

the most important reason men and women come into the Armed Forces. We ought to praise them. We ought to recognize that and not forget it is still a very big reason people serve.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, again I thank the Senator. His statement reflects the comments I made in the meetings today. I do hope we can address this subject. I find it odd that many of the people who are raising the issues and talking about the commitments that were made in the war in which Senator INOUE and I served were not alive then, but they are telling us what the commitments were. We ought to make certain we fulfill all of those commitments, but we have to have a definition of what they really were.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, for the leader, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators being permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### BACKGROUND CHECKS IN 1999

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, last weekend, a new report was released by the Justice Department about the successes of the Brady Law. The Brady Law requires that a prospective gun purchaser undergo a criminal background check before obtaining any firearm from a federal firearms licensee. The law is intended to prevent felons, fugitives, domestic abusers, and other prohibited persons from gaining access to guns. The new information brought the number of purchase rejections up to more than half a million since enactment of the Brady Law in 1994.

According to the report, the number one reason for rejection was because the applicant either had a felony conviction or was under felony indictment. Of the approximately 200,000 purchase rejections in 1999, almost three-quarters, or 150,000 were denied for this reason. The second most common cause for rejection was a domestic violence misdemeanor conviction or restraining order, accounting for approximately 13% of rejections or 27,000 applications. Other applicants were denied the ability to purchase guns because of fugitive status, mental illness or dis-

ability, drug addiction, or state or local prohibition. In total, in 1999 alone, the Brady Law kept more than 200,000 guns off the streets and out of the hands of prohibited purchasers.

The Brady Act has been effective but its success has been undermined by a loophole in the law that allows criminals to purchase guns from non-licensed sellers. That loophole allows felons, fugitives or other prohibited persons to purchase guns at gun shows without undergoing background checks. It is a loophole often exploited by those with objectionable backgrounds, some of whose applications have already been rejected by federal, state, or local law enforcement agencies.

Congress made significant strides to reduce the level of gun violence by enacting the Brady Act, but now it's time to finish the job. Congress must close the gunshow loophole, otherwise the successes of Brady are weakened. As a reporter in my home state of Michigan said yesterday, "the same statistics that demonstrate the usefulness of the background checks that have been in place since passage of the Brady bill cry out for closure of the loopholes that allow criminals turned away by licensed dealers to purchase guns with impunity elsewhere."

I urge Congress to close the gun show loophole and stop undermining law enforcement's ability to keep guns off the streets and out of the hands of dangerous criminals.

#### VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it has been more than a year since the Columbine tragedy, but still this Republican Congress refuses to act on sensible gun legislation.

Since Columbine, thousands of Americans have been killed by gunfire. Until we act, Democrats in the Senate will read some of the names of those who lost their lives to gun violence in the past year, and we will continue to do so every day that the Senate is session.

In the name of those who died, we will continue this fight. Following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago today.

(These names come from a report prepared by the United States Conference of Mayors. The report includes data from 100 U.S. cities between April 20, 1999, and March 20, 2000. The 100 cities covered range in size from Chicago, Illinois, which has a population of more than 2.7 million to Bedford Heights, Ohio, with a population of about 11,800)

June 8, 1999

Clarence Dorsey, 31, Oakland, CA

Daniel Estrada, 18, Houston, TX

James Holston, 32, Dallas, TX

Cesaley Howard, 25, Philadelphia, PA

Artis Ingram, 24, Seattle, WA

Larone Jackson, Pine Bluff, AR  
Michael A. Jones, 25, Memphis, TN  
Corwin Mathews, San Francisco, CA  
Bennie McRae, 59, Miami-Dade County, FL

Cornelius McCurry, 19, Chicago, IL  
Edwin Medina, 21, Miami-Dade County, FL

Bayardo Monterrey, 38, Miami-Dade County, FL

Rowland Patrick, 25, Nashville, TN

John Sandifer, 20, Chicago, IL

Patricia Whitfield, 50, Seattle, WA

Champagne Younger, 6, Seattle, WA

Unidentified male, 74, Bellingham, WA

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, June 7, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,645,678,929,300.91 (Five trillion, six hundred forty-five billion, six hundred seventy-eight million, nine hundred twenty-nine thousand, three hundred dollars and ninety-one cents).

One year ago, June 7, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,606,739,000,000 (Five trillion, six hundred six billion, seven hundred thirty-nine million).

Five years ago, June 7, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,902,044,000,000 (Four trillion, nine hundred two billion, forty-four million).

Ten years ago, June 7, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,124,978,000,000 (Three trillion, one hundred twenty-four billion, nine hundred seventy-eight million).

Fifteen years ago, June 7, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,769,118,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred sixty-nine billion, one hundred eighteen million) which reflects a debt increase of almost \$4 trillion—\$3,876,560,929,300.91 (Three trillion, eight hundred seventy-six billion, five hundred sixty million, nine hundred twenty-nine thousand, three hundred dollars and ninety-one cents) during the past 15 years.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

• Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I recently had the honor to serve as national co-chair, along with Senator Byron Dorgan, of the National Selection Committee for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. This wonderful program, sponsored in partnership by The Prudential Insurance Company of America and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, recognizes outstanding young volunteers at the state and national level. Two state winners, one high school student and one middle school student, receive a \$1,000 scholarship, a silver medallion, and a 4-day all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. for themselves and their parents.

Chairing the National Selection Committee was both an eye-opening and a heart-warming experience. Reading about these young people's volunteer efforts, the remarkable sacrifices they made for the benefit of their communities, and the lessons they learned reaffirmed my faith in the generosity of the American spirit and in our future. I would like to commend Maine's two Spirit of Community award winners, Desirae Plourde of Fort Kent and Zachary Growe of Hampden, for being real American heroes.

Desirae, a senior at Fort Kent Community High School, has spent over 1,500 hours serving as a sign language interpreter for a hearing-impaired classmate who plays on her school's basketball, baseball, and soccer teams. Desirae, the only other student who knows sign language, attended a game one day and noticed how her friend struggled to understand her coach and fellow players, and how frustrated the team became when trying to communicate. She offered to interpret for him so that he could continue to play sports, and the school could benefit from his athletic talent. "I was inspired to help because I saw my friend was in need and how much he loved playing the game," Desirae said. "I share in his joy when he makes a great play and when the team wins."

Zachary, an eighth grader at Reeds Brook Middle School in Hampden, helped coordinate a campaign that collected 800 used books for needy children. Zach says he enjoys reading so much that he can't imagine not owning a book. When his class decided to plan a service project, he pushed for a book drive. Zach and his fellow students wrote a plan and a time line, contacted school officials, designed promotional signs, and decorated book drop boxes. In the end, the drive yielded more than four times its original goal of 200 books. Zach and the group delivered the books to many area organizations including a local pediatric ward, and the local chapter of United Cerebral Palsy.

I am very proud of Maine's two honorees, Desirae and Zach, and congratulate them for answering the call of service and making a real difference in their communities.●

● Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I'd like to take a moment to tell you about some wonderful kids. Recently, two youth volunteers from each state, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, came to Washington, D.C. with their parents. They were being recognized at the Fifth Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards for their outstanding acts of community service.

These kids are heroes. They set the example of selflessness and caring for others to follow and it was truly inspiring to hear their stories of service to the public and their communities. I

was honored to serve as co-chair of the National Selection Committee along with Senator SUSAN COLLINS.

Ten students were chosen as National Honorees—five high school and five middle school students—and each received \$5,000, a gold medallion and a crystal trophy for their school. The ten honorees will also have a total of \$250,000 in toys and clothing dedicated to needy children in their names.

I'd especially like to congratulate the two volunteers chosen as finalists from my state of North Dakota: Jason Koth of Grand Forks and Scot Miller of Fargo.

Jason, a senior at Grand Forks Red River High School, wrote, produced and directed a play to raise funds for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. It was called "The Sun in My Eyes" and he wrote this play in memory of his handicapped brother. Jason said, "I wanted to tell people to stop fighting over unimportant things and start opening their eyes to the beautiful people that surround them." His play raised over \$1,300 for the foundation and helped send a terminally ill child on his dream trip to Disney World.

Scot, a ninth grader at Discovery Junior High in Fargo, became involved in several volunteer projects to help his community. When he learned that the public library needed donations to complete its expansion plan, Scot led a recycling drive to raise money and created an ongoing recycling program in his neighborhood. He is also president of his school's Builder's Club, a student organization dedicated to promoting volunteer efforts within his community. During his summer months, Scot spends four hours a day volunteering as a junior recreation leader for the local parks department.

I'm so proud of Jason and Scot. They should feel great pride for their hard work and the impact they have made in their communities and the lives of others. Their efforts are truly inspiring.

Mr. President, Senator COLLINS and I would like to honor all 104 Prudential Spirit of Community Honorees by reading their names in the RECORD.

The ten students selected as National Honorees are:

Linda Arnade, 17, of Palm Bay, Florida, who discovered that septic tanks in her community were causing groundwater contamination after testing more than 400 residential wells. She then launched an education and monitoring program to alert the public of this important health and environment risk.

Brett Byrd, 13, of Camas, Washington, who helped raise more than \$100,000 in his mother's memory for breast cancer prevention by performing concerts along with his brother and their rock band.

Megan Doherty, 16, of Lemont, Illinois, who raised more than \$56,000 to

bring 29 young cancer victims of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster to her town for life-saving medical treatment.

Marcus Houston, 18 of Denver, Colorado, who developed an educational program called "Just Say Know" that teaches middle level students what it takes to achieve academic, social and athletic success in high school.

Andrew Leary, 17, of Vernon, New Jersey, who led a two-and-a-half year effort to establish the first permanent soup kitchen in the northern part of his rural county. He also helped raise \$35,000 to operate the facility.

Joshua Marcus, 13, of Boca Raton, Florida, who created "Sack It To You," a non-profit corporation that has provided backpacks filled with school supplies to more than 2,500 needy children.

Jarrett Mynear, 11, of Nicholasville, Kentucky, who raised more than \$18,000 to distribute new toys each week to young patients at a children's hospital. Since the program started, Jarrett has been featured on many local television shows, as well as the nationally syndicated "Rosie O'Donnell Show," to promote his cause.

Shelarese Ruffin, 17, of Atlanta, Georgia, who developed an intervention program that enables middle and high school students to confront and overcome drug abuse and other discipline problems instead of being expelled from school.

Danielle Shimotakahara, 13, of North Bend, Oregon, who waged a high-profile campaign to remove violent coin-operated games from places where children congregate in her town. She also testified at a U.S. Senate hearing on the effects of violent games on children.

Sagen Woolery, 12, of Warner Robins, Georgia, who started a summer meal service called "The Kid's Kitchen" for needy children and their families. The service, operated completely by 8-to-12 year-olds, has served more than 3,200 people in her community and also provides toiletries and school supplies for needy children who come to the kitchen.

The state honorees are:

Jose Alvarez—Puerto Rico.  
Sarah Anderson—South Dakota.  
Meredith Arensman—Kentucky.  
Linda Arnade—Florida.  
Sarah Austin—Maryland.  
Shannon Babb—Utah.  
Beau Ballinger—Wyoming.  
Jason Blau—Illinois.  
Katie Bolenbaugh—Minnesota.  
Milton Boyd—District of Columbia.  
Alston Brown—Colorado.  
James Buck—Maryland.  
Sara Bulaga—Vermont.  
Brett Byrd—Washington.  
Kevin Cable—Tennessee.  
Jonathan Cheek—Virginia.  
Reid Coggins—South Carolina.  
John Coiner—West Virginia.  
Kendyl Collins—New Mexico.  
Dennis Cordova—New Mexico.

Maria Cruz—Puerto Rico.  
 Kalila Dalton—Kansas.  
 Dana Davis—Tennessee.  
 Danielle Devlin—New Jersey.  
 Kimberly Dickard—Mississippi.  
 Katherine Dillon—Kansas.  
 Megan Doherty—Illinois.  
 Tanya Ewing—Alaska.  
 Caroline Faflak—South Dakota.  
 D. Ashley Feldman—Pennsylvania.  
 Toni Fowler—Alabama.  
 David Frayser—Nebraska.  
 Shawn Garner—North Carolina.  
 Christopher Gardner—Nevada.  
 Benjamin Geisinger—Massachusetts.  
 Tiffany Georges—Nebraska.  
 Paul Gordon—Washington.  
 Zachary Grove—Maine.  
 Aracely Gurrola—Arizona.  
 Jesse Hanna—Montana.  
 Brittany Heath—Texas.  
 Robin Hill—Montana.  
 Marcus Houston—Colorado.  
 Jacob Kaskey—Ohio.  
 Jason Koth—North Dakota.  
 Amy Lavicky—Oklahoma.  
 Andrew Leary—New Jersey.  
 Christi Lockwood—Connecticut.  
 Joshua Marcus—Florida.  
 Natalie Mason—Indiana.  
 Sarah McClintock—Wisconsin.  
 Caithlin McGee—Delaware.  
 Ann McGinnity—Wisconsin.  
 Meghan McGinty—New York.  
 Scot Miller—North Dakota.  
 Shifra Mincer—New York.  
 Elizabeth Moss—Nevada.  
 Alison Mostrom—Iowa.  
 Jarrett Mynear—Kentucky.  
 Leanne Nakamura—Hawaii.  
 Kendra Neilson—Oklahoma.  
 Chavis Newman-Keane—Alaska.  
 Matthew Nonnemacher—Pennsylvania.  
 Blaire Nuzem—West Virginia.  
 Ryan Olson—Virginia.  
 Catherine Oswald—Rhode Island.  
 Gustav Owen—New Hampshire.  
 Jennifer Parker—Arkansas.  
 Monica Pasternak—Connecticut.  
 Audrey Ells Payne—Vermont.  
 Allan Peetz—Indiana.  
 Michael Perez—Arkansas.  
 Desirae Plourde—Maine.  
 Taryn Pream—Minnesota.  
 Jonathan Quarles—Michigan.  
 Tiffany Ringold—Idaho.  
 Stephanie Rochel—Massachusetts.  
 Hannah Rogers—Alabama.  
 Shelarese Ruffin—Georgia.  
 Erica Rymer—South Carolina.  
 Amy Schlueter—Missouri.  
 Eleanor Sherman—California.  
 Gregory Shilling—Louisiana.  
 Danielle Shimotakahara—Oregon.  
 Sandy Short—Idaho.  
 Adam Smith—Louisiana.  
 Jennifer Stanton—Oregon.  
 Robyn Strumpf—California.  
 Kristen Stryker—Ohio.  
 Meredith Swain—North Carolina.  
 Mackenzie Sweeney—Missouri.  
 Matthew Ternus—Iowa.  
 Daniel Tessier—Rhode Island.  
 Jennifer Thornhill—Texas.

Julia Tobias—New Hampshire.  
 Lisa Torres—Wyoming.  
 Ryan Tripp—Utah.  
 Gopalkrishna Trivedi—Michigan.  
 Paul Varnado—Mississippi.  
 Lakeshia Wallace—District of Columbia.  
 Aubrie Weedling—Hawaii.  
 Sagan Woolery—Georgia.  
 Mia Yocopis—Arizona.  
 Christopher Zeigler—Delaware●

#### TRIBUTE TO JYNELL HARRIS

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, it is an honor to pay tribute to Jynell Harris as she retires after nearly 40 years of continuous and dedicated service to the Vineland School District in my home state of New Jersey.

Mr. President, Ms. Harris' achievements extend back to Clayton High School, where she graduated with honors. She later received her B.A. in Elementary Education from Glassboro State College. Ms. Harris began teaching in the Vineland school system in 1963. She taught pre-school children at the Micro-Social Learning Center, served as a Special Education teacher for the mentally handicapped, implemented seminar programs for gifted and talented 7th and 8th graders and led remedial reading and writing classes for 9th and 10th grades at Vineland High School.

In addition to her contributions as a teacher, Ms. Harris has served as Grade-Level Chairperson, Teacher-in-Charge of the Gifted and Talented Magnet School and coordinator of the Cumberland County College Summer Youth Program.

Ms. Harris has been honored repeatedly for her achievements. Her honors include the 1989 Martin Luther King Academy's Harriet Tubman Award, the 1992 Delsea Regional High School Black Student Association Outstanding Community Service Award and recognition as an outstanding educator by the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

Ms. Harris also has been effective in the political arena. She coordinated Jesse Jackson's 1988 Presidential campaign in Cumberland County and served as the county's NAACP Education Chairperson.

Ms. Harris actively participates in many community organizations and is a member of New Jersey Education Association and the National Education Association.

Mr. President, Ms. Harris has shown extraordinary dedication to improving her community and clearly deserves recognition on the occasion of her retirement.●

#### TRIBUTE TO LINDSEY WILSON COLLEGE

● Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the faculty, staff, and students at Lindsey Wilson College in Columbia, Kentucky.

First, I extend sincere thanks for the graciousness and hospitality shown during my visit to Lindsey Wilson College for the May 13, 2000 Commencement. It was an honor to address the faculty and graduating students at such a fine Kentucky institution, and I sincerely appreciate the opportunity.

Located on a southcentral Kentucky hilltop, Lindsey Wilson College is a four-year liberal arts college affiliated with the Kentucky Conference of the United Methodist Church. It began in 1903, as a training school for Vanderbilt University, then became a two-year college in 1923, and started offering a four-year degree program in 1986. Lindsey Wilson's diverse student body is comprised of individuals from 89 Kentucky counties, 23 states, and 26 foreign countries.

Since its four-year degree program began, enrollment has grown a whopping 160 percent and they have expanded to offer 16 undergraduate degree programs and two master's programs. Over the last 13 years, several new buildings have been constructed, the budget has more than doubled, assets now total \$49 million, and Lindsey Wilson College's endowment is valued at more than \$28 million. Congratulations on these tremendous accomplishments.

I would like to recognize President William T. Luckey and Chancellor John B. Begley. Students, faculty, and staff at Lindsey Wilson are all fortunate to have such committed individuals serving the mission of the school and facilitating its growth.

Another name that is important to Lindsey Wilson is Ruby McKinney Roach. Ms. Roach grew up in Adair County, Kentucky, and is a proud Lindsey Wilson College Alumnus of 1954. From Lindsey Wilson, she went to Berea College and earned a Bachelor of Arts in home economics and a Master of Education at Western Kentucky University. After a brief time teaching in Barren County, Ms. Roach went home to Adair County and served as a teacher and guidance counselor for 30 years.

According to the many people touched by her kindness and generosity, Ruby Roach became deeply involved in the lives of her students. As a home economics teacher, she had the opportunity to share her skills and knowledge with thousands of students over the years. As a guidance counselor, she had the unique experience of talking with students both about their educational and personal goals, and helped them develop a plan to accomplish those goals.

Ms. Roach has been an active member of the educational community outside her school as well, having held positions in the Kentucky Association of School Administrators, the Kentucky Counselors Association, the National Education Association, and Iota chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society