CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

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April 6, 2001

who had been told by their leaders that
their homeland could never be at-
tacked.

In Belle Fourche, SD, on April 18,
South Dakotans will be remembering
the 60th anniversary of this daring
raid. I commend the Doolittle Raiders,
and all American veterans, for they are
truly America’s heroes. Our country
must honor its commitments to vet-
erans, not only because it is the right
thing to do, but because it is the smart
thing to do.

I will continue to lead efforts to en-
sure that our nation’s military retirees
and veterans receive the benefits they
were promised years ago. While I am
pleased with some improvements in
military health care funding passed
into law last year, I am concerned that
more needs to be done. Assuredly, I
will continue to fight for military re-
tirees and veterans programs through-
out this session of Congress.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the
close of business yesterday, Thursday,
April 5, 2001, the Federal debt stood at
$5,772,523,327,634.26, Five trillion, seven
billion, one hundred fifty million.

One year ago, April 5, 2000, the Fed-
eral debt stood at $5,138,150,000,000, Five
trillion, one hundred thirty-eight bil-
lion.

Ten years ago, April 5, 1991, the Fed-
eral debt stood at $3,468,754,000,000,
Three trillion, four hundred sixty-eight
billion.

Twenty-five years ago, April 5, 1976,
the Federal debt stood at $3,017,691,000,000,
Three trillion, one hundred eighty-one
billion, seven hundred fifty-four mil-
lion, one hundred fifty million.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I would
like to take a moment to make note of
the recent death of a great man and
fellow Montanan.

Montana lost one of its proudest na-
John Hoyt died at the Benefis Hospital
in Great Falls, during a heart attack
catherization procedure. He was 78.

In Shelby, June 28, 1922, a fascinating
and adventurous and truly incredible
life began. John’s parents had come to
Shelby from Iowa. The family’s back-
ground was in farming and ranching.
John’s father, a lawyer, raised his fam-
ily in Shelby during the Great Depres-
ion. John spent summers back in Iowa,
during the hard times, without modern
equipment, without air-conditioning
and using a real pitchfork to gather hay in the field and pitch it into the
hay mow for the winter. All who knew
John, knew those thick hands and
fingers of his proved he was no
stranger to hard physical work.

John began his college career, on
scholarship, at Drake University in
Iowa. But, by his own admission, “too
much fun” brought that educational
experience to an end. Perhaps that was
meant to be, because leaving Drake
brought John home to Montana, and
the University in Missoula, a place
where his heart and his loyalty and his
support never again left. A true Grizzly
was now at rest. But his presence will
be forever felt on that campus and in the
stadium in Box 102B down on the north
end. John will still be cheering on his
beloved Grizzlies. He might even give
Coach Glenn “a great play” from wher-
ever John is watching!

World War II broke out while John
was in undergraduate school at the U
of M. The day after Pearl Harbor he
joined the Air Force. His eyesight was
not good enough to allow him to be the
fighter pilot he aspired to be. He proud-
ly became a navigator on a B-24 as a
Second Lieutenant. In August of 1944,
on a mission between Italy and Vienna,
in a fierce air battle involving hun-
dreds of airplanes, John’s was shot
down by German fighters. The bomber,
named the Jolly Roger, spiraled to the
ground and only John and one other
were able to escape. The spiral carried
the other crew to their deaths, and
John was captured and was in a P.O.W.
camp for most of a year before the
army of General George Patton liber-
ated him and many of his comrades.

John finished his education after the
war. He graduated from the University
of Montana Law School in 1948. For the
past fifty-three years John Hoyt

ANIMAL DISEASE RISK ASSESS-
MENT, PREVENTION, AND CON-
TROL ACT

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise
today as one of the proud co-sponsors
of the Animal Disease Risk Assess-
ment, Prevention, and Control Act of

This bill will go a long way toward
offering the American public and pro-
ducers the vital information necessary
to begin to understand the economic
impacts associated with Hoof and
Mouth Disease and Bovine Spongiform
Encephalopathy (BSE). The risks asso-
ciated with these diseases to the public
health will also be reviewed.

In the United States, we take great
pride and have worked diligently to
maintain healthy herds. We have spent
years creating our breeding programs
and ensuring the animals we produce
are the finest in the world. This bill
will help ensure that effort will not be
jeopardized.

We need to create a solid unified
front to ensure that all the informa-
tion available on these diseases is read-
ily accessible. This bill will not only
make that knowledge available, it will
provide Congress with the information
necessary to move forward quickly
with any other type of action that is
required. This bill will provide an im-
portant tool that will allow us to con-
tinue producing the safest meat supply
in the world.

I look forward to working with Sen-
ators HATCH and HARKIN on this very
important piece of legislation.

RETIRED PAY RESTORATION ACT

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise
today in support of S. 170, the Retired
170 permits retired members of the
Armed Forces who have a service-con-
ected disability to receive both mili-
tary retired pay by reasons of their
years of military service and disability
compensation from the Department of
Veterans Affairs for their disability.

Currently, a retired military member
will have his or her retirement pay off-
set dollar for dollar when they receive
disability compensation from the Vet-
arians Affairs Administration. This law is
110 years old and it is long overdue for
change.

The military retirement pay is
gained over one’s career for longevity,
while the VA disability compensation
is for a different reason altogether—
sustaining an injury while in the serv-
ic. These are two completely separate
issues and military members have suf-
f ered over the years by having their re-
tirement pay reduced. The Retired Pay
Restoration Act of 2001 will correct
this deficiency.

We owe our freedom to those who
wore our country’s military uniforms.
We must honor our commitment to
those who served in the military. This
year is the time to overturn the provi-
sion in the 110 year-old law that pro-
hibits military retirees from receiving
concurrent receipt of full military re-
tirement pay along with VA disability
compensation. Enabling these people
to receive both retirement pay and dis-
ability compensation without any de-
duction is the right thing to do It is not
a hand out; it is something they
deserve and earned for serving our
country honorably.

I encourage my colleagues to sup-
port S. 170.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

DEATH OF JOHN C. HOYT OF
MONTANA

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