

the Natrona County School District #1 Student Support Services and the Parent Resource Center. The campaign has generated significant activity among local officials and is responsible for a variety of training, educational and interactive activities related to raising disability awareness in the broader community. In addition to engaging local officials and the general public, the campaign has worked successfully with the business community and numerous media outlets to ensure a diverse yet unified front in heightening awareness about the reality of living with a disability.

I am particularly proud of the campaign's special effort to include activities targeted towards raising awareness among children. Not only will the public library host a reading hour on disability awareness, with awareness bookmarks available for the public, but public school buses and other public transportation will display the campaign's trademark silver ribbon during the month of March.

The campaign has issued the silver ribbon as a pin, and since its inception in 1998, more than 250,000 pins, along with thousands of balloons and displays, have been used to raise awareness around the State of Wyoming. As I mentioned before, similar activities are being duplicated nationwide.

I am honored but not surprised to once again have the opportunity to highlight a community-based effort invented in Wyoming that other communities are modeling. I hope hearing me today will encourage my colleagues to introduce their own State to the Silver Ribbon Campaign and further raise disability awareness in this country. This is a critical effort that every community should embrace.

#### EVERYBODY WINS!

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, Everybody Wins! is an innovative literacy improvement program that pairs adults with children for one hour a week to share lunch, a good book and friendship. The U.S. Senate launched Everybody Wins! at the Brent Elementary School in 1995. Today, this program serves 4,500 children in the Washington area.

Last night, I had the honor of attending a reception to celebrate the Everybody Wins! program. I was joined by my colleague Senator JIM JEFFORDS who I commend for his leadership in making the Everybody Wins! program such a success in the U.S. Senate, and Art Tannenbaum, the visionary behind this wonderful program.

I was especially honored to join First Lady Laura Bush at last evening's event. Mrs. Bush's passion for reading and strong commitment to early literacy touched the lives of thousands of families in Texas, and it is clear from last night that she brings that same

commitment to children all across the country.

I was deeply moved by her remarks last night and her real passion for children and their needs, and I believe my colleagues would appreciate her thoughtful statement as well.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print Mrs. Bush's remarks from last evening into the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

FIRST LADY LAURA BUSH'S REMARKS,  
EVERYBODY WINS! EVENT, MARCH 20, 2001

Thank you very much, Dr. Billington.  
First I want to thank Lisa Vise.

Lisa, you are a remarkable girl. You remind us that one person's work can make a difference in a lot of other people's lives.

Senator Jeffords, Senator Kennedy, Mr. Chabreja, Mr. Cole, Mr. Woodward, distinguished guests, I'm pleased to be with you tonight.

Everybody Wins is the largest children's literacy and mentoring organization in the District because you understand the value of spending quality time reading to children.

I am fortunate because someone spent time reading to me as a child—my mother. Thanks to her I developed a lifelong passion for reading, and I grew up to become a teacher. As much as I loved being read to as a child, I love reading to children even more.

The Everybody Wins volunteers will agree reading together has tremendous results. Children who are read to by an adult learn two things: First, that reading is worthwhile, and second, that they are worthwhile.

Reading is the foundation of all learning. Children must have good reading skills to succeed in every subject in school. Those who do not read well by the end of the third grade often have a difficult time catching up. Sadly, thousands of children can't read well in America.

According to a 1998 study, 68 percent of fourth-graders in our nation's lowest-income schools were unable to read at even a very basic level.

We may grow numb to statistics, but we cannot grow numb to our children. That so many children can't read is a clear indication of a fundamental failure of adult responsibility for children's lives and futures.

I know we can turn those numbers around. With caring Americans like you, we will turn those numbers around.

George's defining commitment to children is a quality education. His budget includes \$5 billion over the next five years for reading initiatives. Through his Reading First program, he wants to give states and schools the funding and tools to implement sound reading programs in Kindergarten through second grade.

While government does its part, it's up to us as parents and citizens to help children read and succeed in life. Children need more than a program; they need a voice. They need strong role models to put loving arms around them and read to them. You recognize that need. I'm proud you are lending your voice and a hand to Everybody Wins.

Please continue supporting this worthy endeavor. Because of you, Everybody does win.

Thanks to the Senators for demonstrating your commitment to children and sharing your common love of reading. Reading is common ground for all of us. Thank you all so much.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PERSIAN GULF WAR

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, today I wish to add my voice to the many who have come before the Senate to honor the brave men and women who served our nation so honorably in the Persian Gulf War. March 3, 2001 marked the tenth anniversary of the end of the Persian Gulf War. I pay special tribute to the families of those who gave their lives in this effort.

I would like to draw my colleagues attention to an important event that will be taking place this Sunday, March 25th, 2001, in Manchester, NH. A group of dedicated Americans is gathering to observe the 10th anniversary of the Persian Gulf war, to honor those who served, and to evaluate the fulfillment of our promise to care for those who suffered as a result of their service. A driving force behind this event is the New England Persian Gulf Veterans Inc., NEPGV, and its dynamic founders, David and Patricia Irish. Since the NEPGV's inception in 1996, David and Trish have worked tirelessly to promote the issues and challenges of Gulf War Veterans in New England and beyond. I want to publicly thank them for their efforts and let them know that I will be with them in spirit on the 25th of March.

This is an appropriate time to remember the outstanding job our service men and women did in liberating Kuwait from occupation. Together with our allies, this action stated that in the post Cold War world, the unprovoked conquest of one's neighbors would not be tolerated. The unprecedented coalition of twenty six nations rolled back a tyrannical dictator and a military ill prepared for the determination of the United States and its allies, nor the might and professionalism of the soldiers involved. In the face of the poor performance of old Soviet equipment, the Gulf War firmly established the military superiority of the United States and confirmed our status as the world's lone superpower. Our willingness to work together with our friends in the Arab world set a new tone in the region and ushered in a new era of respect for international cooperation.

The Gulf War coalition also laid a foundation for a remarkable United Nations operation that for the first time, aggressively sought to identify and destroy any potential capability for development of weapons of mass destruction or manufacture of chemical or biological agents. While UNSCOM had a very difficult time carrying out its mission and was eventually forced to leave Iraq, the world community learned a great deal from the experience, and set any potential future proliferations on notice that these types of actions will not be tolerated.

While peace process in the Middle East is at a low ebb right now, it is also

appropriate that we remember how the Gulf War was a critical catalyst for the Oslo Peace Agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, the cornerstone for the wave of peace that swept the region during the 1990s. While subsequent agreements have been shattered by the recent violence, all sides still stand by Oslo, as do the moderate Arab nations who continue to insist that the risks they have taken for peace are worth it. Had it not been for US leadership and the success of the Gulf War, this would not be the case.

As a senior member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, I take very seriously my obligation to address the needs of all our Veterans. Although it has been 10 years since this decisive victory in the Persian Gulf, servicemen and women continue to step forward with symptoms of illnesses and disease likely attributable to serving in Southwest Asia during the war. This was brought home to me by the death of a friend of my son Leonard, John Clark, Jr. A Gulf War veteran, John was stricken with colon cancer at age 31, two short years after his return home from the Gulf. John's case is similar to other service members coming back from the Gulf War. John passed away in 1996. For John and his family, as for many veterans, the war continues well after they have taken off their uniforms and returned to life as civilians. I will continue to work to insure that Gulf War veterans obtain access to VA health benefits and that meaningful research continues to determine treatment for these troubling medical problems. Our Gulf War veterans, having served in Active, Reserve and National Guard units, must know that we here in Washington will continue to fight for them as they fought for us.

Once again, I remember, commemorate and congratulate the members of our Armed Forces who served with distinction during the Gulf War. I sincerely thank them for their service to our country on this, the tenth anniversary of this victory.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, March 20, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,732,596,852,845.50, five trillion, seven hundred thirty-two billion, five hundred ninety-six million, eight hundred fifty-two thousand, eight hundred forty-five dollars and fifty cents.

One year ago, March 20, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,728,254,000,000, five trillion, seven hundred twenty-eight billion, two hundred fifty-four million.

Five years ago, March 20, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,059,798,000,000, five trillion, fifty-nine billion, seven hundred ninety-eight million.

Ten years ago, March 20, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,448,161,000,000, three trillion, four hundred forty-eight billion, one hundred sixty-one million.

Fifteen years ago, March 20, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$1,982,276,000,000, one trillion, nine hundred eighty-two billion, two hundred seventy-six million, which reflects a debt increase of almost \$4 trillion—\$3,940,320,852,845.50, three trillion, nine hundred forty billion, three hundred twenty million, eight hundred fifty-two thousand, eight hundred forty-five dollars and fifty cents, during the past 15 years.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### IN HONOR OF GARY P. PLUNDO, D.O.

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I stand before you today to recognize Gary P. Plundo, D.O., M.P.M. from Greensburg, PA who will be installed as the 87th president of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association, POMA during their 93rd Clinical Assembly in Philadelphia this May.

Dr. Plundo has been an outstanding member of the medical profession through his many years of service to the people of Greensburg, PA. He has served in many capacities throughout his tenure to improve the health of the people of this community. Both professionally and as a volunteer, Dr. Plundo has used his expertise to help the lives of others. As he becomes the next president of POMA, I am confident that his leadership will take the organization to new heights.

In recognition of his accomplishments and installation as president of POMA, I would like to submit the following proclamation in his honor:

Whereas, Gary P. Plundo, D.O., M.P.M., will be installed on May 4, 2001, as president of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association, the state organization that represents over 3,500 licensed osteopathic physicians, over 440 interns, residents and fellows, and 1,000 osteopathic medical students at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and 550 at the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine; and

Whereas, Dr. Plundo is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and the Des Moines University Osteopathic Medical Center College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery; and

Whereas, Dr. Plundo has been an officer and trustee of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association, a delegate to the American Osteopathic Association and a community leader in the field of family medicine; and

Whereas, he has distinguished himself as a dedicated physician who continues the osteopathic tradition of assuring exemplary family medicine;

Now, therefore, I congratulate Gary P. Plundo, D.O., M.P.M., on his installation as the 87th President of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association, and wish him the best for a successful and rewarding tenure.●

#### RECOGNIZING AIR FORCE CAPTAIN GLEN CHRISTENSEN

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the achievements of Air Force Captain Glen Christensen.

Captain Glen Christensen was named 21st Air Force Company Grade Officer for 2000. In the selection for this award, Glen was in competition with Wing Company Grade Officers from seven other Air Force Bases including Robbus AFB, GA, MacDill AFB, FL, Pope AFB, NC, Charleston AFB, SC, Little Rock AFB, AK, McGuire AFB, NJ, and Dover AFB, DE. Candidates for the awards were evaluated in five categories which include: duty achievement; self improvement; off-duty accomplishments; other leadership accomplishments, and positive representation of the U.S. Air Force.

Three weeks prior, Captain Christensen had been selected Company Grade Officer of the Year for the 89th Security Forces Squadron at Andrews Air Force Base, MD, and then for the 89th Support Group, and finally for the 89th Airlift Wing at Andrews. He won the squadron and group competition for the second consecutive year. At the group level, he represented Security Forces and competed with selectees from Mission Support, Services and Civil Engineering squadrons. At the Wing level, Christensen competed with five other group winners from among 454 company grade officers in all groups. In addition to Security Forces, which Glen represented, group winners came from Logistics, Medical, Operations, and Communications groups and from the Wing Commander's staff.

While second in command of the third largest Security Forces unit in the Air Force, Captain Christensen organized and directed security at Andrews AFB for the NATO 50th Anniversary Summit, two Joint Services Open House Air Shows, and the recent Presidential Inauguration, in addition to everyday base law enforcement and security for the "President's base" and "Air Force One."

Glen graduated in 1993 from the United States Air Force Academy with Military Distinction. He is the son of Everett and Sybil Christensen of Madelia, MN.

Mr. President, I offer my congratulations to Captain Christensen and his family on this award.●

#### RETIREMENT OF STEPHAN LEONOUKAKIS

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, it is a pleasure to take this opportunity to draw the Senate's attention to the career of Stephen C. Leonoudakis.

Stephan was Director of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District from 1962 until his retirement this past January. Even by