

year old child was able to gain access to an illegal firearm. How many more of our children must die before we, as a Congress, band together on a bipartisan basis to pass comprehensive gun legislation?

In this month of March, let us not only pay tribute to those women who have pioneered and inspired all of us, let us remember the young lives we have failed to protect by failing to pass commonsense gun control legislation. Let us also remember, their mothers, teachers, neighbors and friends, who helped shape these young lives but will never know the full potential of their joyous labor. And let us also remember our own mothers, sisters, and aunts who, although unknown to most, continue to shape our lives and our nation's future.

CONVENTION TO ELIMINATE ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I commend my colleague, Senator BOXER, for bringing this important treaty before the Senate. I am proud to be a sponsor of Senate Resolution 237, which expresses the sense of the Senate that hearings should be held by the Foreign Relations Committee on the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

The treaty establishes international standards and definitions to protect women against discrimination. The treaty also calls for action in the areas of education, health care, and domestic relations, and creates a process to monitor the status of women and their progress toward equity. The standards are fully consistent with existing U.S. protections against discrimination. In countries that do not have such protections, this treaty is an effective tool to combat violence against women, reform unfair inheritance and property rights, and strengthen women's access to fair employment and economic opportunity.

165 countries have not ratified the treaty. As the country that consistently leads the way in the battle for human rights and human dignity, and that took an active role in drafting the treaty, it is past time for the United States to ratify it as well.

U.S. support for women's equality at home and abroad requires that we promptly consider and ratify this treaty. I urge the Senate to pass this resolution and to do all we can to expedite the ratification of this important treaty.

To move our country in that direction, the Foreign Relations Committee should hold a hearing.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday,

March 7, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,747,932,431,376.73 (Five trillion, seven hundred forty-seven billion, nine hundred thirty-two million, four hundred thirty-one thousand, three hundred seventy-six dollars and seventy-three cents).

Fifteen years ago, March 7, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,851,012,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred fifty-one billion, twelve million).

Ten years ago, March 7, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,027,086,000,000 (Three trillion, twenty-seven billion, eighty-six million).

Fifteen years ago, March 7, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,708,698,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred eight billion, six hundred ninety-eight million).

Twenty-five years ago, March 7, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$499,218,000,000 (Four hundred ninety-nine billion, two hundred eighteen million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,248,714,431,376.73 (Five trillion, two hundred forty-eight billion, seven hundred fourteen million, four hundred thirty-one thousand, three hundred seventy-six dollars and seventy-three cents) during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE TO THE COMMUNITY OF JEWISH FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES ON THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the great service that Jewish Family and Children's Services has provided the people of San Francisco and the Bay Area for 150 years.

Since its founding in 1850, Jewish Family and Children's Services has been dedicated to alleviating suffering and helping people realize their potential. It has grown into one of the region's largest social service organizations, with more than 2,100 volunteers helping more than 40,000 people a year.

Jewish Family and Children's Services provides a wide range of services from adoption services and child mentoring programs, to programs aimed at helping seniors. They also have many programs designed to help people with special needs such as AIDS counseling and care management, and alcohol and substance abuse programs.

Over the past 150 years, Jewish Family and Children's Services has improved the quality of life for thousands of people. Please join me in honoring this outstanding organization.●

TRIBUTE TO WOMENS RURAL ENTREPRENEURIAL NETWORK

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the

Womens Rural Entrepreneurial Network (WREN) of Bethlehem for receiving the Home Loan Bank of Boston's 1999 Community Development Award. The award recognizes the top project in the state undertaken by a nonprofit community group and a local bank. WREN's hard work has made a real difference in the lives of the women of Northern New Hampshire, and the accomplishments of its members are to be commended.

With the assistance of Passumpsic Bank, WREN developed a program to help women in Northern New Hampshire start their own businesses. The program initially offered training in areas such as business plan development, marketing, financial management and computer literacy, but quickly expanded to include other crucial skills such as networking and technology training. As a result of the success of those programs, WREN is currently developing a community center that will house a retail store to sell the products of the program's participants, a community art studio and an expanded meeting and teaching space. The sky is the limit for this program, and its future certainly looks bright.

The achievements of the program are remarkable, and they serve as a shining example of what can be accomplished when local banks and community-oriented groups work together. It is truly an honor to serve such a hard-working organization in the United States Senate.●

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: TRIBUTE TO ALICE WALKER

• Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, 20 years ago, my friends and colleagues Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI of Maryland and Senator ORRIN HATCH from Utah joined to create a National Women's History Week. Since that time, the commemoration has expanded into an entire month of celebration and recognition of the many contributions and accomplishments of American women. I am proud to use this occasion to highlight the many accomplishments of one of Georgia's own, author and teacher Alice Walker.

Alice Walker has become one of the leading voices among African-American writers. She has published poetry, novels, short stories, essays, and criticism, the most famous probably being "The Color Purple", for which she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1983. Her portrayal of the struggle of African-Americans throughout history, especially the experiences of black women in the American South, has earned her praise around the world. Ms. Walker's insightful and riveting portraits of poor, rural life display human resourcefulness, strength and endurance in confronting oppression.

Alice Walker was born on February 9, 1944, in Eatonton, Georgia, the eighth

and last child of Willie Lee and Minnie Lou Grant Walker, who were sharecroppers. When she was eight years old, she lost sight in one eye during an accident with one of her brothers' BB guns. This incident proved to be a turning point in Walker's life. Walker has said that it was from this point that she "really began to see people and things, really to notice relationships and to learn to be patient enough to see how they turned out * * *"

In high school, Alice Walker was valedictorian of her class. That achievement, coupled with a "rehabilitation scholarship," made it possible for her to go to Spelman College, a historically black women's college in Atlanta, Georgia. After spending two years at Spelman, she transferred to Sarah Lawrence College in New York, traveling to Africa as an exchange student during her junior year. She received her bachelor of arts degree from Sarah Lawrence College in 1965.

After graduation, Alice Walker spent the summer in Liberty County, Georgia where she helped to draw attention to the plight of poor people in South Georgia. She went door to door registering voters in the African-American community. Her work with the neediest citizens in the state helped her to see the debilitating impact of poverty on the relationships between men and women in the community. She moved to New York City shortly thereafter where she worked for the city's welfare department. It was then that she was awarded her first writing grant in 1966.

Ms. Walker had originally wanted to go to Africa to write, but decided against it and instead traveled to Tougaloo, Mississippi. It was there where she met her future husband, civil rights attorney Melvyn Leventhal. He was supportive of her writing and admired her love for nature. They married in 1967 and became the first legally married interracial couple in the state of Mississippi. While her husband fought school desegregation in the courts, Alice worked as a history consultant for the Friends of the Children, Mississippi's Head Start Program.

Since there was still a great deal of racial tension in the state, and because her husband was working adamantly in the courts to dismantle the laws barring desegregation, animosity against the couple was strong. While the couple lived in Mississippi, Alice and her husband slept with a gun under their bed at night for protection. Their only daughter, Rebecca, was born in 1969.

Alice Walker became active in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's, and remains an involved and vocal activist for many causes today. She has spoken out in support for the women's equality movement, has been involved in South Africa's anti-apartheid campaign, and has worked toward global nuclear arms reduction. One of her

most pronounced involvements has been her tireless work against female genital mutilation, the gruesome practice of female circumcision that remains prevalent in many African societies.

Among her numerous awards and honors for her writing are the Lillian Smith Award from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rosenthal Award from the National Institute of Arts & Letters, a nomination for the National Book Award, a Radcliffe Institute Fellowship, a Merrill Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and the Front Page Award for Best Magazine Criticism from the Newswoman's Club of New York. She has also received the Townsend Prize and a Lyndhurst Prize.

In 1984, Ms. Walker started her own publishing company, Wild Trees Press. She has authored more than 20 books over the years. Divorced from her husband, she currently resides in Northern California with her dog, Marley where she continues to write. Her most recent book, "By the Light of My Father's Smile", was released in 1998. I am honored to recognize this remarkable woman, a daughter of Georgia and mother of the fight for equality.●

TRIBUTE TO CHESTER M. LEE

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly incredible American and resident of McLean, Virginia for the past 35 years, who has passed from this world.

Chester M. Lee—known as "Chet" to family and friends—was born on April 6, 1919. After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1942, Chet Lee went directly into service in World War II. Chet was involved in a number of battle engagements during World War II and survived a Japanese kamikaze attack on his ship, the USS Drexler, off the coast of Okinawa in 1945. Chet Lee spent 24 years in the U.S. Navy, serving his country with great honor both in and out of battle. Chet helped pioneer the Navy's use of ship radar, was instrumental in development and testing of the POLARIS missile program, and commanded two Navy destroyers and an entire destroyer division. Chet Lee moved to Northern Virginia in 1964 to serve the Secretary of Defense at the Pentagon and achieved the rank of Captain before retiring from the Navy in 1965. He continued to be affectionately referred to by Navy and non-Navy colleagues as "Captain Lee," and remained an avid Navy football fan throughout his life!

In 1965, Captain Lee requested to be retired from active duty in order to answer the call at the National Aeronautics and Space Agency, which was deeply involved in the Cold War space race. At NASA, Chet spent 23 years providing instrumental leadership during our nation's most exciting and piv-

otal space years. Captain Lee served as Assistant Mission Director for Apollo Missions 1 to 11 and then Mission Director for Apollo Moon Missions 12 to 17. He was Director for the Apollo/Soyuz space-docking mission, perhaps one of the most significant precursor events to the melting of Cold War barriers between the U.S. and then-Soviet Union. Captain Lee's impressive NASA career continued as he played an integral role in the development, operation and payload management for the U.S. Space Shuttle program.

In 1987, Chet Lee continued advancing U.S. aerospace leadership in the private sector, joining SPACEHAB Inc., a company dedicated to pioneering U.S. space commerce. He ascended to the position of President and Chief Operating Officer in 1996. Chet was instrumental in guiding the company's participation in the joint U.S.-Russian Shuttle-Mir program, and his tenure at SPACEHAB included 13 Space Shuttle missions, including the mission that returned Senator John Glenn to space. Captain Lee became Chairman of SPACEHAB's Astrotech commercial satellite processing subsidiary in 1998 and served on SPACEHAB's Board of Directors. At the age of 80, Chet Lee continued to work full-time on SPACEHAB and Astrotech projects up to his last days here on Earth.

Chet Lee was a tireless public servant, a devoted husband, father and grandfather and mentor to countless in the aerospace community. I am proud to have had Chet as a constituent, and my blessings go out to his family and friends during this time of mourning. I ask my colleagues to pay tribute today to Captain Lee's memory and to honor him for his contributions to this great country.●

TRIBUTE TO JUDY JARVIS

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a woman who has sent her reasoned voice across the radio airwaves of America. A strong willed and strong minded woman who is not only a friend, but I'm fortunate to say is also a constituent, Judy Jarvis. Yesterday, this great radio talk show host, Judy Jarvis, my friend, lost her battle with cancer.

She fought hard to the bitter end. She fought by informing her audience, by not keeping them in the dark about the cancer that was invading her body. She shared her fears, her hopes and her dreams with her weekday broadcasts and in interviews when the table was turned and she became the subject of the interview. Mr. President I would like to submit two articles for the RECORD about her battle with cancer. A June 1999 article from Talkers Magazine and a November 29, 1999 article from People Magazine. Her listeners