

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