stops Study Act in the next Congress, but I will miss greatly FRANK's leadership on this issue. When we do finally pass this simple bill to get an accurate picture of racial profiling on our nation's roadways, we'll owe a big part of that victory to Senator LAUTENBERG.

Today I thank FRANK LAUTENBERG for his leadership on racial profiling and so many other issues that matter to the people of this nation. I wish him and his family all the best in his retirement, and thank him for his many contributions to the U.S. Senate, and to the American people.

THE SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH'S RURAL OUTREACH PROGRAM

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about giving small businesses the tools they need to be successful in today's competitive marketplace. I am committed to providing those tools by fully supporting the continuation of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Rural Outreach Program. Congressional commitment to small business development has created a network of people nationwide, especially in Wyoming, that is excited and knowledgeable about the SBIR Rural Outreach Program.

The SBIR Rural Outreach Program provides an excellent funding opportunity for individuals and small businesses in rural areas that have a passion to explore, develop and commercialize their innovative ideas. Created in 1982, the SBIR Program is a highly competitive program that encourages small business to explore their technological potential and provides the incentive to profit from its commercialization. By including qualified small businesses in the Nation's research & development arena, high-tech innovation is stimulated and the United States gains entrepreneurial spirit as it meets its specific research and development needs.

The SBIR Program is designed to target the entrepreneurial sector because that is where most innovation and innovators thrive. However, the risk and expense of conducting serious R&D efforts are often beyond the means of many small businesses. By reserving a specific percentage of federal R&D funds for small business, the SBIR Program protects the small business and enables it to compete on the same level as large businesses. The SBIR Program funds the critical startup and development stages and it encourages the commercialization of the technology, product, or service, which, in turn, stimulates the U.S. economy.

Each year, ten federal departments and agencies are required by the SBIR Program to reserve a portion of their R&D funds for award to small business. Such agencies include the Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Defense, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and National Science Foundation.

Following submission of proposals, agencies make SBIR awards based on small business qualification, degree of innovation, technical merit, and future market potential. Small businesses that receive awards or grants then begin a three-phase program. Phase I is the startup phase, awarding up to \$100,000 for approximately 6 months support exploration of the technical merit or feasibility of an idea or technology. Phase II awards of up to \$750,000, for as many as 2 years, expanding Phase I results. During this time,