

made Korbet's Restaurant an institution in Mobile. They created a Mobile tradition for what would be a family gathering place for generations: a place where people proposed marriage and returned year after year to celebrate their anniversary; a place where people celebrated, graduations, retirements and other occasions; a place where families gathered for Thanksgiving and other holidays.

In return they accomplished "the American Dream." They helped their relatives back in the country that they left, they educated their children and saw their grandchildren become doctors, businessmen and pharmacists.

In 1963, my wife and I came into the family business and worked together with Mom and Dad. Then, in 1968, Dad, Mr. George Kordomenos, passed away and as you all know, Mother, Mrs. Katie Kordomenos, passed away last year.

Managing this restaurant for 32 years has taken its toll on me, I have become too wrapped up in my work. I have missed many things in my life such as not seeing my children grow up.

On January 14, 1995, Korbet's Restaurant will close its doors and will no longer serve Mobilians.

This decision is not a sudden one; it has taken much contemplation, has stirred many emotions, and has been of great consideration for many months. We feel that we have served the community as best as we personally could. As we move out of the restaurant business and diversify, we feel that we will be serving our community in other ways.

My belief for success has been that you have to get down in the trenches and work with your employees. That is what I have done and together, we have been successful.

However, in recent years the restaurant industry has made many changes; our governing bodies have imposed many new taxes, regulations, and restrictions and so the time has come for us to move on.

Turning one's back on a business such as this is hard to do. I am lucky and blessed that I'm able.

My wife Ethel, my children, and I want to thank each and every one of you, our customers and fellow workers, for your loyalty throughout the years. We sincerely regret this move.

We want to thank our many suppliers who have made our survival possible by providing quality products so we may serve our many customers throughout the years.

To all the realtors of Mobile and the many politicians who had their business meetings here and in turn molded and reshaped the city of Mobile—they changed the borders, the subdivisions, the streets, the shopping centers—we thank them and feel that we were a part of all this, too.

To the many busboys and busgirls that worked here during their school years: this being their first job in life, and where we tried to instill in them and try to teach them the importance of work in life, and where they have gone and become professionals, good citizens, and raised families. We thank them for their contribution.

To the many waitresses, cooks, cashiers, and managers who worked endless, long and hard hours and have raised their families and educated their children: we thank you for your contribution.

To our many loyal customers and the many that we have spoiled: nothing could have been possible without your loyalty—we will always cherish your friendship and loyal patronage.

And finally, to my wife and children, whom I deprived many things for 32 years by working all day and all night often till 2:00 a.m., thank you for your support.

And now Korbet's Restaurant will go down in history as other great family businesses have, such as Hays Davis Packing, Constantines Restaurant, Gulas Restaurant, Metropolitan Restaurant, Government Street Lumber, Wintzell's Restaurant and many others.

On behalf of our management and staff, we want our customers to know you will be missed.

And so as the world goes around, so must we.

Sincerely,

NICK AND ETHEL CATRANIS.

#### PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE TO RESPOND TO GULF WAR VETERANS' NEEDS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, last month we commemorated the 50th anniversary of Iwo Jima. Iwo Jima holds a special place in our national consciousness because of the mythic heroism of those who fought there—and because of the ultimate sacrifice made by those who died there.

Grateful as we are to the veterans of Iwo, the truth is: Every veteran has performed an act of heroism, and every veteran deserves this Nation's support. Not simply our gratitude. But our support, while they are on the battlefield, and after they leave it.

This week, during an address to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, President Clinton announced a number of initiatives that will provide for some of our newest veterans—the veterans of the gulf war—the support which they clearly need and deserve.

I want to focus in particular on one of those initiatives.

The President announced that he is creating a Presidential advisory committee on gulf war veterans' illnesses. This will be the first fully independent panel to examine the issues surrounding what has come to be known as gulf war syndrome, the chronic medical problems suffered by many gulf war veterans and, in some cases, their spouses and children.

There are currently 30 studies being conducted on the gulf war syndrome.

The advisory committee will act as a clearinghouse. It will coordinate research efforts into the causes and treatment of gulf war-related illnesses.

It will also conduct aggressive outreach efforts to make sure that gulf war veterans and the medical professionals who treat them are kept fully informed of any advances.

The advisory committee will work with the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Defense, and Health and Human Services. And they will report directly their findings and recommendations directly to the President before the year is out.

America showed 4 years ago during the gulf war what we can accomplish when we mobilize all our resources to achieve a goal.

The veterans of that conflict are now relying on us to marshal our resources once again to provide them with the medical care they need and deserve.

Whether an injury is diagnosed or undiagnosed; whether it was caused by a bullet, by some invisible, poisonous gas, or by any other factor, it is still a service-related injury, and the man or woman who suffered it deserve our support.

In the last session I worked with my friend and colleague Senator ROCKEFELLER to develop legislation that would give VA the authority to pay compensation to ailing gulf war veterans, even if the exact nature of their illness has not yet been diagnosed. Congress passed that legislation because it was the right thing to do.

For more than a decade, I fought to gain compensation for veterans whose illnesses were caused by exposure to agent orange in Vietnam. That battle was won eventually, but only after a science proved what commonsense already told us: that there was a clear scientific link between agent orange and the illnesses.

Let us not repeat that mistake.

When the men and women who fought in the gulf were called to serve they did not say, "Let us conduct a study." They did their duty.

Now a grateful Nation should do its duty.

The President's advisory committee will help us perform that duty with the least possible duplication or delay.

As a veteran myself, and as a grateful American, I salute the President's initiative.

#### PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

MR. PRESSLER. Mr. President, It was just ten months ago when Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein came before this body—and the world—to make an unprecedented call for peace in the Middle East. This week, Secretary of State Warren Christopher travels to Israel in an effort to jump start the peace process and help forge an agreement between Israel and Syria over perhaps the most vexing issue of the peace process: the status of the Golan Heights. However, as the people of Israel know all too well, the road to peace is a long and arduous one. Now more than ever, we must bolster our support for our greatest ally in the Middle East—Israel—and adopt her mission of regional peace as our own.

Without a doubt, a peaceful environment of mutual self-determination and co-existence in the Middle East is advantageous for the United States. I need not remind this body of the binding political and cultural ties that this country maintains with Israel and the great potential that an Arab-Israeli peace would have for the United States. The peace process is not solely an opportunity for improved Arab-Israeli affairs, but a unique occasion upon which the United States may attempt to ally herself with countries that, in the past, have vehemently refused to open their doors to the West.

Syria represents perhaps the last great obstacle to regional peace. The Syrian mandate for a single, complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights has resulted in a year and a half impasse in Syria-Israel negotiations. Arbitrary demands for withdrawal as a condition of cooperation cannot be viewed as a good faith effort to achieve peace. Without a doubt, Israel is correct to insist upon a comprehensive peace agreement with iron-clad security arrangements before it begins any pullback from the strategically vital Golan Heights. Israel should not be asked to risk the security of her people in return merely for the possibility of better relations with Syria.

Mr. President, I sincerely hope that Secretary Christopher's latest round of shuttle diplomacy with Israel and Syria results in a renewal of the peace process. Clearly, Secretary Christopher needs to convey to the Syrian government that real concessions must be made in order for the Syrians to demonstrate they are serious about peace. The United States cannot agree to turn a blind eye to Syria's drug trade in exchange for cooperation in the peace process. Rather, Syria must take the initiative to stop being a safe-haven for terrorists and drug lords. That kind of action represents a genuine commitment to the peace-making process. Paper pledges and handshakes do not suffice.

Some have suggested that the recent peace talks are just cause for the United States to scale back its financial commitments with Israel. I disagree. The United States can best support the fragile peace process by continuing its investment in Israel's economic and military strength. The financial assistance we provide each year is in our national interest. Without it, Israel would be unable to deter potential threats and would fall victim to regional extremists. An economically vigorous Israel is the single most important element to sustain any peace agreement with her neighbors. For the past forty-six years, we have refused to manipulate Israel by bartering economic assistance for political influence. We have continually voted to avoid jeopardizing Israel's stability, at the bequest of our constituencies and our consciences. That course of action has put us on the path to peace. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to pursue our present course rather than consider options that have the potential of debilitating our sole democratic ally in the region during this delicate transition.

Eleven years ago, Congress endorsed the relocation of the United States Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem—a symbolic recognition of Jerusalem as the true capital of the State of Israel. It is time to call upon the United States government to begin the formal process of recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital city. To be sure, the acknowledgement of Jerusalem as the political center of Israel would not alienate the religious rights of Arabs

or Christians. As Prime Minister Rabin recently stated before the Knesset, "[Jerusalem] has been \* \* \* and forever will be the capital of the Jewish people." By clarifying our position now, instead of during sensitive "final status" negotiations, the United States would expedite the peace process. In doing so, we would represent the American people, assist our ally, and help preclude any existing false hopes among Palestinians.

Mr. President, though I no longer sit as a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, I will continue to monitor closely the events in the Middle East. Very few current foreign policy issues bear greater relevance to this nation than the security of the people of Israel. We must stand side by side with Israel's democratically elected leadership in the struggle for lasting peace. As the world's sole superpower, we must be unrelenting in our support of our allies, especially Israel who bravely stands alone as the Middle East's sole democracy. It is the responsibility of the United States to foster the peace process, and not to undermine our ally's regional goals during this time of transition. We must work to see the day when the people of Israel can turn to all its neighbors in the Middle East and say "Shalom Aleichem"—"Peace be with you."

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#### WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS HAVE SAID YES!

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, as of the close of business on yesterday, Thursday, March 9, the Federal debt stood at \$4,846,101,629,353.21. On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$18,395.89 as his or her share of that debt.

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#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, morning business is closed.

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#### EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL AP- PROPRIATIONS AND RESCIS- SIONS ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 889, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 889) making emergency supplemental appropriations and rescissions to preserve and enhance the military readiness for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1995, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:  
Bumpers amendment No. 330, to restrict the obligation or expeditate of funds on the NASA/Russian Cooperative MIR program.

Kassebaum amendment No. 331 (to committee amendment beginning on page 1, line 3), to limit funding of an Executive order

that would prohibit Federal contractors from hiring permanent replacements for striking workers.

Mr. SIMON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 331

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to the pending amendment, which is the KASSEBAUM amendment.

I would like to make one brief point. Later I will probably speak on some other points. But in 1935 when Congress passed the National Labor Relations Act, section 13 stated:

Nothing in this act, except as specifically provided for herein, shall be construed so as either to interfere with or impede, or in any way diminish, the right to strike, or to affect the limitations or qualifications on that right.

Then in 1938 in the Mackay radio case, the Supreme Court interpreted that as permitting permanent striker replacement. But that really did not happen in our country to any great extent and has not happened up until very recently. By tradition, we have worked things out, and we have avoided what most Western industrialized countries have outlawed. But the point I want to make is that in the discussion on the floor of the Senate, it has been assumed that the President's Executive order is as sweeping as our proposal last year on prohibiting permanent striker replacement. It is nowhere near as sweeping. It gives no additional powers to the National Labor Relations Board.

Let me just read two pertinent sections. This is the President's Executive order.

It is the policy of the Executive Branch in procuring goods and services that, to ensure the economical and efficient administration and completion of Federal Government contracts, contracting agencies shall not contract with employers that permanently replace lawfully striking employees. All discretion under this Executive order shall be exercised consistent with this policy.

Then section 4(a):

"When the Secretary determines that a contractor has permanently replaced lawfully striking employees, the Secretary may"—no mandate—"may debar the contractor thereby making the contractor ineligible to receive government contracts."

It is much more restrictive than the legislation that we had before us last year that a majority of the Senate voted for but because of our filibuster rules we were unable to pass.

I will hold off saying anything further at this point, Mr. President. I will have some further comments before long.

I see my colleague, the new Senator from Oklahoma, here. I believe he wishes to speak.

So I yield the floor, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The pending question is amendment No. 331 offered by the Senator from Kansas to the committee amendment on page 1, line 3 of the bill.