

treated well, but today I'm able to attend one of the best schools in Philadelphia. I was proud when my grandmother shared stories from Africa.

We finished the project with an international lunch. We enjoyed dishes and wore clothes from our country of origin.

FINALIST, ROBERT BANOVIC, PITTSBURGH, PA  
MY ROAD TO AMERICA

When the war started, I was four years old. I lived with my mom, dad, grandmother, and grandfather. One day my dad went to the war. My mom said that he would come back soon but he never did.

As we sat down to eat one day, the shaking and screaming began. There was dust all over. They threw a grenade in my house and killed my grandfather who I loved a lot. The door and bricks fell on me. Everywhere around me were dead people—men, women, and children. The war didn't choose.

My uncle took my mom, grandmother, and me to another city. From there we moved on again but my mom didn't come because she was trapped in the city we came from. My grandmother died three months later and I was left with a woman I didn't even know. I didn't see my mom for six months. When she came, the war was still going on but I didn't care, at least I had my mom. My dad was gone, my grandfather and grandmother, too—all of them died in one year.

When my mom and I came to the United States, it was hard and we cried a lot. We didn't have any friends and we didn't know how to speak English. But we have a lot more here than we did in Bosnia. Most of all we have freedom. Now I'm one happy kid who is glad we are here!

FINALIST, MEGAN IMRIE, ORLAND PARK, IL  
LIBERIO

This is a true story. It is to show why I am glad America is a nation of immigrants.

My great-grandfather was an immigrant from Italy. In the 1930s people did not get paid much and had to work very long hours. His name was Liberio. When people became tired with the way their bosses treated them, they picketed for unions. Liberio and his co-workers were among these workers. Liberio was their leader. One day during a picket, the police arrested him and his co-workers. When it was Liberio's turn to be questioned, the police asked why they were picketing, since this is America. Then Liberio said: "I know all about America. My name is Liberio and it means liberty. I have three sons. My first son is named Salvatore, which means salvation. America gives salvation to people who are poor, hungry, persecuted or even in danger. My next son's name is Victorio, which means victory. Victory stands for America because we are victorious over depression and hardships and other countries that are against our way of life. My last son's name is Franco which means freedom. Freedom is America. Its people can believe, can live and dream however they choose. Do not tell me I do not know what America is." When the police heard this, they let my great-grandfather and his companions go. I feel that this is very important because it made many understand what America is.

FINALIST, CARTER JONES, HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA

AMERICA AS A QUILT

I like to think of America As a huge quilt, Each person acting as A small thread, Each person's character Describes the color Of each thread. Each person's appearance De-

termines the texture Of each thread. Each family acts as A group of threads. Each family's love For each other Determines how the Threads are placed. When a marriage occurs Two more threads Are woven together. When all the families Are woven together, It makes a very Unique fabric.

As the fabric grows, It forms quilt pieces That form a Complete quilt. Each family has its Own unique pattern That determines the Way the quilt Patches will look. If you were To take other Country's quilts and Compare them to The United States' Quilt, you would Get a very different Product because Of different foods And different Traditions of each Country in the world. The United States Quilt would have A very different Texture and color Than any other Country in the world. All the different Characteristics and skin Colors of people Around the world Make our quilt Beautiful.

If you were to Look at the United States' Quilt, really Study it, you Would find Characteristics Of all the other Countries on it.

People have Immigrated here From other countries, And because of that, Each quilt patch Is different from The next quilt patch. Immigrants from Countries other than The United States Bring different foods And traditions, which Change the colors and Textures of the United States' beautiful And unique quilt.

FINALIST, AMANDA TABATA, HONOLULU, HI

I'm proud to live in a place with many immigrants.

Many people get to share customs, traditions, history, language, and many more things.

Many people do not know how lucky they are to live in a place with many immigrants.

I can learn many things about a culture from one another.

Give thanks because you live in a wonderful diverse, and free country.

Really take the time to experience, and learn about all of the cultures, history, tradition, religions and many more things.

Always be proud of who you are, what culture you are, and where you come from.

Nurture, and create an appreciation for all cultures.

Together we stand in a community of different cultures, so we are strong.

#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Madam President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The Local law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred July 4, 1991 in Houston, TX. Eight to 10 high school and college-aged males beat Paul Broussard, 27, and two of his companions with two-by-fours, some with nails in them. Broussard died seven hours later. Police labeled the homicide a "gay bashing."

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol

that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

#### FISCAL YEAR 2002 TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, I am pleased that the Senate was able to pass a Transportation Appropriations bill that fully funds the airport and highway trust funds and provides funds for high-speed rail research and development, among other things. Ensuring that our Nation's transportation infrastructure receives adequate funding for improvement and maintenance is a critical responsibility of Congress. Due in large part to TEA-21, Congress has been able to provide these necessary funds on a consistent basis.

At the same time, I continue to be concerned about unauthorized spending that is included in the accompanying report. While I appreciate the desire to respond to local requests and concerns, nevertheless Congress must work harder to rein itself in when it comes to this type of spending. We all know that this is not an easy task. While I disagree with the President's tax cut which has reduced the availability of funds for necessary programs, nevertheless I am encouraged by the Administration's recent announcement that it wants to work with Congress to cut back unauthorized spending in appropriations bills.

Adequate funding for our entire transportation infrastructure is one of my highest budget priorities. I am pleased that this bill accomplishes that goal.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Madam President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, August 1, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,706,162,161,657.50, five trillion, seven hundred six billion, one hundred sixty-two million, one hundred sixty-one thousand, six hundred fifty-seven dollars and fifty cents.

One year ago, August 1, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,652,485,270,404.28, five trillion, six hundred fifty-two billion, four hundred eighty-five million, two hundred seventy thousand, four hundred four dollars and twenty-eight cents.

Five years ago, August 1, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,183,636,383,503.29, five trillion, one hundred eighty-three billion, six hundred thirty-six million, three hundred eighty-three thousand, five hundred three dollars and twenty-nine cents.

Ten years ago, August 1, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,577,200,000,000, three trillion, five hundred seventy-seven billion, two hundred million.

Fifteen years ago, August 1, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,079,858,000,000, two trillion, seventy-nine billion, eight

hundred fifty-eight million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$3 trillion, \$3,626,304,161,657.50, three trillion, six hundred twenty-six billion, three hundred four million, one hundred sixty-one thousand, six hundred fifty-seven dollars and fifty cents during the past 15 years.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### COMMENDING THE STUDENTS OF SUNNYSIDE AND TECUMSEH MIDDLE SCHOOLS OF LAFAYETTE, IN

• Mr. INOUE. Madam President, I rise to commend the students of Sunnyside and Tecumseh Middle Schools of Lafayette, IN, for their efforts to honor the Japanese American veterans of World War II.

On June 29, 2001, I was honored to help dedicate the long-awaited National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. Located just a stone's throw from this chamber, at the corner of New Jersey and Louisiana Avenues, the memorial is a beautiful evocation of Japanese American contributions to life of this great Nation.

Though small in numbers, Americans of Japanese ancestry have had a tremendous impact on our Nation in countless ways, in fields and factories, in boardrooms and classrooms, in State houses and court houses. Of course, when their Nation called, they answered, performing magnificently on the battlefield. Their success, achieved in the face of discrimination and cultural misunderstanding, is a testament to their values of hard work, self-sacrifice, and love of family, community, and country, values that have helped make our Nation strong and prosperous.

The National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism is a fitting tribute to the "patriotism, perseverance, and posterity" of this small but vigorous minority in our country. I hope that all our colleagues, and indeed Americans everywhere, will have a chance to visit this remarkable shrine and reflect on the lesson that it teaches us, that America is great because it embraces its diversity, and that freedom and opportunity can be realized only when they are available to all.

Today I would like to share with you another tribute, one less grand, perhaps, and constructed of cloth and paper rather than steel and stone, but no less meaningful. I am referring to a remarkable work of art and remembrance, a quilt that comes from the heartland of America. Crafted by the young people in Lafayette, IN, the quilt honors the thousands of Japanese Americans who answered the call of duty during the Second World War.

Through the good offices of the Japanese American Veterans Association,

the larger-than-life quilt to which I refer had its inaugural unveiling at the dedication dinner celebrating the June 29, 2001 opening of the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. It captured the hearts and imaginations of all who saw it that evening, and in so doing, appropriately highlighted the memorial's primary mission, to educate Americans about the heritage of Japanese Americans and their special place in the fabric of our Nation.

I would like to commend the 8th grade students of Sunnyside and Tecumseh Middle Schools of Lafayette, IN, who joined together to create this unique work, and to thank their teacher, Ms. Leila Meyerratken, for her inspirational support for this initiative. Five hundred students, often working after school and on weekends, contributed their time, energy, and inspiration to the school project. Mrs. Meyerratken herself gave up holidays and leave to see the project through.

The quilt is a marvelously conceived and meticulously constructed work. The structure and detail were crafted with an eye for historical accuracy, and every opportunity was taken to imbue the quilt with appropriate symbolism. For example, 120,000 tassels edge the red-white-and blue tapestry, to represent the number of Japanese Americans incarcerated in the wartime relocation camps. And the quilt's dimensions are carefully framed at 19 x 41 feet, to recall the fateful year America entered the war.

The main body of the red, white, and blue cloth quilt is interspersed with memorabilia, including dog tags and parts of uniforms, that were selected from Nisei veterans themselves. Other sections contain heartfelt poems written by some of the junior high students. The names of more than 20,000 Nisei soldiers, from the 100th Battalion, the famed 442nd Infantry Regiment, the 522nd Artillery Battalion, 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion, and the Military Intelligence Service, are painstakingly attached to the rest of the quilt's panels.

Its creators intended the quilt to honor Americans of Japanese ancestry who volunteered to fight for their country in order to prove their loyalty, in spite of the detention of their family members in internment camps. The students expressed hope that the tapestry will teach others how Japanese Americans, by making sacrifices on the field of battle, rose above the indignities they suffered. These youths felt strongly that the World War II history of the Japanese Americans soldiers, which is not generally covered in history books, was a story worth telling.

Mrs. Meyerratken, the leader of the project, says that the quilt "is meant to promote social justice by teaching others in simple ways what these veterans did and how they overcame racism."

I hope that the quilt will tour the Nation and convey to all citizens the message of tolerance and understanding that these young people from Indiana have so beautifully and inspirationally captured in this marvelous quilt. If this quilt accurately represents the sentiments of America's heartland, then I think the future is in good hands indeed. ●

##### TRIBUTE TO WALKER JOHNSON

• Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, today I rise to pay tribute to a fine man and a great Kentuckian, Mr. Walker Johnson. On July 24, 2001, Walker celebrated his 90th birthday. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing him the very best.

Walker Johnson is a loving family man and a great friend. Born to Robert and Sanny Johnson, he enjoys small-town living and is a life-long resident of Adair County, KY. Walker is the father of four children, Billy, Doris, James, and Delois. In fact, it is through Delois and her husband, Rich, that I have heard so many wonderful stories about Walker. He is a special friend to many, and is always willing to help others.

Walker is a unique individual who is known for his wit and sense of humor. Throughout his life, Walker has pursued a wide range of activities including music, horse shoeing, and dog trading. He is a talented musician and spent much time in his early years traveling and playing the fiddle with performers such as String Bean and Uncle Henry's Mountaineers. In the 1940s, he put the fiddle aside and began shoeing horses and trading dogs. Walker was one of the most skilled and hardest working farrier's in the business. In fact, at the age of 68, he managed to shoe 18 horses in one day. What a feat!

Walker has also stayed busy trading dogs, which he's done for more than 50 years. He has sold dogs all over Kentucky as well as in several other States. Today, at the age of 90, he still enjoys trading and sitting down with friends for good conversation.

On behalf of myself and my colleagues in the U.S. Senate, I want to pay tribute to Walker Johnson and sincerely wish him and his family the very best. I ask that an article which ran in the Adair Progress on Sunday August 24, 2000, appear in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Adair Progress, Aug. 24, 2000]  
AN OLD-TIME FIDDLER NOW AN HONORABLE  
KENTUCKY COLONEL  
(By Paul B. Hayes)

For around three-quarters of a century, Walker Johnson has traveled around the countryside—playing a fiddle, shoeing horses or trading dogs and various other items.

Johnson, a life-long resident of the county who has resided in the Millerfield community for the past 50-plus years, is known far