

Tuesday, the Georgia senator introduced legislation that would award the president and his wife the medal.

Said the senator, "I am proud to sponsor this effort. President and Mrs. Reagan are a constant source of inspiration for me, as they are for many Americans. President Reagan led us to the economic prosperity that we still enjoy today and was instrumental in ending the Cold War. Mrs. Reagan lent her grace and commitment to fighting the war on drugs. Now as they battle the President's Alzheimer's Disease together, it is fitting for this nation to thank them for their leadership and for the role they played in shaping American history."

During his eight years in the White House, Reagan's role in ending the Cold War will go down in history as perhaps his greatest accomplishment.

Who can forget the challenge he hurled to his counterpart in Moscow, Mikhail Gorbachev, when he stood at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate and said, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"

In 1989, near the end of his term, the Berlin Wall came down and a year later Germany was again reunited.

When told of plans to award the Reagans the medal, Gorbachev said, "The award of the Gold Medal of U.S. Congress to Ronald Reagan is a fitting tribute to the 40th president of the United States, who will go down in history as a man profoundly dedicated to his people and committed to the values of democracy and freedom.

"Together with Ronald Reagan, we took the first, the most important steps to end the cold war and start real nuclear disarmament. . . . I am confident that succeeding generations will duly appreciate the accomplishments of President Reagan."

We applaud the overdue recognition of President Reagan's accomplishments and hope for unanimous support for Sen. Coverdell's legislation.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, from rural Georgia to Capitol Hill, Americans recognize the immeasurable contribution that President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan have made to our Nation. Their support is most welcome.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, May 2, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,669,550,992,339.00 (Five trillion, six hundred sixty-nine billion, five hundred fifty million, nine hundred ninety-two thousand, three hundred thirty-nine dollars and zero cents).

Five years ago, May 2, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,859,125,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred fifty-nine billion, one hundred twenty-five million).

Ten years ago, May 2, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,082,811,000,000 (Three trillion, eight-two billion, eight hundred eleven million).

Fifteen years ago, May 2, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,745,505,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred forty-five billion, five hundred five million).

Twenty-five years ago, May 2, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$516,450,000,000 (Five hundred sixteen billion, four hundred fifty million)

which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,153,100,992,339.00 (Five trillion, one hundred fifty-three billion, one hundred million, nine hundred ninety-two thousand, three hundred thirty-nine dollars and zero cents) during the past 25 years.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### WORLD ASTHMA DAY 2000

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to call attention to the fact that today May 3, 2000, is World Asthma Day. As some of you may know, I am a strong supporter of federal, state, and local efforts to create and enhance awareness of asthma and to improve asthma care throughout this country and indeed throughout the world. I would also like to extend sincere thanks to the many thousands of Americans and others who work day after day to try to improve the way asthma is diagnosed and treated.

In the last 15 years, the prevalence of asthma has doubled throughout the world. More than 10 percent of children have asthma symptoms, and in some countries, as many as 30 percent are affected. In this country, asthma ranks among the most common chronic conditions, affecting more than 15 million Americans, including 5 million children, and causing more than 1.5 million emergency department visits, approximately 500,000 hospitalizations, and more than 5,500 deaths. The estimated direct and indirect monetary costs for this disease totaled \$11.3 billion in 1998, in the United States alone.

World Asthma Day 2000 is being marked by more than 80 countries throughout the world. It is a partnership between health care groups and asthma educators organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma, GINA, which is a collaboration between the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, NHLBI, of the National Institutes of Health and the World Health Organization. On this day, thousands of people throughout the world will work together to create greater awareness of the need for every person with asthma to obtain a timely diagnosis, receive appropriate treatment, learn to manage their asthma in partnership with a health professional, and reduce exposure to environmental factors that make their asthma worse.

Among those participating in World Asthma Day, via a special World Asthma Day Internet site ([www.Webvention.org](http://www.Webvention.org)), will be Dr. David Satcher, Surgeon General of the United States, and Mr. Nelson Mandela, former President of the Republic of South Africa and currently Chairman of the South African National Asthma Campaign. Ministers of Health from Japan, Turkey, Malaysia and other countries will also be avail-

able on the Internet to answer questions about how the implementation of international asthma treatment guidelines can benefit patients and reduce health care costs.

In the U.S., local World Asthma Day activities are being coordinated by the NHLBI's National Asthma Education and Prevention Program and are listed on its Web site ([www.nhlbi.nih.gov](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov)). These activities range from local press conferences to school poster contests, and health fairs to science museum education programs.

The NAEPP, along with the National Library of Medicine, Howard University, the Office of the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the American Lung Association of the District of Columbia, and the D.C. public school system, will hold the official U.S. press conference to report on the state of asthma in the United States and what is being done to combat the problem. Invited guests include members of Congress; Olympians who have achieved their titles despite their asthma; Washington, DC, elementary school students who have asthma; and representatives of selected community-based asthma coalitions from across the country. The press conference will be Webcast and shown on the World Asthma Day Web site.

Mr. President, it is my hope that our colleagues will join in paying tribute to World Asthma Day and to those who suffer from this condition and those who are working to help them. It is hoped that with the continued support of the Congress, additional progress can be made in the efforts to prevent asthma, as well as to improve its diagnosis and treatment. •

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

##### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:21 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 371. An act to facilitate the naturalization of aliens who served with special guerrilla units or irregular forces in Laos.

H.R. 2932. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the Golden