

every five minutes in this country, and that nearly one in every three adult women experiences at least one physical assault by a partner during adulthood. In fact, more women are injured by domestic violence each year than by automobile accidents and cancer deaths combined.

These facts illustrate that there is a need in Congress to help states and communities address this problem that impacts all of our communities.

I recently joined Senator JOE BIDEN (D-DE), Senator ORRIN HATCH (R-UT), Senator TOM DASCHLE (D-SD), and others in sponsoring bipartisan legislation, S. 2787, to reauthorize the 1994 Violence Against Women Act. Authorization for the important programs contained in this law has already expired, and Congress must act now to ensure that successful programs dealing with domestic violence are funded in the future.

As a state lawmaker in 1983, I wrote one of the first domestic violence laws in South Dakota which dedicated a portion of marriage license fees to help build shelters for battered women. I was also a cosponsor of the original Violence Against Women Act in 1990 in the House of Representatives. Even at that time, many people denied that domestic violence existed in our state. Finally, in 1995, the President signed legislation to strengthen federal criminal law relating to violence against women and fund programs to help women who have been assaulted.

Since the Violence Against Women Act became law, South Dakota organizations have received over \$6.7 million in federal funding for domestic abuse programs. In addition, the Violence Against Women Act doubled prison time for repeat sex offenders; established mandatory restitution to victims of violence against women; codified much of our existing laws on rape; and strengthened interstate enforcement of violent crimes against women.

The law also created a national toll-free hotline to provide women with crisis intervention help, information about violence against women, and free referrals to local services. Last year, the hotline took its 300,000th call. The number for women to call for help is: 1-800-799-SAFE.

In addition to reauthorizing the provisions of the original Violence Against Women Act, the legislation that I am sponsoring in the Senate would improve our overall efforts to reduce violence against women by strengthening law enforcement's role in reducing violence against women. The legislation also expands legal services and assistance to victims of violence, while also addressing the effects of domestic violence on children. Finally, programs are funded to strengthen education and training to combat violence against women.

I have asked the Senate Judiciary Committee to quickly pass S. 2787, and

I am hopeful that the Senate will approve this important piece of legislation this year so that we can continue fighting domestic abuse and violence against women in our state and communities.

#### IN SOLIDARITY WITH ALL VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF TORTURE

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I rise today to draw attention to the barbaric practice of torture. Yesterday—June 26th, was the 3rd annual U.N. International Day in Support of Torture Victims and Survivors. The Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition has designated this week, June 26th—June 30th, the week of commemoration of torture victims and survivors. Mr. President, colleagues, we should take this week to honor victims of torture, but more importantly, we should use this week as a reminder that together, we can make our world torture-free.

Torture has no ideological, geographical, or other boundaries—survivors of torture are everywhere. The practice of torture is one of the most serious human rights abuses of our time. According to the 1999 Amnesty International report, torture and other forms of severe ill-treatment conducted by government security forces, or condoned by other government officials, occurred in 125 countries last year.

As a Senator from Minnesota, I am extraordinarily proud of the Center for Victims of Torture in Minneapolis, which since 1985 has been doing pioneering work in addressing the complex needs of survivors of torture. And while we have come a long way in the last fifteen years in raising awareness of torture and helping torture victims, there is still much more we should and could be doing to stop this terrible practice.

My own agenda in the Senate has included a number of human rights initiatives, including the sponsorship of the original Torture Victims Relief Act in 1998, which authorized funding to support foreign and domestic treatment centers in providing services to the millions of survivors of torture worldwide and the estimated 400,000 survivors in this country alone. Repressive governments frequently torture those who are defending human rights and democracy in their own country, and the Torture Victims Relief Act recognizes the debt we owe to these courageous people who have made such a sacrifice for cherished principles.

It is hard to imagine that in today's world torture still exists, but it does. In solidarity with all victims of torture, I ask you to join me this week in honoring them by helping raise awareness about torture worldwide. All week the Torture Abolition and Survivors

Support Coalition will be requesting meetings with members and staff, and conducting seminars to educate the public about torture. I urge you meet with the Coalition or to attend a seminar to learn the truth about the brutality of this crime. Educating yourself and the public about this terrible human rights abuse is the best way to honor its victims. Together we can end this barbaric practice. Together we can put a stop to torture.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, June 26, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,647,618,721,190.63 (Five trillion, six hundred forty-seven billion, six hundred eighteen million, seven hundred twenty-one thousand, one hundred ninety dollars and sixty-three cents).

Five years ago, June 26, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,889,053,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred eighty-nine billion, fifty-three million).

Ten years ago, June 26, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,118,101,000,000 (Three trillion, one hundred eighteen billion, one hundred one million).

Fifteen years ago, June 26, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,462,594,000,000 (One trillion, four hundred sixty-two billion, five hundred ninety-four million).

Twenty-five years ago, June 26, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$526,124,000,000 (Five hundred twenty-six billion, one hundred twenty-four million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,121,494,721,190.63 (Five trillion, one hundred twenty-one billion, four hundred ninety-four million, seven hundred twenty-one thousand, one hundred ninety dollars and sixty-three cents) during the past 25 years.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### THE PASSING OF VERMONT CONSERVATIONIST, JUSTIN BRANDE

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise to call the Senate's attention to a recent tribute to the late Justin Brande authored by Professor Carl Reidel of the University of Vermont.

In his article, Professor Reidel captures the spirit of one of the most influential pioneers of 20th Century Vermont environmental stewardship. Justin Brande of Cornwall was among the founders of the Lake Champlain Committee and the Vermont Natural Resources Council, two of the most enduring and effective conservation organizations in our state.

Vermonters committed to stewardship of the land, to clean water and to family farms owe a debt to Justin Brande. He was a leader in organic agriculture and a selfless volunteer for