

wood waste; increases eligibility to the federal Weatherization Program, an outreach program to encourage consumers to take actions to avoid seasonal price increases through a summer fill and fuel budgeting program; and provides tax credits for residential use of solar power.

The bill enhances domestic energy production oil by offering tax relief for oil and gas produced from small marginal wells—wells that produce less than 15 barrels a day—that have already been drilled but have been capped when oil prices hit rock bottom over the past few years. Bringing these marginal wells back into domestic production also has the benefit of producing more U.S. jobs.

I am particularly pleased that the bill authorizes the Secretary of Energy to establish a Northeast Heating Oil Reserve to be used when home heating oil inventories fall dangerously low and prices escalate. The Reserve would store two million barrels of refined home heating oil within a day's delivery to Northeast states if supplies run dangerously low because of a sudden demand due to cold winter weather.

Mr. President, I would have liked to have been a cosponsor of S. 2557, because we need a comprehensive policy and the National Energy Security Act was an effort to start down that road. I cannot, however, because the bill also calls for the opening up of the Arctic Coastal Plain, which would allow for oil and gas exploration and drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I continue to believe that ANWR should remain protected and there are a number of other steps that can be taken to increase or conserve our domestic supply.

Now that this legislation has been introduced, potential solutions to our Nation's energy policy—or lack of it—can at least be considered and debated.

TRIBUTE TO MONTANA'S LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Montana's Law Enforcement officers who have fallen in the line of duty. These individuals have given their lives protecting the innocent and I can think of no more noble endeavor.

We have recently considered a resolution that will make May 15th a national memorial day for peace officers. I think it is high time that the nation joins Montana in setting aside time to honor our law enforcement officers. For the past twelve years Montana has celebrated the dedication of its law enforcement officers on this day. I wish to commend Terry Tyler and the other members of the Professional Justice Community of Montana whose hard work and sacrifice to preserve and recognize the officers who have died in the line of duty are the best examples of

the "Montana Spirit" that I know so well. I was pleased to support that resolution as I am pleased to commend and commemorate the Montana Law Enforcement Museum for its continuing commitment to honoring our fallen law enforcement officers who placed public safety before their own.

Montana law enforcement traditions can be traced back to April 1863 when Henry Plummer became the state's first elected sheriff. Since that time Montana's law enforcement officers have been charged with the protection and defense of the public and our laws. In Montana, our citizens enjoy a life style not marred by daily occurrences of gun violence and crime. Our children do not feel threatened in our schools and it is commonplace to leave your door unlocked. I can think of no greater testament to the hard work and dedication of our law enforcement officers and the people of Montana who support their efforts.

It is only right that we take a day to remember those who have died so that others may live in a safe and secure environment. It is an honor and privilege to stand and recognize the efforts of these people and those who will not let their efforts go unnoticed. So, I wish to close with gratitude for those individuals who have dedicated their labors to a higher cause and who continually put their lives on the line to protect me and my family. On behalf of the state of Montana and the Nation, thank you.

LAW ENFORCEMENT SURVIVORS' EDUCATION BENEFITS

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in tribute to all the men and women in law enforcement in this country. This week, May 14–20, is National Police Week, set aside to honor the men and women behind the badge. In 1962, Congress passed and President Kennedy signed a joint resolution proclaiming May 15 of each year as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week of each year during which such May 15 occurs as Police Week, "in recognition of the service given by the men and women who, night and day, stand guard in our midst to protect us through enforcement of our laws," from Public Law 87–726.

Sadly, between 140 and 160 law enforcement officers die in the line of duty each year. On average, 21,433 officers are injured in the line of duty each year.

In honor of the thousands of officers who have given their lives to protect the people of this Nation, I am pleased to announce an important step that the Senate took yesterday in furtherance of a much needed change in the current federal law. Last September I introduced S. 1638, a bill to expand the educational opportunities under the Deegan program, named after slain

Federal officer Bill Deegan, for the families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. This bill honors those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defending our communities by making available Federal funds to those officers' spouses and dependent children in order to pursue secondary education.

Yesterday, on National Peace Officers Memorial Day, the Senate unanimously passed S. 1638. I want to thank the Senate for taking this action, and urge the House to do the same.

I want to thank the co-sponsors of this bill—Senators COLLINS, GRAMS, ROBB, TIM HUTCHINSON, DODD, ABRAHAM, SPECTER, BRYAN, GREGG, HELMS, and BIDEN. I am very pleased by the bipartisan support for the bill, and for the endorsements of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Sheriffs' Association and other law enforcement organizations.

This bill extends retroactively the benefits created under the 1992 law to the surviving spouses and dependent children of law enforcement officials who were killed between 1978 and the current start dates of the program.

It is important to extend these benefits back to the year 1978 because under the existing program, a large number of dependent children currently between the ages 8 and 21, those born between 1978 and 1992, are excluded from participating in the program merely because their parent was killed before 1992. Pushing back the date allows these dependent children, currently facing the prospect of paying for secondary education in the often financially strained environment of a single-parent family, also to benefit from this program.

This goal is consistent with the intent of the original law: an effort to show our gratitude to the maximum number of dependent children of slain law enforcement officers.

This provision affects the families of an estimated 4,100 officers, including more than 60 in Missouri. The bill makes these spouses and dependent children eligible for up to \$5820 a year for 4 years if they enroll in full-time study at an approved secondary school. In short, it helps the loved ones of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defending the rest of us by allowing them to pursue their dreams to move forward with their lives and continue their education.

On this occasion, I also want to thank a very important organization headquartered in Camdenton, MO—the Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. [COPS]. COPS was organized in 1984 with 110 members. Today COPS' membership is over 10,000 families. Concerns of Police Survivors, provides resources to assist in the rebuilding of the lives of surviving families of slain law enforcement officers.

Furthermore, COPS provides training to law enforcement agencies on survivor victimization issues and educates the public of the need to support the law enforcement profession and its survivors.

To help those families begin rebuilding their shattered lives, COPS is again hosting the National Police Survivors' Seminars as part of National Police Week—the second day of this seminar is occurring today in Alexandria, VA. For 15 years, COPS' National Police Survivors' Seminars have provided survivors of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty the opportunity to interact with other survivors and have access to some of the best mental health professionals available. I wish to thank COPS for the many programs that they operate in addition to the Police Survivors' Seminars, including scholarships, peer-support at the national, State, and local levels, "C.O.P.S. Kids" counseling programs, the "C.O.P.S. Kids" Summer Camp, Parents' Retreats, trial and parole support, and other assistance programs.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the hundreds of thousands of police officers who protect the lives and property of their fellow Americans. By the enforcement of our laws, these same officers have given our country internal freedom from fear and are responsible for helping our nation lower its crime rates again this year. These men and women, by their patriotic service and their dedicated efforts, have earned the gratitude of us all.

Officers who give their lives to protect our freedom leave behind families that must cope with the terrible loss. When this tragedy occurs, we have an obligation to help the spouses and children of fallen heroes. One way to help is to offer the opportunity to pursue their education. I thank the Senate for supporting this bill, and urge the House of Representatives to pass this legislation quickly.

BURMA'S FORCED MILITARY SERVICE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on Monday, the Financial Times carried a story headlined "Burma Regime Has the Most Child Soldiers." As Burma drives toward a goal of a half million man army, more than 50,000 children have been forced into military service, with orphans and street children the most vulnerable.

These are the facts of life in Burma that no longer surprise any of us who follow the region closely. Forced labor, forced relocations, arrests, detention, torture, even executions are more facts—repeated so often that it is easy to develop a tin ear to the unreal horrors these words convey about daily life in Burma. Add words like hunger, disease, and illiteracy—add unemployment, injustice and drug trafficking,

and you get the full picture of the misery the Rangoon regime has created.

As acute as Burma's pain is, this is not a day of mourning. Today is a celebration of wisdom and courage—a tribute to Burma's citizens who 10 years ago defied all risks and elected Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy [NLD] to lift the nation from a deep swamp of poverty, brutality and repression to the solid ground of democracy and prosperity.

The army may have stolen Burma's elections and her rightful past, but they will not be allowed to diminish our faith nor discourage our service to her future—to Burma's freedom.

For 10 years, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has honored the wisdom and courage of her constituents through countless acts of self-discipline, heroic judgment and profound humility. Treated with cruelty, especially during her husband's final days, her compassion has not withered. Imprisoned, isolated by house arrest, she finds strength to reach out for a peaceful, political dialog with her captors. Wounded with each report of a follower's detention or death, she does not scar with bitterness, she does not retreat from her destined course—democracy.

Today, Senator MOYNIHAN and I have introduced a resolution of support for that destiny—for the restoration of democracy. Joined by Senators LOTT, HELMS, LEAHY, ASHCROFT, FEINSTEIN, LUGAR, DURBIN, KENNEDY, SARBANES and WELLSTONE, we are honored to have the opportunity to pay tribute to those who persevere in the noble quest for Burma's liberty.

In particular, let me offer my appreciation to the Members and friends of the NLD who work tirelessly for Burma's free future and, especially the guardian angel of our common cause, Michelle Bohanna.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, May 15, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,665,244,853,842.93 (Five trillion, six hundred sixty-five billion, two hundred forty-four million, eight hundred fifty-three thousand, eight hundred forty-two dollars and ninety-three cents).

Five years ago, May 15, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,881,377,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred eighty-one billion, three hundred seventy-seven million).

Ten years ago, May 15, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,092,389,000,000 (Three trillion, ninety-two billion, three hundred eighty-nine million).

Fifteen years ago, May 15, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,750,555,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred fifty billion, five hundred fifty-five million).

Twenty-five years ago, May 15, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$520,101,000,000 (Five hundred twenty

billion, one hundred one million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,145,143,853,842.93 (Five trillion, one hundred forty-five billion, one hundred forty-three million, eight hundred fifty-three thousand, eight hundred forty-two dollars and ninety-three cents) during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TAIWANESE-AMERICAN HERITAGE WEEK

• Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, this week I join people in Wisconsin and across the nation in celebrating Taiwanese-American Heritage Week. This week of celebration, from May 7 to May 14, honors the many diverse contributions of over 500,000 Taiwanese-Americans in the United States. These Americans have contributed significantly to our social fabric, making notable contributions as medical professionals, Nobel Laureate scientists, business owners, human rights activists, and teachers.

While it is important to recognize the achievements of Taiwanese-Americans in the United States, Taiwanese-American Heritage Week also gives us the opportunity to celebrate the success of democracy in Taiwan. Since the lifting of martial law in 1987, Taiwan has made consistent strides toward becoming an open, democratic society where freedoms are respected and the will of the people is observed. To the credit of the many Taiwanese-Americans who fought to bring democratic principles back to the island, Taiwan is now a vibrant democratic member of the international community.

With the recent election of opposition leader Chen Shui-bian as President, Taiwan has again reaffirmed its commitment to the open electoral process that is the cornerstone of democracy. While this election bodes well for the future of a democratic Taiwan, many challenges remain. Taiwan must continue to resist internal anti-democratic forces, while also providing for its own security in a region with too few democratic neighbors. However, I am confident that Taiwan will meet these challenges and continue to play a productive role in the international community.

Mr. President, Taiwanese-American Heritage Week properly recognizes the longstanding friendship between the United States and Taiwan. Once again, I commend the accomplishments and on-going contributions of the Taiwanese-American community.●

RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ERUPTION OF MT. ST. HELENS

• Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I take the floor today to commemorate one of the most significant events in the history of my state—the eruption of Mt.