

are doing the dirty work for organizations that otherwise portray themselves as privacy proponents. These so-called information brokers allow companies seeking such information to cut corners at the expense of consumers.

And the apparent willingness of some in the financial industry to purchase such information calls into question the industry's commitment to protecting consumers' privacy. Further, if companies buy information from suspect sources, there are limited prohibitions on redistributing it.

If a company isn't required to get a customer's express consent prior to selling, sharing or disclosing his information, then the customer has little opportunity to stop the spread of inaccurate information.

Earlier this year, I introduced legislation that, if passed, would help minimize the collateral damage that can occur when financial institutions purchase information from these suspect firms. My bill would require a consumer's express consent before a financial company can share personally identifiable financial information with its affiliates and express written consent before it can transfer personally identifiable medical information. I want to put the consumers in control. Consumer control ensures that personally identifiable information is only used for the purpose it was gathered for and protects consumers from the further spread of inaccurate information.

Too often these days, personally identifiable medical and financial information is being shared, bought, or sold; and, it's being done without the consent of the consumer. This practice must stop. And it is our job to pass legislation that will stop it.

I call on my colleagues in the Banking committee to move forward with this legislation as soon as possible, so that it can be considered by the full Senate. Now is the time to close the financial privacy loophole so that we prevent a further erosion of our privacy rights.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, April 25, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,681,916,012,004.34, Five trillion, six hundred eighty-one billion, nine hundred sixteen million, twelve thousand, four dollars and thirty-four cents.

One year ago, April 25, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,714,810,000,000, Five trillion, seven hundred fourteen billion, eight hundred ten million.

Five years ago, April 25, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,092,768,000,000, Five trillion, ninety-two billion, seven hundred sixty-eight million.

Ten years ago, April 25, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,425,956,000,000, Three trillion, four hundred twenty-

five billion, nine hundred fifty-six million.

Fifteen years ago, April 25, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,003,491,000,000, Two trillion, three billion, four hundred ninety-one million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$3.5 trillion, \$3,678,425,012,004.34, Three trillion, six hundred seventy-eight billion, four hundred twenty-five million, twelve thousand, four dollars and thirty-four cents during the past 15 years.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### IN HONOR OF NAVY LIEUTENANT SHANE OSBORN

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor South Dakota's native son, Lt. Shane Osborn, the Navy pilot whose leadership and piloting skills saved the lives of the crew detained in China for the first part of April.

Even at three years of age, Shane exhibited a fascination with planes. Shane's family lived on a farm near Rapid City, South Dakota, where the farmer owned a small, two-seat aircraft. The hangar wasn't far from the house, and Shane would often climb into the plane and pretend to take to the skies in flight. This lifelong interest led Shane to the Navy where he trained as a pilot and was commissioned an officer in 1996.

Shane eventually was transferred to Whidbey Island Naval Station in Washington where he was trained to fly naval reconnaissance. As his Navy EP-3E plane recently flew a routine mission near the Chinese coast, it is reported that a Chinese F-8 fighter plane made two passes near the American aircraft, flying within three to five feet of the plane. On the third pass, the Chinese pilot apparently ran into the American plane's propeller, sending Shane and his crew into a steep dive.

With two of the four propellers out of commission, a smashed nose cone, and destroyed navigational instruments, the American plane dropped nearly 7,500 feet toward the China Sea. With sheer will and brute force, Shane managed to bring the plane under control and land safely on the Chinese island of Hainan.

During the ensuing days as Shane and his crew were held by Chinese officials, I spoke with the Chinese Ambassador and urged his government to release the American crew as quickly as possible. I also passed along to the Ambassador an email message Shane's father, Doug, wrote to his son. As the parent of a son in the military, I understood the fear and uncertainty one feels when their child is suddenly placed in harm's way. However, when I spoke with Doug Osborn, I was reminded also of the immense pride and love that a parent feels for their son or daughter in the military.

I commend Lt. Shane Osborn for his heroism in safely landing the disabled American plane and his leadership as mission commander during the 11 days the American crew was detained in China. Shane symbolizes the very best that we have come to expect from the men and women in our military. I will continue to be an advocate on military issues in Congress and make sure that military personnel like Shane receive the "quality of life" benefits they and their families deserve. After the numerous sacrifices the men and women in our military make for our country, we in Congress can be expected to do no less. •

##### HONORING CADET CHIEF PETTY OFFICER THEA I. PECK AS NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS CADET OF THE YEAR

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I would like to extend my most sincere congratulations to Cadet Chief Petty Officer Thea I. Peck. On April 28, 2001, she will be awarded the Willis E. Reed Cadet of the Year Award, which recognizes the Naval Sea Cadet who has excelled in all areas of Naval Sea Cadet Corps, NSCC, training. She was initially selected as Mid-Atlantic Cadet of the Year for 2000 out of six states including Pennsylvania, which then lead to her selection as the program-wide Cadet of the Year. This recognition is outstanding as it exemplifies Cadet CPO Peck's leadership, maturity, dedication, and patriotism.

The NSCC was established in 1958 in part of the Department of the Navy to develop an appreciation for the United States' naval history, customs, traditions, and its significant role in national defense. Its purpose is also to develop patriotism, confidence, and pride in our nation's youth and help them to develop strong moral character and good citizenship. It also gives participants a real-life look at military opportunities.

Cadet CPO Peck has been a member of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps Program for over five years. She has completed several training courses over her tenure in the program including time spent at the Foreign Exchange Program with the United Kingdom and Medical Staff Training at Bethesda Naval Hospital. In all of her training periods, Cadet CPO Peck earned the highest performance marks illustrating her dedication to the program and the United States Navy.

In addition to excelling in the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Cadet CPO Peck is an impeccable student. With a high school grade point average of 3.95, and as a student in all advanced classes, she has mastered time management and the ability to balance academics and outside activities. She has received a number of achievements for her work in various science fairs, and she is also an