

what's right and for tackling what's wrong in America. She was the Nation's conscience during Watergate and helped restore America's faith in the Constitution.

That is why students lined up for hours at the LBJ School of Public Affairs just to register for her class. Now, that was a line worth standing in.

These students understood that it was a treat to be taught by this woman of many firsts. The first African-American, and first woman, elected to the Texas Senate. The first southern black elected to Congress since the Reconstruction, and the only woman in her law school class in Boston University.

Barbara Jordan inspired us because she was a visionary who firmly believed in this Nation's potential. Our country is different today because of her and the strength, integrity and sensibility that she symbolized.

Barbara Jordan was a great American. She was proud to be black, proud to be a woman, proud to be a Texan, and proud to be an American. I know she will live in our hearts and minds forever.

TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR GEORGE GASTON

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, thousands of people in Alabama and all over the country were deeply saddened by the death of Dr. Arthur George Gaston on January 19, 1996. He was one of the most successful businessmen of our time, as well as a generous philanthropist and civic leader who never forgot his humble beginnings.

When I think of A.G. Gaston, many different facets of his life come to mind. Of course, his longevity, his business success, his compassion for the less fortunate, his lifelong battle for civil rights, and his many tangible contributions to his community, State, and Nation are things that stand out.

But I am also reminded that Dr. Gaston was born on the Fourth of July in 1892. He shared his birthday with our Republic, and in many significant and profound ways, he and the Nation grew up and matured together during those more than 100 years of his lifetime. It was so fitting that he was born on the Fourth of July, the founding of our country, for he was truly the American dream personified.

During his long and unusually productive life, Dr. Gaston helped countless young people obtain an education, supported numerous causes, including the civil rights movement, and inspired several generations to achieve great things through hard work, perseverance, and a commitment to lifelong learning. He served his church and his people with passionate dedication, energy, and wisdom.

Just a few short years ago, as he celebrated the anniversary of his 100th birthday, Dr. Gaston remarked, "The Lord has seen fit to let me live to this age for a purpose and it is my hope that I have served him and my people

as he wanted me to. I have lived a long life. I have received many blessings."

A.G. Gaston's life did indeed have purpose and meaning, so much so that it is difficult to capture them in words. Those who knew him, either directly or indirectly, knew what that purpose and meaning were by the example he set and by the tremendous contributions he made to those around him. He was a remarkable role model—a quintessential American success story. There is no doubt that he used his many gifts and blessings and served his fellow man in the way the Lord intended. In so doing, he became one of God's most generous gifts to us.

Dr. Gaston will be greatly missed, but his legacy is one that will never fade. I ask unanimous consent that a Birmingham News editorial on his life and work be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Birmingham News, Jan. 21, 1996]

ARTHUR GEORGE GASTON

HIS DEATH IS A MONUMENTAL LOSS FOR BIRMINGHAM

He was as much an icon of Birmingham as is Vulcan, and the legend of A.G. Gaston was larger than life, as well.

And like Birmingham's man of steel, it was easy to think Gaston would be around forever.

Friday morning, however, A.G. Gaston died in Medical Center East at the age of 103, a monumental loss for the Birmingham community.

Born on the Fourth of July in 1892, the grandson of slaves served in the Army with distinction during World War I, then took a job working in a dry cleaning plant for \$5 a week.

At a time when black entrepreneurs were almost unheard of, Gaston began a burial insurance business for black people that mushroomed into an empire which eventually included real estate, radio stations, funeral homes and a motel.

During the 1960s, Gaston, because of his stature in the community, became a key figure in tense negotiations between black and white leaders as Martin Luther King's campaign in Birmingham brought worldwide attention.

Gaston actually worked behind the scenes to get King out of town, until he saw firehoses tumble a little girl down the street.

Many will remember Gaston for his business acumen and how he developed other black business people; for his rules for success that sound almost quaint but still apply in today's world ("Save a part of all you earn. Money doesn't spoil. It keeps."); for his role in Birmingham's civil rights struggles; for virtually giving away his empire to employees in the 1980s; for his work with the city's Boys' Clubs of America.

Perhaps the best way to remember Gaston, though, is the way former Mayor David Vann recalled him Friday.

Gaston's greatest attribute, Vann said, was that "he proved a person in a very suppressed minority, with little formal education, could lead a very successful life and proved to our society that a good person can set important standards for the society in which he lives."

He will be missed.

TRIBUTE TO FLOYD MANN

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, Floyd H. Mann, who served in the cabinets of

three Alabama Governors and is credited with saving the life of a civil rights activist in Montgomery, died on January 12, 1996 at the age of 76.

A native of Daviston, AL, located in Tallapoosa County, he served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. As a tail gunner on a B-17 aircraft, he flew on 27 combat missions, including the first daylight raid on Berlin. He received numerous awards for his brave service, including the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Floyd Mann was a rather remarkable person and leader. He served as chief of police in Opelika, AL, from 1950 to 1958. He earned praise for his rapid clean-up of the town, which had suffered from corruption that had spread from nearby Phenix City. The Governor at the time, John Patterson, appointed Floyd director of the Alabama Department of Public Safety in 1959.

During his tenure, he made national headlines for his one-man charge into a rioting mob that was beating a bus full of civil rights freedom riders at a Montgomery bus station in 1961. He was credited as having helped save the life of a black Tennessee student and a Birmingham newsman during that painful incident. His heroic actions earned him the United Press International's Man of the Year in Alabama Award for 1961.

Later, Floyd served as director of public safety under Gov. Albert Brewer and was administrator of the State Alcoholic Beverage Control Board during Gov. Fob James' first term in 1982-83. He also worked as an assistant to University of Alabama President David Matthews, whom he followed to Washington, DC, to work with at the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

While at the University of Alabama, he was very active as the head of security and was a great public relations person for the school. He knew almost all of the alumni personally, and always greeted them with a bright smile, firm handshake, and warm conversation.

I remember being in Tuscaloosa, where the university is located, many times and going by the old Stafford Hotel early in the morning where a group of local citizens would be gathered for coffee. Floyd would always be right at the center of the group. Different people would come in and he would stay and meet with the groups. He was well liked and deeply respected.

Floyd Mann was one of those people who never failed to do what was right, even if it meant risking his personal safety. He knew the meaning of being neighborly, of treating others the way he wanted to be treated. He took a considerable degree of pride in his work, and seemed genuinely excited about the things he did and about the people around him.

I extend my sincerest condolences to Floyd's wife of 51 years, Grace, and

their entire family in the wake of this tremendous loss.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE JAMES H. TOMPKINS

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to a dear friend of mine, Judge James H. Tompkins, who passed away on January 9, 1996 at the age of 84. He had an abiding love for politics, public policy, and the law, and was known in Democratic circles all over the country since he attended so many Democratic national conventions over the years.

Jimmy Tompkins was a life-long resident of my home county, Colbert County, AL. He was a graduate of the University of Alabama and was a probate judge, district attorney, and practicing attorney in the county. He was a veteran of World War II, having served as lieutenant colonel in the Judge Advocate General's Office in Europe, Africa, India, China, and Burma.

The family of Judge Tompkins is truly one of judges. He served as probate judge of Colbert County. His father, Nathaniel Pride Tompkins, also was a Colbert County probate judge, as was his wife, Maybeth Robbins Tompkins, who succeeded Jimmy as the judge of probate. Their son, Pride Tompkins, is currently a circuit judge in Colbert County. Jimmy's brother-in-law, David "Pal" Cochrane, served as judge of probate of Tuscaloosa County.

Jimmy was an outstanding trial lawyer long before he became a probate judge. He practiced with the firm of Smith, Tompkins & Hughston, one of the leading firms in the State. Partner James E. Smith was a State senator at one time and was also the Democratic national committeeman from Alabama. Partner Harold V. Hughston served as a circuit judge of Colbert County.

He had a wonderful, pleasing personality. The smile he always had on his face was hard to forget. Jimmy Tompkins had many friends and he was a great friend to many, including me, over the years, and will be sorely missed.

I extend my sincerest condolences to Maybeth Tompkins and her entire family in the wake of their tremendous loss.

SALUTE TO RETIRING SENATOR WILLIAM S. COHEN

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to honor one of the many—and I might add that there are far too many—colleagues of mine who have announced they will be leaving us at the close of this session. Senator WILLIAM SEBASTIAN COHEN announced his retirement recently, and I would like to pay tribute to this close friend of mine.

Early on in his career in the Senate, in 1978, Time magazine called Senator COHEN "one of the GOP's brightest new stars." Well, Senator COHEN isn't ex-

actly new anymore, Mr. President, but he remains one of the brightest stars in his party. It is a shame to see him leave when he seems in many ways more brilliant than ever.

Senator COHEN became the senior Senator from Maine at a very early age, and it was a title that he carried with determination and distinction. He quickly established himself as a leader on foreign policy issues, playing a key role in shaping the foreign policy that prepared America for the gulf war and the new world order of the 1990's.

Early on in his Senate career, the temperate young Senator from Maine opposed adoption of the SALT II Treaty out of concern that it failed to take a hard enough stand against the Soviets. He was simultaneously an unyielding advocate for a strong national defense. His stance proved that one did not have to be an extreme and ardent conservative to have a patriotic belief in the importance of protecting our country's security.

He continued to serve as a distinguished leader on foreign policy issues, employing intelligence and forethought that often put him ahead of the curve. He spoke out strongly against Saddam Hussein's stockpile of chemical weapons long before August of 1990. He also advocated redesigning our Navy to employ a greater number of smaller ships, with the massive sea-lift capability that the post-cold war world requires. Our Nation's shining success in the gulf war was due to a great many factors, but any attempt to take account of all those factors must note the shifts in our Nation's defense strategy during the 1980s in which Senator COHEN played a large part.

On domestic issues, Senator COHEN has taken a careful, reasoned approach. He has refused to sit beholden to any one ideology or dogma, instead showing an unwavering commitment to the interests of his constituents. He opposed a large dam project in Maine that threatened the environment of that beautiful State, and he pushed hard to relax stringent Social Security disability requirements. Many have called Senator COHEN a persistent moderate in his own party. Well, Mr. President, if being a party moderate means recognizing the fact that, where possible, the Government should try to help out folks who need a hand, or having the courage to speak out against those who would, out of misplaced zeal and foolhardy arrogance, undermine our Constitution, then I say we need more of it.

Mr. President, Senator COHEN and I came to the Senate only 2 years apart. Over the years, I have come to count him as a close friend, and I am sure we will remain close even after he leaves here. But I will still miss him, and I will always be grateful for his loyal service to this Chamber.

U.S. DEPENDENCY ON FOREIGN OIL BOX SCORE (FIRST REPORT)

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I have been deeply troubled for most of the 23 years I've been a Member of the Senate about the United States having become more and more deeply dependent upon foreign countries—many in the highly volatile Middle East—to supply the bulk of the energy needs of the American people. I held hearings on this perilous problem when I was chairman of the Agriculture Committee a decade ago, and more recently in my capacity as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

The administration acknowledges that this is a national security concern, but, Mr. President, there obviously is a lot of fiddling while Rome burns—the administration has done precisely nothing about U.S. dependency on foreign oil.

Mr. President, Americans now are forced to rely on foreign oil for more than 50 percent of our needs. Not too long ago, 50 percent was pegged as the perilous threshold which must not be crossed. But, it was crossed, under President Clinton's watch, after U.S. blood was spilled in the Middle East in Desert Storm.

So, Mr. President, I begin today a report on this matter, a report that I will make to the Senate regularly. The American Petroleum Institute has confirmed that, for the week ending January 19, the United States imported 7,696,000 barrels of oil each day, 12 percent more than the 6,488,000 barrels imported daily 12 months ago.

Mr. President, as I say, I shall report to the Senate—and to the American people—on a regular basis regarding the increasingly dangerous U.S. dependency on foreign oil. We must not delay in seeking to solve this troubling problem.

THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, as of the close of business Thursday, January 25, the Federal debt stood at \$4,988,163,912,933.72, about \$12 billion shy of the \$5 trillion mark, which the Federal debt will exceed in a few months.

On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$18,933.50 as his or her share of that debt.

CHINA-TAIWAN RELATIONS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I rise today as the chairman of the Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs to express my concern at recent reports in the domestic and foreign media that the Government of the People's Republic of China has formulated plans for a military invasion or blockade of Taiwan.

These reports surfaced first a month or two ago in Hong Kong papers known to be sympathetic to Beijing—known,