

empowerment zones and community development banks, we are helping people find jobs and start businesses. And with tax incentives for companies that clean up abandoned industrial property, bringing jobs back to the places that desperately need them.

But there are some areas that the Federal Government must address directly and strongly. One of these is the problem of illegal immigration. After years and years of neglect, this administration has taken a strong stand to stiffen protection on our borders.

We are increasing border controls by 50 percent, we are increasing inspections to prevent the hiring of illegal immigrants. And tonight, I announce I will sign an executive order to deny Federal contracts to businesses that hire illegal immigrants.

Let me be clear: we are still a nation of immigrants; we honor all those immigrants who are working hard to become new citizens. But we are also a nation of laws.

I want to say a special word to those who work for our Federal Government. Today, the Federal workforce is 200,000 employees smaller than the day I took office. The Federal Government is the smallest it has been in 30 years, and it is getting smaller every day. Most of my fellow Americans probably didn't know that, and there's a good reason. The remaining Federal workforce is composed of Americans who are working harder and working smarter to make sure that the quality of our services does not decline.

Take Richard Dean. He is a 49-year-old Vietnam veteran who has worked for Social Security for 22 years. Last year he was hard at work in the Federal building in Oklahoma City when the terrorist blast killed 169 people and brought the rubble down around him.

He re-entered the building four times and saved lives of three women. He is here with us this evening. I want to recognize Richard and applaud both his public service and his extraordinary heroism.

But Richard's story doesn't end there. This last November, he was forced out of his office when the Government shut down.

And the second time the Government shut down, he continued helping Social Security recipients, but he was working without pay.

On behalf of Richard Dean and his family, I challenge all of you in this Chamber: never—ever—shut the Federal Government down again.

And on behalf of all Americans, especially those who need their Social Security payments at the beginning of March, I challenge Congress to preserve the full faith and credit of the United States, to honor the obligations of this great nation as we have for 220 years, to rise above partisanship and pass a straightforward extension of the debt limit. Show them that America keeps its word.

I have asked a lot of America this evening. But I am confident. When

Americans work together in their homes, their schools, their churches, their civic groups or at work, they can meet any challenge.

I say again: The era of Big Government is over. But we can't go back to the era of fending for yourself. We must go forward, to the era of working together, as a community, as a team, as one America, with all of us reaching across the lines that divide us, rejecting division, discrimination and racism, to find common ground. We must work together.

I want you to meet two people tonight who do that. Lucius Wright is a teacher in the Jackson, MS public school system, a Vietnam veteran. He has created groups that help inner city children turn away from gangs and build futures they can believe in.

Sgt. Jennifer Rodgers is a police officer in Oklahoma City. Like Richard Dean, she helped pull her fellow citizens out of the rubble and deal with that awful tragedy. She reminds us that, in their response to that atrocity, the people of Oklahoma City lifted us all with their basic sense of decency and community.

Lucius Wright and Jennifer Rogers are special Americans. I have the honor to announce tonight that they are the very first of several thousand Americans who will be chosen to carry the Olympic torch on its long journey from Los Angeles to the centennial of the modern Olympics in Atlanta this summer—not because they are star athletes, but because they are star citizens—community heroes meeting America's challenges—our real champions.

Now each of us must hold high the torch of citizenship in our own lives. But none of us can finish the race alone. We can only achieve our destiny together, one hand, one generation, one American connecting to another.

There have always been things we could do together—dreams we could make real—which we could never have done on our own. We Americans have forged our identity, our very union, from every point of view and every point on the planet. But we are bound by a faith more powerful than any doctrines that divide us—by our belief in progress, our love of liberty, and our relentless search for common ground. America has always sought and always risen to the challenge.

Who would say that, having come so far together, we will not go forward from here? Who would say that this Age of Possibility is not for all Americans?

America is—and always has been—a great and good country. But the best is yet to come. If we all do our part.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 4:12 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 1606. An act to designate the U.S. Post Office building located at 24 Corliss Street, Providence, RI, as the "Harry Kizirian Post Office Building."

H.R. 2061. An act to designate the Federal building located at 1550 Dewey Avenue, Baker City, OR, as the "David J. Wheeler Federal Building."

The enrolled bills were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

At 5:31 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1341. An act to provide for the transfer of certain lands to the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian community and the city of Scottsdale, AZ, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HELMS (for himself, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. HATCH, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mrs. KASSEBAUM, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. KYL, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. BURNS, Mr. HATFIELD, Mr. HEFLIN, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. LOTT, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. FRIST):

S. 1520. A bill to award a congressional gold medal to Ruth and Billy Graham; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. DOLE:

S. 1521. A bill to establish the Nicodemus National Historic Site in Kansas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself and Mr. LEVIN):

S. 1522. A bill to provide for the transfer of six obsolete tugboats of the Navy; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. DASCHLE, and Mr. EXON):

S. 1523. A bill to extend agricultural programs through 1996, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. EXON (for himself and Mr. KERREY):

S. Res. 210. A resolution to commend the Cornhuskers of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln for winning both the 1994 and 1995 National Collegiate Athletic Association Football Championships back-to-back; considered and agreed to.

S. Res. 211. A resolution to commend the Cornhuskers of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln for winning the 1995 National Collegiate Athletic Association Women's Volleyball Championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DASCHLE:

S. Res. 212. A resolution to constitute the minority party's membership on the Ethics Committee for the 104th congress, or until their successors are chosen; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HELMS (for himself, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. HATCH, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mrs. KASSEBAUM, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. BURNS, Mr. HATFIELD, Mr. HEFLIN, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. LOTT, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. FRIST):

S. 1520. A bill to award a congressional gold medal to Ruth and Billy Graham.

THE BILLY AND RUTH GRAHAM CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL AWARD ACT

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I have a bill that Senator FAIRCLOTH and I are joining to offer. It is sponsored by many other Senators. It is at the desk.

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I am not sure I understood what the Senator from North Carolina said. Was the Senator calling up a bill?

Mr. HELMS. This is a bill to authorize a congressional gold medal to Billy Graham and Ruth Graham, his wife of 52 years.

Mr. BUMPERS. Is the Senator calling a bill up for debate and consideration?

Mr. HELMS. No, sir, it is to be appropriately referred.

Mr. BUMPERS. I have no objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senator from North Carolina is recognized.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, before I begin, several Senators have already asked to be identified as cosponsors of this measure.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Utah, Mr. HATCH; the Senator from Wyoming, Mr. SIMPSON; the Senator from Virginia, Mr. WARNER; the Senator from Alaska, Mr. MURKOWSKI; the Senator from Texas, Mrs. HUTCHISON; the Senator from Kansas, Mrs. KASSEBAUM; and Senator ABRAHAM; and Senator SPECTER of Pennsylvania be added as cosponsors, and I ask that the bill be held at the desk until the close of business today for Senators to add their names as cosponsors.

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

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, Senator FAIRCLOTH and I are genuinely honored to offer this legislation to award a congressional gold medal to two wonderful North Carolinians, Dr. Billy Graham and his remarkable wife of 52 years, Ruth Graham. I have known them for years. Billy Graham was born not far from where I was born, and I have known him very, very well since the early 1950's, when I attended his very

first crusade right here at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC.

When the bill is signed into law, Congress will be paying tribute to a deserving couple who have spent their lives exemplifying the miracle of America—faith in God, morality, charity, and family.

Most Senators have met the Grahams; many are personal friends, as are Senator FAIRCLOTH and I. Billy and Ruth are marvelous servants of the Lord. Anybody even vaguely familiar with the Grahams' witness will agree that Billy's and Ruth's relationships with God, their love for each other and their family, and their deep-seated compassion for humanity are unsurpassed. This is the genuine spirituality that has led literally millions of Americans, and millions of others around the world, to grasp the meaning and hope of salvation.

The incredible millions who have heard the message of salvation through Billy Graham's evangelistic campaigns are testimony to his devout magnetism. For the past half century, more than 100 million people in 180 countries have personally heard Billy Graham's thrilling messages in person when they attended his rallies. Others have worshipped with him by television. An estimated total of more than 2 billion people have worshipped with Billy Graham on television. Countless others have sought spiritual help and counsel through his books, magazines, newspaper editorials, radio broadcasts, and the Billy Graham Training Center at Black Mountain, NC.

The Grahams have responded to the physical needs of people around the world through a legacy inherited from Ruth Graham's father, the distinguished Dr. L. Nelson Bell, who was a missionary to China. Dr. Bell and his family served as medical missionaries to China for nearly 25 years before returning to the Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville, NC.

Today, the Grahams continue Dr. Nelson Bell's legacy through the ministry of the Ruth and Billy Graham Children's Health Center where the children of western North Carolina and the surrounding area receive special medical care that was unavailable before the advent of the Graham Children's Health Center. Moreover, the Grahams, through their various ministries, have extended their love and their caring by extending their loving and helping hands to the victims of disasters, the medical needy, and the disadvantaged.

Mr. President, it is fitting and proper, I think, for the U.S. Congress to honor Billy and Ruth Graham, who if anybody ever has, they have earned not only the respect of the Congress, they have earned the keys to the kingdom.

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, today Senator HELMS and I will introduce legislation that will authorize the Congress to present a gold medal to Ruth and Billy Graham in honor of their contributions to mankind.

The striking of the medal will have no cost to the taxpayer. Most importantly, all of this effort will benefit children in southern Appalachia and internationally.

Ruth and Billy Graham stand as shining examples of faith, family, morality, and charity. These two great North Carolinians are truly servants of the Lord and His work has been further accomplished through their lifelong efforts.

Dr. Graham's crusades have reached 100 million people in person and over 2 billion worldwide on television. He is America's most respected and admired evangelist. His newspaper columns and books reach legions of people in need of spiritual counseling. And, his loving marriage of 52 years to Ruth Graham is a touching personal achievement.

The Ruth and Billy Graham Children's Center, located at Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville, NC, is testimony to the difference they have made in lives of others. The center's goal is to improve the health and well-being of children and to become a new resource for ending the pain and suffering of children.

Mr. President, I ask the Senate to quickly act on this honor for Dr. Graham and his wife. The prayers of many deserving children could be answered by this touching tribute to Ruth and Billy Graham.

By Mr. DOLE:

S. 1521. A bill to establish the Nicodemus National Historic Site in Kansas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

THE NICODEMUS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ACT OF 1996

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, time, it is said, is the savior and nemesis of history. The savior because it is the very passage of time that creates history. The nemesis because that same passage of time obliterates history. Today, in Nicodemus, KS, a community is waging a losing battle against time. To bolster them in that fight, I am introducing legislation that would establish Nicodemus, KS, as a national historic site.

Kansas is not the first place that comes to mind when people think of the Civil War and reconstruction, but we Kansans know that Kansas is to the Civil War what Sarajevo was to World War I. Border ruffians, the sack of Lawrence, John Brown, and the Pottawatomie massacre are as familiar to Kansas schoolchildren as Fort Sumter and Gettysburg. The guerrilla war that rent bleeding Kansas was the opening skirmish in the armed conflict between abolitionist and slaveholder that ended at Appomattox.

Even less well known is that out of that bitter struggle emerged a period of hope for the newly emancipated. During the 1870's, Kansas was the scene of a great migration of southern blacks seeking their fortune in what some African-American leaders described as