

grants from the Federal Crime Victims Fund. This is important in years in which collections of fines and penalties at the Federal level are exceptionally large, as they were this past year. Through this amendment we are trying to ensure that State grants from the crime victims fund can be used wisely over a more extended period of time. This amendment will augment the increase in the minimum victim assistance grant to small States from \$200,000 to \$500,000 per year that I was able to include in the Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act, which passed earlier this year.●

DEDICATION OF SHIRLEY L. MILLER PAVILION

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, on October 5, 1996, the Children's Cancer Caring Center will dedicate the Shirley L. Miller Pavilion at the prestigious Cleveland Clinic of Broward County, FL. The pavilion will house facilities used by the Clinic to treat its hundreds of young outpatients. Mr. President, it is fitting that this pavilion memorialize the good name and extraordinary life of Shirley L. Miller of Miami, FL who passed away on September 24, 1996.

Shirley L. Miller, along with her close friends, Lee Klein and Erma Podvin, have been deeply involved in providing medical care to children with cancer for 35 years. The Children's Cancer Caring Center, of which Shirley was a cofounder and vice president, provides totally free cancer treatment for hundreds of children from Florida and elsewhere. In addition to medical treatment, the caring center provides ancillary services—counseling, special events, and an overnight summer camp—to afflicted children and their families. Beyond donating thousands of volunteer hours, Shirley and her colleagues have raised tens of millions of dollars to support their efforts over the years.

Mr. President, Shirley L. Miller represents what is great in America. Her dear friend and president of the caring center, Lee Klein, called her "a beautiful gift to the thousands of children who confronted this disease and whose lives she touched." Shirley L. Miller was a great credit to her community and her family, including her husband of 46 years, Irving, and her brother, Samuel Levine, and sister, Gloria Berger. Her children, Roger Miller, Sherri Gersten, Miki Goldstein, Renee Simmons, and Cary Caster, and her 13 grandchildren, have much to be proud of. She received numerous awards in recognition of her civic activities on behalf of Mount Sinai Medical Center, Hebrew Academy, the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, the Girl Scouts of America, the National Council of Jewish Women, Temple Beth Shalom of Miami Beach, and the Youth Orchestra of Florida. Her son, Roger, explained "She was a woman who spent so many waking hours helping others less fortunate than she."

Mr. President, although the Shirley L. Miller Pavilion at the Cleveland Clinic in Broward County will serve to memorialize her name, the lifetime of unlimited caring Shirley L. Miller provided to thousands of children and their families will be our greatest monument to this extraordinary woman.●

TRIBUTE TO THE STAFF OF THE SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

● Mr. COHEN. Mr. President, as the 104th Congress and my own tenure in the Senate draw to a close, I want to take this opportunity to thank and pay tribute to my staff on the Senate Special Committee on Aging for their fine work, dedicated service, and exemplary commitment to the needs of our Nation's elderly.

I have had the privilege of serving as a member of the Aging Committee since first coming to the Senate, after having served on the House Aging Committee for many years. In 1991, I assumed the position of ranking Republican member on the Senate Special Committee on Aging, after the sudden and tragic death of John Heinz, our beloved friend and colleague from Pennsylvania. He left us long before his contributions were fully credited and before his mission could be completed. It was daunting indeed to follow in the footsteps of John Heinz, who was legendary in his advocacy on behalf of our Nation's senior citizens.

In 1995, I succeeded another giant in the field of aging issues, Senator DAVID PRYOR, as chairman of the committee. Senator PRYOR has been an indefatigable leader on issues affecting the quality of life for our seniors and protecting them from all forms of exploitation. DAVID has decided to retire from the Senate, but the high standard of excellence that he set throughout his years as a Congressman, Governor, and Senator will be remembered with great fondness and gratitude by those who have been honored to serve with him, and by those who were so honorably served by him.

Mr. President, I am proud that in these last 5 years the Aging Committee has had a strong record of achievement, thanks in large part to my highly dedicated and talented committee staff. The committee has brought many problems now facing our Nation's elderly to the attention of the Congress, policy makers, and the public. It has provoked public debate and has proposed solutions on how our Government programs can better serve the elderly and disabled.

For example, the committee has examined a host of issues relating to Medicare and Medicaid. It has examined how managed care trends will affect the elderly and disabled populations, and how some Medicare HMO's have given poor quality and service to Medicare enrollees. We have reviewed the Medicare hotline and the level of

service provided by the Medicare program itself to enrollees. The committee has identified how those with Alzheimer's disease and other chronic conditions of aging often fall through the cracks of our health care system, and how we should rethink our programs to provide more integrated care.

The committee has placed strong emphasis on the long-term care needs of our Nation's elderly and disabled, recommending ways to protect the rights of nursing home residents and offering proposals on how to help families prepare for the crushing financial burden of long-term care.

The committee has held hearings on the mental health needs of older Americans and heard riveting testimony on the once taboo subject of suicide among the elderly. Our hearings have cast a bright spotlight on the high prescription drug costs facing older Americans and how, tragically, some older Americans face the Hobson's choice of whether to buy food or medicine, because they simply cannot afford both.

As has been the long tradition of the Aging Committee, we have exercised an active investigative agenda, focusing on how senior citizens are often prime targets of scams and con artists. Our investigations have revealed how some health care providers manipulate the system to siphon off as much as \$100 billion a year from our health care system. We have heard sobering testimony from perpetrators on how easy it is to rip off the health care system and the taxpayers. Major reforms have been now signed into law to crack down against these abuse, in large part due to the investigations and recommendations from the Aging Committee.

We have investigated telemarketer who offer prize giveaway, contests, investment schemes and other promises of gold to trusting senior citizens. Tragically, these scams have resulted in many seniors losing thousands of dollars, and often their entire retirement savings.

The committee has devoted much attention to the unfettered growth of the Social Security disability program and how this program suffers from management deficiencies, fraud and abuse, and far too little oversight. We have provoked important public debate on problems in our Federal disability programs and have stressed the need to start facing head on the problems posed by the future insolvency of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds.

While this is but a taste of the entire record of the Aging Committee's activities over the past 5 years, it gives a flavor of how this committee has alerted the Congress and the public to the needs of our aging population.

I want to pay special tribute to my staff on the Aging Committee who have played a major role in each of these committee efforts.

Since 1991, my Aging Committee staff has been under the able direction of Mary Gerwin, who has been the driving

force behind the issues we have reviewed and who has shaped many of the legislative proposals we made as a result of our investigative and oversight efforts.

I also want to recognize the fine work and dedication of deputy staff director Priscilla Hobson Hanley; chief investigator Helen Albert; professional staff member Victoria Blatter; professional staff member Liz Liess; committee chief clerk Sally Ehrenfried; systems administrator Beth Watson; research assistants Lance Wain and Lindsey Ledwin; staff assistants Karina Lynch, Wendy Moltrup; and Myrna Webb; and GPO printer Joyce Ward. I extend my gratitude to these and all of the many committee staff, both past and present, who have contributed greatly to the mission of the committee.

I also want to recognize the fine work of Kathryn Gest, my press secretary and Mike Townsend, committee press secretary, for their excellent work in promoting the work of the Aging Committee.

Mr. President, the Aging Committee is perhaps unique among congressional committee due to its strong bipartisan cooperation. I want to congratulate and thank Senator PRYOR's dedicated staff on the committee for their many years of service to both the Senate and our senior citizens.

As I retire from the Senate, my staff will disperse to seek new opportunities and to make their contributions to the Nation in other ways. I wish them well and am deeply indebted to them for their service. The Senate Special Committee on Aging serves a very special purpose for the Congress and the Nation—and my staff on that committee has been very special indeed.●

FLOW CONTROL LEGISLATION

● Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, the U.S. Congress has failed this year to resolve a serious solid waste problem, that of flow control. Many solid waste management issues have been rightly addressed by State and local governments. State and local governments have decided how solid waste will be managed, preferring landfilling, incineration, recycling, composting, waste reduction, or a combination thereof. Similarly, they have also provided the needed funding for their solid waste programs.

However, while State and local governments have played the key role, the Federal Government has also been involved in the management of solid waste. Through regulatory actions and federal court rulings, the Federal Government has dramatically influenced how State and local governments have approached their solid waste problems. For example, when the Supreme Court recently held that State and local governments could no longer designate where privately collected waste could be disposed of, some States and localities—including many in my State of Minnesota—were adversely affected.

No longer could a State—except in rare instances—prohibit waste shipments from out-of-State or impose fees on waste disposal that discriminate on the basis of origin, nor direct where privately collected waste had to be disposed. As a result of this decision—and those of other courts—many local governments teeter on the brink of bankruptcy. Without the ability to guarantee a volume of waste flow to their waste facilities, local governments are less able to finance the facility, as well as to plan for future development.

Recent Congresses, in addition to this one, have attempted to address the flow control problem. Legislation has been introduced to give States the authority to restrict the amount of solid waste imported from other States. However, the Senate and House have yet to agree on a solution. Due to Congress' inability to address flow control, many local governments are contemplating—or have already undertaken—drastic actions such as laying off employees and raising taxes. In addition, some local governments have had their bonds downgraded. Alarmingly, it seems that if the flow control problem is not addressed soon, the financial problems of many communities in my State of Minnesota and elsewhere will only worsen.

I have wholeheartedly supported flow control legislation in the past. While many in Congress continue to oppose such legislation, I will not rest. In the 105th Congress, I will continue to advocate flow control legislation to help communities in our country better manage their solid waste.●

THE OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS BILL

● Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I wish to talk about the omnibus appropriations bill adopted by the Senate this week and signed into law by the President.

Passage and enactment before the end of the fiscal year was important to keep the Government in business and meeting the needs of American citizens.

The bill is significant in that it continues the Republican Congress' move to balance the Federal budget by the year 2002. It would have been easier had the President and his party not been more interested in obstruction over cooperation. Still, this Congress has cut around 300 unneeded Federal programs and saved \$53 billion in discretionary spending.

We provide for a higher level of defense funding than the President requested. We also approved strong anti-crime and antidrug packages, aggressive antiterrorism programs and stringent anti-illegal immigration measures. The bill increases funding to our States and communities hard hit by natural disasters.

My State of Idaho is one where residents and businesses had to cope with rains, floods, and wildfires this year.

There is a role for the Federal Government in helping stabilize riverbeds and hillsides, reducing environmental damage, putting businesses back on solid footing and firefighting efforts. This bill accomplishes that.

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service watershed and flood prevention operations receive a \$63 million increase in this bill, \$5 million will go to help the Boise area recover from the devastating 8th Street fire in the Boise foothills. Without immediate attention to the fragile hillsides, this winter's rains and next spring's snowmelt could send tons of water and mud into homes and businesses all along the Boise front.

Additionally, the Bureau of Land Management's firefighting account will get a \$17 million increase over last year. Wildfires are claiming more and more Western land, and the BLM's resources are stretched to the limit.

The Forest Service, which manages more than 20 million acres in Idaho, gets a \$144.5 million increase in firefighting funding, \$17.7 million for management of the National Forest System, almost \$2 million for forest and rangeland research and nearly \$19 million in State and private cooperative programs.

The Federal Government owns two-thirds of the land in Idaho, so I'm pleased these needed increases will help develop and maintain solid management and cooperation with private and State landowners.

Preservation of our natural resources and treasured environment is important to me and to Idaho. I'm pleased to see the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will get a \$6 million dollar increase for the cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund. This grant program to the States will allow for cooperative agreements to save species and habitat. As I work on a revised Endangered Species Act, I want to encourage cooperation of States and private land owners to enter into these types of arrangements. States and local governments will play a greater role in species protection and recovery in the future.

Native Americans in Idaho and across the country will see increases in the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service. These increases are important so we don't neglect our obligations to tribes and their residents.

Besides what this bill does, it is important for what it does not do. There are no increases in grazing fees for ranchers in the West. Other amendments which limit Native American sovereignty were also dropped.

Mr. President, I am proud that this Congress passed, and the President signed, the Safe Drinking Water Act. The bill is the only major environmental legislation of the 104th Congress, and represents the way environmental laws should work. It protects public health and safety while giving States and communities the flexibility