June 19, 2000

National Guard. Without the talent and support given to our armed forces by the National Guard and individuals like Sergeant Irizarry, our country would not be where it is today. I take great pride in congratulating Sergeant Irizarry for his Guard career and for being an example for all of us to follow.

PRIVATE RELIEF BILL FOR MARINA KHALINA

- Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask that the following letter be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows:


Senator Tom Daschle
Minority Leader.
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. LEADER: Two weeks ago, my private relief bill for Marina Khalina, S. 150, was scheduled to come to the floor, but other members objected to this bill coming to the floor before their private relief bills came to the floor.

I agreed to let my bill be sent back to the Judiciary Committee so that it and the other private relief bills could be cleared for the floor together on June 15, 2000.

Now, I have been informed that the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) somehow misplaced Ms. Khalina’s fingerprints and that her relief bill cannot be passed by the full Senate until a new fingerprint record for Ms. Khalina can be processed by the INS. Senate action on her bill should be delayed because of INS incompetence by the INS.

I wish Bill much happiness as he embarks on this new journey in life, as he will be missed. I want to leave Bill with a poem by Robert Frost, as I know that he has a gift to travel and endeavors to conquer.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep.
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

Bill, it has been a pleasure to represent you in the United States Senate. I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors. May you always continue to inspire those around you.

RECOGNITION OF MRS. SUSAN WARGO

- Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have the pleasure to stand today and celebrate the career of a very fine public school teacher. She is Mrs. Susan Wargo, a third grade school teacher at Franklin Sherman Elementary School in Fairfax County, Virginia. She is retiring this year, after teaching school for 38 years. She and her husband Mike, will be relocating to Aiken, South Carolina.

I know about Mrs. Wargo because she teaches my granddaughter, Mattie Barringer. Mattie loves Mrs. Wargo, and its not hard to figure out why. She has captured Mattie’s imagination and won her heart. Mattie has learned ancient history, economics, math, and literature from Mrs. Wargo, but she could have learned those things from anybody. Mrs. Wargo’s lasting contribution to Mattie’s education is the atmosphere she created in her classroom. She embraced her students, making them feel comfortable, taught them how to learn, and got them to accomplish great things—more than they ever thought they were capable of doing. Mrs. Wargo is that amazing teacher that we all can remember: the one that cared about us, that took an interest in us, that rooted for us, and made us passionate to learn.

I had a teacher like Mrs. Wargo when I was a young boy—her name was Mrs. Barringer. And I am glad my granddaughter was lucky enough to have such a teacher so early in her education. Teachers like Mrs. Wargo immeasurably enrich our lives. My daughter Lana—Mattie’s mother—tells me that when talking about Mattie in a parent-teacher conference Mrs. Wargo’s voice seemed to break just slightly with emotion as she spoke passionately about Mattie’s talents and potential. My daughter came away from that conference amazed at this great teacher.

It is hard to express these feelings we have about great teachers. Mattie did a much better job than I have done here in a recent letter to Mrs. Wargo. She wrote: “When I came to this school, you made me feel special. You always make me feel good about myself. I’ll miss you.”

With those words, I am delighted to pay tribute to Mrs. Wargo, and to her colleagues like her who serve in the public schools. Mrs. Wargo, my family thanks you for your support given to our armed forces, including Mattie. We want you to know that the good you have done so far in your life has been noticed, and much appreciated.

TRIBUTE TO LT. GEN. MICHAEL C. SHORT, USAF

- Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today, I recognize the outstanding service to our Nation of Lieutenant General Michael C. Short. Lt. General Short will retire on July 1, 2000, after an outstanding career in the United States Air Force. During a 35 year career, General Short distinguished himself as a fighter pilot, warfighter, and trusted leader.

Throughout his career, General Short commanded at all levels, both overseas and in the continental United States. A 1965 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, he is a command pilot with over 4,600 flying hours in fighter aircraft, including 276 combat missions in Southeast Asia. His impressive list of accomplishments include command of the 4th Aircraft Generation Squadron, 334th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 455th Tactical Group, 355th Tactical Training Wing, 67th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing and the 404th Composite Wing.

During his last assignment, General Short commanded the Allied Air Forces Southern Europe, Stabilization Forces Air Component, and 142nd Air Forces Air Component, Naples, Italy, and the 16th Air Force and 16th Air and Space Expeditionary Task Force, U.S. Air Forces in Europe, Aviano Air Base, Italy. As commander of these forces, he was the air principal subordinate commander and the joint and combined forces air component commander for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s (NATO) Southern Region. He also was responsible for the planning and employment of NATO’s air forces in the Mediterranean area of operations from Gibraltar to Eastern Turkey and air operations throughout the Balkans. General Short led the 16th Air