This is about money. It is about the Frank Nemec of the world who went to medical school and took a couple of patients and he is told he can’t take care of his patients. He said: I’ll do it for nothing. They said: No, you might write a prescription we don’t like.

I don’t know, this man might have died soon anyway, but he would not have died as soon as he did. I guess the HMO decided his life wasn’t worth anything anyway—he’s going to die. He’s 5 foot 10, weighs 110 pounds. Let’s just terminate it more quickly.

We are going to finish this legislation. We are going to finish this legislation and send it over to the House. They can play whatever games they want with it, but I think the games will end over there because we have very courageous Republicans on that side of this institution, led by Charlie Norwood from the State of Georgia, who have said they have taken all they can.

I almost cried when I read this letter. Maybe if I were not here in front of the world when I read it in my office I shed a tear.

This is sad. If you knew Frank Nemec, this gentle, big man, you would know how sincere he is.

So why is this taking place? It is taking place because the HMOs want to hang on as long as they can to keep those stock prices up and make as much money as they can in salaries. They are still going to do just fine after we pass this legislation, but they are not going to do as fine as they have been. They are not going to be able to terminate the care of someone such as Mr. Greuble.

Yesterday I read into the RECORD those organizations with names starting with the letter A that support this legislation. I am going to read for a while tonight. I am not going to read them all. This is a partial list. But I want this spread across the RECORD of them all. This is a partial list. But I want this spread across the RECORD of them all. I haven’t been able to get them all. There are over 500. I have read in the RECORD a few hundred and I will continue to do so.

MORNING BUSINESS

MR. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each this evening.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WEST VIRGINIA’S BIRTHDAY

MR. BYRD. Mr. President, I am here to wish a happy birthday to a celebrated near and dear to my heart. The thirty-fifth child in the family, grown from a child of war and conflict into a robust 138-year-old, the birthday girl is entering the new century with confidence and strength.

The birthday party in question is, of course, for the wild and wonderful, great and beautiful State of West Virginia, celebrated this Thursday, June 20. In 1863, West Virginia was born by proclamation—the only state so created. Like Caesar Augustus, West Virginia was wrested from her mother, Virginia, at the point of a sword. Also like Caesar, I foresee greatness ahead for West Virginia.

West Virginia is not a large State, ranking 41st at 24,234 square miles. But the stars shine on her birth, blessing her with natural riches, water, and a central location as the northernmost State of the southern State and the southernmost State of the northern State. I might wish for her mountain land, but on the other hand, I would not trade a level plain for even a single glorious hillside blanketed by lush tangles of wild rhododendron bi- sected by a clear, cold stream tumbling over rocky drops amid dense stands of oak and maple. Her mountains are her crowning glory, molding her history and her character. They will continue to shape her future. The steep slopes that so complicate development preserve forests and wildlife. Nearly 75 percent of West Virginia is covered with forest. The slopes capture snow for great skiing. They shelter coursing whitewater rivers that attract kayakers, rafters, and fishermen from around the world. In a nation increasingly concerned with urban sprawl, West Virginia remains an oasis of se- renity amid the surging tide of advancing humanity, an island of tranquil forest and the crime rate is the lowest in the Nation. West Virginia also has a character of her people, reinforcing and sustaining the independence of character and the strong work ethic that are necessary in isolated and challenging environments. West Virginians are friendly, caring neighbors, meeting bad weather and hard times with a community spirit that is itself a force to be reckoned with. West Virginians are patriotic as well. The youngest sol- dier of World War I, Chester Merriman, enlisted at the tender age of 14. And West Virginians are close to the Creator, reminded daily of His presence by the natural cathedral of sky, wind, water, wood, and stone that is their environment. With a mean altitude of 1,900 feet above sea level east of the Mississippi, West Virginians are literally nearer to God, as well.

Over the course of the last 138 years, West Virginia has had her share of firsts. In 1756, the first spa open to the public was established at Bath, VA, now Berkeley Springs. The Golden De- licious apple was first grown in Clay
County. The Grimes Golden apple was first grown in Brooke County. In 1874, the first commercially powered boat was launched in the Potomac River by James Rumsey at New Mecklenburg, now known as Shepherdstown. One of the first papers in the nation devoted mainly to the interests of women was published in Harper’s Ferry on February 14, 1824. One of the first suspension bridges in the world was completed in Wheeling in November 1849.

The Civil War brought a number of “firsts” to West Virginia history books. The first major land battle fought between Union and Confederate forces in that conflict was the Battle of Philippi, on June 3, 1861. The first Union soldier had been killed a few days earlier, at Fetterman, Taylor County.

West Virginia has had other notable “firsts” since achieving statehood. West Virginia was also the site of the first rural free mail delivery in the nation. It began in Charles Town on October 6, 1896, before spreading throughout the rest of the United States. About 1908, outdoor advertising had its start when the Block Brothers Tobacco Company painted bridges and barns around Wheeling with the words “Treat Yourself To the Best, Chew Mall Pouch.” Some people now spend their vacations hunting down and photographing those old barns.

On the political front, in 1928, Mrs. Minnie Buckingham Harper became a member of the House of Delegates by appointment and was, according to the West Virginia Archives, the first black woman to become a member of a legislative body in America. A less popular political first for West Virginia is its place as the first state to enact a state sales tax, which took effect on July 1, 1921. “West Virginia had a sales tax before first,” I would feel compelled not to note here that Mother’s Day was first observed at Andrews Church in Grafton, WV, on May 10, 1908. So West Virginia can claim motherhood and apple pie to offset that more sinister pair—death and taxes. We really do have it all.

West Virginia has experienced great change over the last 138 years. She remains a great resource for the country. Her coal and natural gas will continue to fuel the nation, just as her forests will provide homes and paper that the electronic age still has not supplanted. She has greatness still in store, nurtured in the bright minds of her young people, encouraged by the wisdom and foresight of her elders, carried on the strong shoulders of her workers and innovators, who love the state and want not to leave it for greener economic shores but to carry that tide into the mountains.

It has given me great pleasure over the years to help West Virginia grow. I may not have been born a West Virginian, but this transplant has taken well to the soil there. I have grafted. I hope that my efforts on her behalf have borne fruit that will help sustain her through the next 138 years. That is the best birthday gift that I can think to give her.

West Virginia, how I love you! Every streamlet, shrub and stone, Even the clouds that flit above you Always seem to be my own.

Your steep hillsides clad in grandeur, Always rugged, bold and free, Sing with ever swelling chorus: Montani, Semper, Liber!

Always free! The little streamlets, As they glide and race along, Join their music to the anthem And the zephyrs swell the song.

Always free! The mountain torrent In its haste to reach the sea, Shouts its challenge to the hillsides And the echo answers “FREE!”

Always free! Repeats the river In a deeper key, And the wind in the treetops Adds a chorus all its own.

Always free! The crashing thunder, Madly flung from hill to hill, In a wild reverberation Makes our hearts with rapture fill.

Always free! The Bob White whistles And the whippoo-Will replies, Always free! The robin twitters As the sunset glides the skies.

Perched upon the tallest timber, Far above the sheltered lea, There the eagle screams defiance To a hostile foe.

And two million happy people, Hearts attuned in holy glee, Add the hallelujah chorus: “Mountainers are always free!”

By the time he completed his career earlier this year, Timothy Deerr had spent more of his professional life as a cold warrior and spy catcher. But before he entered what has alternately been called the “world’s second oldest profession” and the “wilderness of mirrors,” he started out as a criminal investigator in Dayton, Ohio. It was there, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, that Special Agent Deerr learned and honed his skills as an investigator, gaining invaluable experience in how to read people, analyze facts, and test hypotheses.

After 6 years of working criminal cases in Ohio, Special Agent Deerr swapped the Buckeye State for the divided city of Berlin. Since renamed as the Capital of a united Germany, Berlin was then a city carved into sectors—a virtual battleground of espionage and counter-espionage activities. Intelligence operatives from the east and west worked feverishly against one another to steal secrets and to protect secrets from being compromised. For two years, Special Agent Deerr conducted critical and successful counterintelligence operations defending against foreign intelligence services stationed in the communist sector of Berlin. As a demonstration of the sensitivity of the operations he conducted, his experiences and cases in Berlin remain classified to this day. Twenty years after he initially reported for duty there and ten years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, from 1987, when he left Berlin, until 1994, Special Agent Deerr earned and held positions of increasing responsibility and importance within the Office of Special Investigations, including those of Chief, Central European Counterintelligence Operations, Wiesbaden, West Germany. Later, as the OSI Director of Counterintelligence, he managed undercover counterintelligence operations and operations around the world and represented OSI and the Air Force on a number of senior policy boards that crafted our national counterintelligence strategy and policies.

While freedom loving people in the United States and throughout the world heralded and celebrated the implosion of communism in the early 1990s, an ironic byproduct of the end of the Soviet Union ensured America’s Cold Warriors would enjoy little respite. While the USSR was a threat to peace and security for almost fifty years, it was a threat that we were able to identify and engage. After the Cold War, we had to steal secrets and to protect secrets from being compromised. For two years, Special Agent Deerr conducted critical and successful counterintelligence operations defending against foreign intelligence services stationed in the communist sector of Berlin. As a demonstration of the sensitivity of the operations he conducted, his experiences and cases in Berlin remain classified to this day. Twenty years after he initially reported for duty there and ten years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, from 1987, when he left Berlin, until 1994, Special Agent Deerr earned and held positions of increasing responsibility and importance within the Office of Special Investigations, including those of Chief, Central European Counterintelligence Operations, Wiesbaden, West Germany. Later, as the OSI Director of Counterintelligence, he managed undercover counterintelligence operations and operations around the world and represented OSI and the Air Force on a number of senior policy boards that crafted our national counterintelligence strategy and policies.

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