These laws have resulted in an increase of adoptions nationwide by cutting much of the paperwork and bureaucratic red tape for parents. While adoptions are still complex and costly, many parents are willing to make changes in our tax code that encourage and benefit these families. By making changes needed to also be made to the types of adoption expenses that can be credited. For example, families adopting a special needs child may have to buy a wheelchair or special van, but the Internal Revenue Service decides the owner of the vessel, Mr. David Olney, to the employees of Arctic Sole Seafood, Inc., and to everyone who is part of this important industry.

Mr. BROCKER. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to make note of the 15 people who have lost their lives in the waters off the coast of Alaska. On Tuesday, April 2 the U.S. Coast Guard received a distress signal from the vessel Arctic Rose. The Arctic Rose sank with all hands on board in the Bering sea, some 200 miles northwest of St. Paul Island. I would like to join my colleagues in expressing our condolences to the families of these men who face these dangers every day to bring food to families across our country.

IMPROVED UNITED STATES-INDIA RELATIONS

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to welcome to our nation’s capital the Honorable Jaswant Singh, Minister of External Affairs and Defense for the Republic of India. Minister Singh’s visit will be an opportunity to reaffirm the warm relations between our countries as a new Administration gets established in Washington. The Minister’s visit to Washington will include meetings with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense, as well as the National Security Adviser. Mr. Singh’s visit comes at a time of major transition in U.S.-India relations. Last month, Washington welcomed the arrival of the new Indian Ambassador to Washington, Mr. Lalit Mansingh. Ambassador Mansingh succeeded Ambassador Mansingh who was well known and admired by many in Congress during his tenure. Ambassador Mansingh presented his credentials to Secretary of State Powell on March 23, and the two discussed a wide range of issues concerning the future of U.S.-India relations. Secretary Powell reiterated President Bush’s intention to “build on the good work done in the past.”

I hope that the message from the new Administration to Mr. Singh will be one of support for building on the progress in U.S.-India relations that we have seen for much of the past decade. After years of being treated as a relatively low priority, the U.S.-India relationship has, since the early 1990s, steadily moved to a higher priority on the American foreign policy agenda.

President Clinton’s Administration recognized the importance of India, as a trading partner, as a force for stability in Asia, and as a leader for democracy and prosperity in the developing world. The Clinton Administration also recognized the wonderful resource that the Indian-American community, over a million strong, represents in building closer ties between the world’s two largest democracies.

I hope that the Bush Administration will continue this progress. The early signs are that the Administration recognizes the importance of India to the United States. In announcing the nomination of Robert D. Blackwill as his choice to be the next Ambassador to India, President Bush quoted the “important place India holds in my foreign policy agenda.”

I look forward to reviewing Mr. Blackwill’s nomination in my role as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. If Mr. Blackwill is confirmed, he would succeed U.S. Ambassador Richard Celeste, the former...
Governor of Ohio, Ambassador Celeste, who presented his credentials in November 1997, has served during an eventful time in U.S.-India relations.

In the past two months, as India recovers from the devastating earthquake that struck the state of Gujarat on January 26, Ambassador Celeste has done an excellent job of helping to coordinate the American aid effort. As he prepares to leave New Delhi, I want to congratulate Ambassador Celeste for a job well done.

In the past year, with President Clinton visiting India in March and Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee visiting the United States in September, the level of friendship and partnership between India and the United States is perhaps the highest it has ever been. During last year's summits between President Clinton and Prime Minister Vajpayee, the United States and India signed a series of agreements to accelerate bilateral cooperation in a wide range of areas. The U.S.-India Vision Statement of June 2000, signed in New Delhi, pledged cooperation on counter-terrorism. The two countries also pledged to cooperate on issues of nuclear non-proliferation. That agreement also established the U.S.-India Financial and Economic Forum, the U.S.-India Commercial Dialogue, and the U.S.-India Working Group on Trade. Minister Singh and then Secretary of State Madeleine Albright signed a joint statement on cooperation in energy and environment in a ceremony at the Taj Mahal in March 2000.

This week, President Clinton has returned to India to visit the State of Gujarat. In January's devastating earthquake that left an estimated 18,000 people dead, and thousands of people homeless.

While the trend in relations between the United States and India has been positive, there is still a great deal of work to be done. The visit to Washington by External Affairs and Defense Minister Singh, just a few months into the new Administration, offers an opportunity to build in the work of the past few years, while charting a new course for even closer ties between our two countries.

ADDRESSING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN SOUTH DAKOTA AND AROUND THE COUNTRY

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, domestic violence is often the crime that victims don't want to admit and communities don't want to discuss. However, domestic violence is often the crime that victims experience 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 the need in Congress to help States and communities address this problem that impacts all of our communities.

Last year, I was pleased to join the successful effort to reauthorize the 1994 Violence Against Women Act. In addition to reauthorizing the provisions of the original Violence Against Women Act, the legislation improves our overall efforts to reduce violence against women by strengthening law enforcement's role in reducing violence against women. The bill would guarantee that the office in the Department of Justice that would continue its work into future administrations and ensure that the Congress' goals regarding domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking will be carried out.

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 co-sponsor of the original Violence Against Women Act in 1994 to strengthen education and training to combat violence against women.

This year, I am co-sponsoring legislation, S. 540, that would establish a permanent Violence Against Women Office in the Department of Justice. This bill would guarantee that the office will continue its work into future administrations and ensure that the Congress' goals regarding domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking will be carried out.

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 co-sponsor of the original Violence Against Women Act in 1994 to strengthen education and training to combat violence against women.

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 law 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.

I am hopeful that, with my support, the Senate will approve S. 540 this year so that we can continue fighting domestic abuse and violence against women in our state and communities.

HONORING THE DOOLITTLE RAIDERS

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the Doolittle Raiders on the 60th anniversary of their memorable flights.

The surprise Japanese raid of Pearl Harbor was just the beginning of a series of bad news for Americans at the beginning of World War II. In a period of months, the Japanese had invaded and conquered land stretching from Burma to Polynesia. The United States badly needed a boost in morale. The answer was the Doolittle Raid.

The concept was simple: A Navy task force would take 15 B-25s to a point about 450 miles off of Japan where they would be launched from a carrier to attack military targets at low altitude in five major Japanese cities, including the capital city of Tokyo. The planes would then fly to a base in China where they would join the China-Burma-India theater. It was the implementation of the plan that made the men involved in the raid heroes.

On April 18, 1941, sixteen flights of B-25s, one captained by South Dakota native son Capt. Donald Smith, left the deck of the U.S.S. Hornet, bound for Tokyo. But the Japanese had seen the Americans coming, and the planes were forced to take off from the Hornet at least 650 miles from the Japanese coast. The planes would not have enough fuel to make it to China.

All of the planes made their bombing runs on their respective cities, and then turned westward toward China. One crew, with not enough fuel to make it to China, landed in Russia and were prisoners of war for over a year. Eleven of the other planes that reached China faced terrible weather and empty fuel tanks. They proceeded inland on instruments and bailed out once their fuel tanks reached zero. The remaining four pilots crash-landed their aircraft. Chinese aided the Americans in reaching their base, and more than a quarter-million of the Chinese were subsequently killed by the Japanese for their suspected help. Sixty-four of the “Raiders” eventually made it to the base in China. Others were captured and tortured, or died while ejecting from their planes.

The Doolittle mission was the first good news from the Pacific front, and it was a huge boost to American morale. It also devastated the Japanese people,