

and registration requirements and have limited access to handguns and certain assault weapons. In the United States, our gun laws are so riddled with loopholes a 15 year old can legally possess an assault rifle.

I've often made the point that Canadian children, who watch the same movies and television programs, and play with the same toys and video games, are far safer than their American counterparts. The key difference between these children is not morals, religion or family, the difference is access to guns.

How else can one explain that in 1997, the U.S. rate of death involving firearms was approximately 14 per 100,000, compared to Canada's rate of 4 per 100,000? In 1997, in my hometown of Detroit, there were 354 firearm homicides. In Windsor, the Canadian town that is across the river, there were only 4 firearm homicides for that same year. Accounting for population, Detroit's firearm homicide rate was 18 times higher than Windsor's.

Congress does not have to pass Canadian-style gun control laws to reduce the number of American firearm casualties, but surely we need to reduce access to firearms among minors.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, April 26, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,718,483,607,979.32 (Five trillion, seven hundred eighteen billion, four hundred eighty-three million, six hundred seven thousand, nine hundred seventy-nine dollars and thirty-two cents).

One year ago, April 26, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,591,807,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred ninety-one billion, eight hundred seven million).

Five years ago, April 26, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,848,089,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred forty-eight billion, eighty-nine million).

Fifteen years ago, April 26, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,730,404,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred thirty billion, four hundred four million) which reflects a debt increase of almost \$4 trillion—\$3,988,079,607,979.32 (Three trillion, nine hundred eighty-eight billion, seventy-nine million, six hundred seven thousand, nine hundred seventy-nine dollars and thirty-two cents) during the past 15 years.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEMPLE BETH EL

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to the first Jewish congregation in the state of Michigan, Temple Beth El. The congregation, whose first services were

held in 1850 by twelve families in Detroit, begins the celebration of its 150th anniversary this year with a series of special events. Beginning in May with a Musical Revue and concluding with a benefit in November, the events will bring together members of the congregation as well as thousands of others from throughout the metropolitan Detroit area.

Founded at a time of unrest in our nation—when the debate over slavery was intensifying, the economy was booming, and the railroad was transforming American culture—Beth El began with German immigrants. Members of Beth El later joined in the Reform Judaism movement. By 1867, the congregation had replaced German with English as the language of instruction, and in 1873 Beth El was one of the charter members of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations which brought together the Reform synagogues of America to establish an American rabbinical seminary.

Over the years, the congregation experienced steady growth, locating at several notable sites in Detroit. These include a temple that was constructed at Woodward and Eliot in 1903 (now the Bonstelle Theater which is owned and operated by Wayne State University) and a temple that was designed by the late Albert Kahn in 1922 and built at Woodward and Gladstone. Like these formidable architectural works that bear witness to the congregation's vision and contribution, Beth El's rabbis were pillars in the community and were instrumental in building and developing the Detroit Jewish community and the national institutions of the Reform movement. Rabbi Louis Grossman, Rabbi Leo Franklin, Rabbi B. Benedict Glazer, and Rabbi Richard Hertz are among those who are well-remembered for their significant leadership and prominent roles in helping to strengthen human relations and the cause of social justice.

In 1973, the congregation opened its doors to its newest home in Bloomfield Hills. Today it has a membership of over 1600 families. Under the spiritual leadership of Rabbi Daniel Syme, Rabbi David Castiglione, Rabbi Sheila Goloboy and Cantor Stephen DuBov, Temple Beth El continues to play an important role in the metropolitan Detroit Jewish community, and it is recognized as one of the foremost Reform congregations in the United States.

Mr. President, I would like to express my best wishes to Temple Beth El on the celebration of this milestone in their history as a major contributor to America's cultural strength and religious tradition. We all profit from the preservation and celebration of individual and religious freedom that Temple Beth El so well embodies. I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating the congregation of Temple Beth El and Rabbi Daniel Syme for

achieving 150 years as a "home that welcomes all of Detroit's Jewish community" and as a hallmark of spiritual development.●

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO MAYOR EMMA GRESHAM

• Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the great civil servants of my state. On April 14, 2000, Mayor Emma Gresham of Keyville, Georgia, received an Essence Award from Essence Magazine for her outstanding service to the community. This award is a fitting tribute to a lady who has brought so much to her community and Georgia as a whole.

Emma Gresham was born on April 13, 1925, the youngest of eight children. As the daughter of a pastor and a missionary, Emma Gresham's desire to help other people was established at a young age. During her youth she served as a scoutmaster, and went on to work as a teacher at her local church. All of her life Emma Gresham has sought to make other people's lives better.

While Mrs. Gresham's commitment to the people of Keyville has existed for decades, the town of Keyville has not. Although the town had held a charter since 1890, it stopped having elections and essentially dissolved in 1933. In the mid-1980's the charter was rediscovered and found to be valid, and in 1985 the townspeople chose Emma Gresham as their mayor.

Ms. Gresham enjoyed her position for less than a day because the charter was revoked due to concerns over the city's boundary. Following a drawn-out process that involved excavations to discover a long-lost landmark, the city's charter was reactivated and Ms. Gresham was elected again in 1988. Since taking office, Mrs. Gresham has served for free.

Once in office, Mayor Gresham set to work. Since the town government had been dormant for so long, Keyville lacked many of the necessities most small towns enjoy. The city lacked clean water, streetlights, and even a fire department. In addition, the town's adult illiteracy rate was dangerously high.

Today, thanks to Mayor Gresham's leadership and commitment, Keyville has a water tower and a fire station. The first street lights were recently installed, and the town started a medical clinic. Last, but certainly not least, Keyville has an established adult literacy program as well.

The citizens of Keyville are now talking of building a new city hall and elementary school. This is quite a feat for a town that virtually did not exist twelve years ago.

Now 75, Emma Gresham is likely to retire when her current term as mayor ends in 2002. We can only hope that her successor will follow in her footsteps and be as effective an advocate for Keyville as Mayor Gresham.