

step for man; one giant leap for mankind?" Buzz Aldrin's inspiring remarks brought back that momentous day—July 20, 1969—when the *Eagle* landed and man's first steps were taken on the moon. Most importantly, he made it clear to the students in the audience that they, too, can and will accomplish great things.

I am pleased to share Dr. Aldrin's remarks with my colleagues and ask that they be printed in the RECORD.

The remarks follow:

A SPEECH BY BUZZ ALDRIN UPON THE DEDICATION OF THE SCHOOL NAMED IN HIS HONOR

Few people have the opportunity to attend the dedication of a school that has been named for them. My family and I are appreciative that the leadership of Fairfax County named Aldrin Elementary School in my honor, rather than in my memory! Thank you very much. It is a privilege to be here.

Twenty-five years ago it was a privilege to be there. It was incredible to be someone who lived the words, "to go where no man has gone before," and science fiction became scientific fact when we walked on the moon.

Some of you in the audience may still remember where you were when you heard that the *Eagle* had landed. Some of you sat glued to a television screen as I climbed down to the surface of the moon. For a nation unwilling to accept second place in the race for space, it was a declaration of victory. For a world believing that space was an unconquerable frontier, it was a shout of triumph. "One small step for man; one giant leap for mankind."

I still hear those words in my ears, just like the hallways of this school echo with the steps of boys and girls and adults. Each day students, teachers, and administrators alike are taking small steps together to embrace the future. Some steps are taken in wheelchairs. Some steps are aided by walkers. Some steps are the small steps of two year olds and the larger ones are the steps of 12 years olds. But no one really moves toward the future alone. Each of us has been helped in our stride toward tomorrow. The steps that occur within this school are not steps taken alone. Parents hold the hand of their children, each step a step of love. Teachers hold the hands of students, each step a step of knowledge. Administrators hold the hands of students, parents, and faculty so that each step is supported. And community people, business leaders, people like Brian M. Mulholland, government officials like Senator Robb, Senator Warner, and so many others join hands and walk with this student body because the steps of students and faculty may look like small strides, but actually they are the steps that will take us into a world that will look very different.

It is here that you must take advantage of the latest in science and technology. It is here that you must realize that no dream is too small. And it is from here that a new generation of All-Stars have been born. Your theme this year has been "Reaching for the Moon With Its Stars," and appropriately so. Schools are places for those small steps that later become giant leaps. It is here that hopes are nurtured and cultivated. It is here that children can be instructed to do what others have done, and be challenged to do what no one else has accomplished.

My message to you today is that "No dream is too high for those with their eyes in the sky."

You honor more than me and my name with this school. You honor the dreams that propelled our nation to explore space and the hopes that continue to lead us toward the future. May we continue to honor our hopes

and dreams by enabling the small steps of children to become giant leaps for humanity.

It is obvious that "It's one small step for man; one giant leap for mankind" every day at Aldrin Elementary School. •

CUT CORPORATE WELFARE

• Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, there has been a great deal of praise to various people for direct lending, including some to PAUL SIMON.

But the person who really pioneered direct lending for the student loan program and was convinced of its usefulness before I was, is Congressman TOM PETRI, a Republican Member from Wisconsin.

Recently, he sent a "Dear Colleague" letter on direct lending because it is now threatened by people who profit from the present system.

His "Dear Colleague" is titled "Cut Corporate Welfare," and I ask that it be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows:

CUT CORPORATE WELFARE

DEAR COLLEAGUE: Those of us who call ourselves fiscal conservatives won't have one shred of credibility as budget cutters if we are unwilling to go after corporate welfare with the same zeal we apply to other types of waste. And in this kind of effort, liberals should be willing to join us. Please consider the following case carefully.

Suppose you were a banker and you were able to make loans that: were fully guaranteed by the federal government (i.e. as safe as t-bills); paid you interest directly from the federal government for a period of years at 2.5% more than the interest on t-bills; were fully as liquid as t-bills (or even more so) because you could sell them at any time at face value or even a slight premium in a large secondary market with plenty of eager buyers; require no credit-worthiness analysis up front; and required no collection effort for a period of years (you do nothing but sit back and collect your interest), after which you could still sell them or start collecting on them and receiving an extra .6% interest?

Wouldn't that be a great deal? Wouldn't you fight like Hell to keep it? You bet. And the deal exists—it's the guaranteed student loan program. But it's a lousy deal for the taxpayers. They'd be much better off selling t-bills themselves to finance the loans (rather than renting banks' capital at 2.5% more than the t-bill rate) and then contracting for loan servicing with the current private servicers on a competitive bid basis. And guess what? That's what direct lending is. It's still a public/private partnership, but the one useful function the private sector performs—loan servicing—is priced in a market process rather than a political negotiation over interest rate premiums.

Think about it another way: what useful function are the banks providing? They can't assess risk. They take no risk. We can get cheaper capital. And we wouldn't even need their servicing if we collected these loans as income taxes through the IRS.

Make no mistake—guaranteed student loans contain an enormous bank subsidy. That's one of their four main sources of waste (the others are default costs, administrative complexity, and mistargeted subsidies for students). If we don't get rid of this corporate welfare, we'll have to cut more somewhere else.

The choice is clear—are you for the banks or for the taxpayers? True fiscal conserv-

atives should have no doubt about whose side to take.

Sincerely,

THOMAS E. PETRI, M.C. •

VETERANS' COMMUNITY-BASED CARE ACT

• Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I rise to support S. 725, the Veterans' Community-Based Care Act of 1995, introduced by my distinguished colleague, Senator ROCKEFELLER. I am honored to be an original cosponsor of this bill that I deeply believe is of signal importance to veterans and to the future of VA health care.

The VA currently is planning to revamp its health care system to reduce its strong emphasis on inpatient hospital care in order to provide more veterans with health care in outpatient and noninstitutional settings, including community-based facilities when such care is appropriate. This bill will not only support VA's restructuring efforts, but also help some of our most vulnerable veterans—those with substance abuse problems who require rehabilitation services; elderly veterans who are infirm; and homeless veterans who suffer from severe mental illnesses or substance abuse problems.

Let me stress that these are proven programs with successful track records and this bill will extend existing authorities for these worthwhile and innovative programs for about 5 years.

Mr. President, I would like to briefly describe these programs so that my colleagues may more fully appreciate their value to needy individual veterans and to the VA health system as a whole:

One provision would extend VA authority to contract with non-VA halfway houses for rehabilitation services for veterans with substance abuse problems. This worthwhile program was first authorized in 1979, and currently operates at 106 medical centers, with 6,300 veterans treated in fiscal year 1994. These community half-way houses perform a vital function in facilitating a veteran's successful transition from inpatient substance abuse treatment and detoxification to independent living within the community. The halfway houses provide a supervised, substance free environment, and help develop independent living and social skills. I strongly and unequivocally supported extension of this program in the 103d Congress and I firmly believe it merits further extension.

The bill also would extend VA's authority to provide health and health-linked service to veterans who otherwise would need nursing home care. It enables veterans to live at home and receive, at less cost to VA and the taxpayer, the same type of services that would otherwise be provided in a hospital or nursing home. Mr. President, this can be best described as a win-win-win program. Veterans would be able to continue living at home, costs to the taxpayer would be cut significantly,

and VA inpatient facilities and nursing homes could be reserved for veterans for whom there is no other feasible alternative.

I am especially pleased that this bill would reauthorize the Homeless Chronically Mentally Ill [HCMII] program. This program has been effective in serving the most disadvantaged, most needy and often most difficult population of vets to reach. It is precisely the kind of program that Senator Hubert Humphrey would have approved of in that passes his litmus test for judging a society by the way it deals with the most vulnerable and needy of its citizens. HCMII authorizes VA outreach workers to contact homeless vets, assess and refer vets to community services, and place eligible vets in contracted community-based residential treatment facilities. This program is one of the two major VA homeless programs and now operates out of 57 medical centers in 31 States and the District of Columbia. I backed extension of this program unequivocally in the 103rd Congress, and I am even more convinced now that it merits reauthorization.

Another extraordinarily valuable, effective, and humane program that this measure would reauthorize is known as the Compensated Work Therapy and Therapeutic Transitional Housing program [CWT/TR]. It is a demonstration program authorizing the VA to renovate 50 residences as therapeutic transitional houses for chronic substance abusers, many of whom are also homeless, jobless, and mentally ill. VA would also be authorized to contract with nonprofit corporation which would own and operate the transitional residences in conjunction with existing VA compensated work therapy programs. Once a residence is fully renovated and operational, rent collected from vets in the program usually exceed operating costs. A preliminary VA evaluation of the program indicates that well over 50 percent of participants complete the program and have had substantially better sobriety, employment, and housing status than before entering the program. I strongly backed extension of this program in the last Congress and have no doubt that there is an urgent need to further extend this program that serves those are among the most needy of our veterans.

Finally, Mr. President this bill would extend VA's authority to enter into enhanced use leases, which would permit other parties to use VA property so long as at least part of the property will provide for an activity that furthers the VA mission and enhances use of the property. An excellent illustration of how this program would operate is a plan to establish at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center [VAMC] a managed care clinical research and education center on land owned by the VAMC. An HMO would build a facility on VAMC grounds that would be large enough for VA personnel to do impor-

tant clinical research and provide additional space for VA personnel to provide patient care to vets. Additionally, VA personnel would gain first-hand experience in managed care and make the VA more competitive in a managed care environment. Finally, the program would ready the Minneapolis VAMC for participation in the Minnesota State health care reform program should this become feasible.

In closing I want to thank my colleague, Senator ROCKEFELLER for his leadership in preparing this legislation and urge my colleagues to give it their full support.●

A BULLET FROM AMERICA THREATENS AN INVALUABLE BEIRUT SCHOOL

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, my wife and I took off on a rare vacation of any length, when we spent 10 days in Spain and Portugal over the Easter recess.

While I was there, I picked up the New York Herald Tribune and read the Tom Friedman column, which originally appeared in the New York Times, paying tribute to Malcolm Kerr, who served as president of the American University in Beirut.

An incidental surprise in the article was to learn that Steve Kerr, who plays for the Chicago Bulls, is the son of the late president of American University.

Mr. Friedman has a point to make on what we ought to be doing in the field of economic assistance to other countries. I ask that the Tom Friedman column be printed in the RECORD.

The column follows:

A BULLET FROM AMERICA THREATENS AN INVALUABLE BEIRUT SCHOOL

(By Thomas L. Friedman)

WASHINGTON.—When I was a reporter in Beirut in the early 1980s the three most chilling words anyone could say to you were: "Have you heard?" The news that followed was almost always bad. That is why I shuddered on the morning of Jan. 18, 1984, when a banker friend called me to say: "Have you heard? Malcolm Kerr has been shot."

Malcolm was the president of the American University of Beirut, an expert on Arab politics and a friend of mine. I immediately ran over to the AUB campus. By the time I got there Malcolm was dead, the gunmen were gone and the only trace left of the murder was the bullet hole that had gouged the wall on the stairs to his office.

I have been thinking about Malcolm and the AUB lately because his widow, Ann Zwickler Kerr, has just published an affectionate memoir of both entitled "Come With Me From Lebanon." The book chronicles how they met on the AUB campus in 1954, she as a junior year abroad student from Occidental College and he as the son of AUB instructors. (Ann's parents wanted her to go to school in Europe, she wanted to go to India, so they compromised on Lebanon.)

Years later, after marrying, she and Malcolm returned to the AUB as teachers, and finally, after 20 years at the University of California at Los Angeles, they came back to run the AUB in the middle of the Lebanese civil war, out of a conviction that it was an institution worth saving. In Malcolm's case, it became an institution worth dying for.

I fondly recall sitting on the veranda of Marquand House, the AUB president's resi-

dence overlooking the Mediterranean, drinking freshly squeezed lemonade and listening to Malcolm's sober and always biting analysis of Arab politics. I was reminded of it reading Ann's book, in which Malcolm complained that there were "two rival student groups each wanting to organize its own Miss AUB contest—a Miss Left-Wing AUB and a Miss Right-Wing AUB, and after heroic efforts the dean of students finally got them together, only to have the army move in and scrap the whole thing!"

No one knows who murdered Malcolm, but clearly it was extremists intent on driving the United States, and its marines, out of Beirut. (He left behind four kids, one of whom, Steve, plays guard alongside Michael Jordan for the Chicago Bulls.)

I hope this book gets read by two audiences. For the general reader it is a thoughtful period piece about Americans abroad—a reminder of that generation of American secular missionaries, most of them teachers and doctors who, long before the Peace Corps, dedicated their lives to spreading the gospel of Jefferson and Lincoln in the Arab East. They came innocent of any imperial ambitions and they both nourished and were nourished by the local educational institutions they ran.

I also hope it is read by all those in Congress who today are so eagerly, and mindlessly, slashing U.S. foreign aid. Because when America cuts foreign aid, it isn't just cutting payoffs to the Guatemalan army. It is also cutting off the AUBs.

Who cares? Well, consider this: When the United Nations was founded in San Francisco, there were 19 AUB graduates among the founding delegates, more than any other university in the world. Educational institutions like the AUB are literally factories of pro-Americans.

Since its founding in 1866 it has graduated 34,000 students from all over the Middle East, who were educated in the American system and exposed to basic American values and standards. Today those graduates are cabinet ministers, business executives and educators peppered throughout the region.

Most important, the AUB is still one of the only real liberal arts colleges in the Arab world. It is the best answer to Islamic fundamentalism. In fact, most of the AUB's students today are Sunni and Shiite Muslims, who still see an American degree, not a Khomeini decree, as their ticket to advancement in the world.

But the AUB today is struggling. In 1985 it got about \$15 million a year in American foreign aid. Today it gets \$1.8 million. Tomorrow, if some in Congress have their way, it could get nothing. It would be an ironic tragedy if the AUB, having survived civil wars, bombings and the murder of Malcolm Kerr, were to have the fatal bullet put in its head by a stingy U.S. Congress controlled by people with no sense of America's role in the world or the institutions that sustain its values abroad.

Mr. SIMON. I visited the American University in Beirut long before I was a Member of Congress and was favorably impressed by what they did. The stunning statistic, which I had never read before, that there were 19 American University in Beirut alumni among the founding delegates at the San Francisco U.N. Conference, is dramatic evidence of the good work that they do.

The first lesson from the Tom Friedman column is that we should adequately support this fine and important university.