

crimes combined. The damage done by such abuse extends directly to the most vulnerable in our society—our children, who are subject to abuse in 75 percent of the cases in which their mothers are subject to abuse.

Mr. President, I have long supported efforts to stamp out domestic violence in our communities. I once again urge my colleagues to continue on the path on which we embarked in 1994, and to ensure continued full funding for VAWA in future years. I also urge my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee to preserve the \$10 million provided for community police to combat domestic violence in this year's Commerce, State, Justice Appropriations bill. This money, expressly authorized under the 1994 crime law, is essential if we are to address the domestic violence problem at its local, root level.

While October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, no month should go by without our attention to this issue. Domestic violence is directly contrary to the community and family values we hold most dear, and its eradication should continue to be one of our most pressing national priorities.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 41ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, today I rise in honor of the 41st anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution. On October 19, the Hungarian-American community will commemorate that fall day in 1956 when Hungarians attempted to throw off the shackles of oppression and gain freedom.

In an era of Soviet domination, the brave citizens of Hungary rose against the Communist regime. Although the revolution was unsuccessful, it set a precedent that the Hungarian people wanted freedom. It was not until some 30 years later, with the reforms of the late 1980's, that Hungary greatly increased freedom. The most dramatic example occurred in May 1989 when the border between Austria and Hungary was opened. Thousands streamed across and spontaneous celebrations broke out on both sides of the border as Hungarians displayed their freedom to the world.

A few years ago on a fall day in November, the entire world watched the most imposing symbol of the cold war tumble down. The Berlin Wall had been torn asunder. Had those individuals so many years ago not stood against the tanks that rumbled through the streets of Budapest, the momentous occasion in Berlin might not have occurred. Their bravery proved that freedom cannot be suppressed.

I am proud of the Hungarian-American community's continual efforts to foster relationships of goodwill. These efforts will go far in enhancing and promoting the community's image and understanding throughout the United States and beyond. We can all be proud of these efforts. •

PAT BARR'S CRUSADE

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. I would like bring to the attention of the Senate a breast cancer survivor in Vermont who has poured herself into reaching out to others who are dealing with this devastating disease, and who has made finding a cure her lifetime crusade.

Pat Barr of Bennington, VT, is a true example of one person being able to make a difference.

It was a visit in early 1992 from Pat and several other Vermont women—grassroots organizers and survivors of breast cancer—that led to my long involvement in working with others to address the urgent need for more intensive research on breast cancer, which has taken the lives of more than 1 million women over the past 35 years.

Soon after that visit I was joined by several Members of Congress in starting a congressional campaign to help eradicate breast cancer. We began by introducing a resolution urging the Secretary of Health and Human Services to declare breast cancer a public health emergency. The resolution raised public awareness about breast cancer and sent a strong message that we needed to accelerate the investigation into the causes, treatments, and prevention of this illness.

Pat Barr's support, energy, and determination to make a difference has immeasurably helped me in efforts to elevate breast cancer research as a Federal priority, including in the annual Department of Defense budget, where we have been able to allocate \$737.5 million for breast cancer research over the past 6 years.

She also worked closely with Congressman SANDERS and with me in envisioning and crafting a new tool in the struggle to find a cure for all cancers: the National Program for Cancer Registries. Cancer registries serve as a foundation for a national, comprehensive prevention strategy. They monitor trends in the incidence of breast cancers and other cancers and in mortality rates, as well as offering a source for population-based epidemiologic research at NIH and other research institutions.

For a decade, Pat has tirelessly volunteered her time and energy to this effort. Pat is the founder of the Breast Cancer Network of Vermont. She has been a board member of the National Breast Cancer Coalition since its inception in 1991. She has served as a consumer advocate on panels at the National Cancer Institute, the Centers for Disease Control, and the Army Breast Cancer Research Program.

Earlier this year, Vermonters honored Pat by dedicating the annual Vermont Race for the Cure in her honor.

A recent editorial in the Bennington Banner said it best: "Pat Barr is a hero worth honoring."

I ask that the text of the editorial be printed in the RECORD.

The editorial follows:

PAT BARR IS A HERO WORTH HONORING

You can make a difference. One local woman has shown the way. Pat Barr of Shaftsbury has taken her experience with the disease of breast cancer and turned it into a crusade for better research with impacts from Bennington to Washington, D.C.

And because of that personal achievement, the Annual Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Vermont Race for the Cure was dedicated this year to Barr. The Sunday race is designed to raise funds for breast cancer research, with 75 percent of the money staying in Vermont.

Barr's own experience with breast cancer began in 1987, when she was diagnosed. It has reoccurred since then, but despite that Barr has not turned from her decade of tireless work.

Barr founded the Breast Cancer Network, a Vermont advocacy and service organization based in Bennington and also serving New York and Massachusetts. The network helps area women get tests, information and services.

She joined Vermont's U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy and U.S. Rep. Bernard Sanders in developing the National Cancer Registry. She worked with Leahy in his fight to secure an additional \$300 million toward breast cancer research in 1992.

Her efforts eventually took her to Washington with 2.6 million signatures to convince President Clinton to approve a national action plan to fight breast cancer.

Barr, a mother, attorney and businesswoman, has also been active in the Vermont Civil Liberties Union and the Vermont Bar Association and was a member of the State Board of Education.

Barr has kept her faith—she is a member of the Congregation Beth El in Bennington and was instrumental in its resurgence.

She is a role model and a credit to this community.

Barr is a local hero who cannot be honored enough for her work for Vermont women. •

THE TENNESSEE VALLEY

AUTHORITY MODERNIZATION ACT

• Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, when the Tennessee Valley Authority formed in 1933, the region suffered under the weight of economic despair and the unforgiving forces of nature. The great Depression and rural isolation served to keep much of the valley's population in poverty and without some of the basic tools to sustain even a marginal existence. The mighty Tennessee River and its tributaries, which have sustained life and commerce along their banks since prehistory, wreaked havoc on life and property as the unpredictable and uncontrollable floods rushed from the slopes of the southern Appalachians and Cumberland Plateau. Flooding and poor farming practices were of nearly epidemic proportions as loss of topsoil and low crop yields reached catastrophic levels. Access to electricity was both expensive and limited to only a few metropolitan areas, thus serving to even further widen the gap between the Tennessee Valley and the rest of the country as the already hamstrung national economy passed the region by.

President Roosevelt designed the Tennessee Valley Authority as a unique Federal agency whose mission was defined by providing a range of essential services to the entire region

rather than fulfilling a single, specific function nationwide. TVA undertook many duties that other Federal agencies were actively pursuing in other parts of the country, just as it does today, but TVA also undertook services which addressed the economic and natural problems unique to the Tennessee River watershed. TVA's charter was very broad and designed to give the agency leeway to address the region's interrelated needs of flood control, improved farming methods and conservation, rural electrification, and economic development as a single co-ordinating and executing body.

TVA undertook ambitious conservation, economic development, flood control, and electrification projects. The Tennessee River was tamed and became more readily navigable; topsoil loss and declining agricultural productivity had been stopped or even reversed; isolated families received electricity in their homes and workplaces; and the economy was expanding. By the 1950's the Nation's economy was strong and growing, and the economic gap between the Tennessee Valley region and the Nation as a whole was narrowing. By the 1980's, that gap no longer existed.

In a region that boasted a strong independent tradition and a general skepticism about the benefits of the Federal Government, the TVA had become viewed as more than just a benevolent hand providing economic opportunity and security to the depressed region, it became an integral part of the region's identity. In the minds of Tennesseans, TVA was credited with bringing the region out of poverty, depression, and existence at the mercy of nature.

Since its inception, TVA's mission has evolved, and the organization today is very different than in 1933. In 1959 the TVA Act was amended to fully separate the U.S. Treasury from the rapidly expanding TVA power program, which had seen an initial round of growth associated with the national security activities in Oak Ridge during the Second World War, but had continued to expand its size and revenues for regional industrial and residential consumption. TVA power would no longer rely on the support of taxpayers nationwide, but was thereafter dependent on the ratepayers and lenders to provide all operation expenses. TVA's power program far eclipsed the other original missions of conservation, flood control, and navigation from which had been separated. Today, TVA is one of the largest electric utilities in the world, with a revenue stream in excess of \$5 billion per year.

That's an impressive growth, but it didn't come without associated problems—some of them very serious. In the 1960's and 1970's, TVA began an ambitious nuclear powerplant construction program, borrowing heavily from public and private sources. Like other utilities that invested in nuclear power, TVA overextended itself badly as the costs of construction and fueling

the plants rose dramatically and the regulatory bar moved ever higher. TVA continued to go further into debt, and today its liability now exceeds a truly staggering \$27 billion.

TVA's benevolent role in the life of the region has also come into question. Decisions and behavior that many Tennesseans are now viewing as simply an extension of a grossly overgrown Federal bureaucracy in general, and a betrayal of the original benevolent mission envisioned for TVA in the formative act, served to end an era of trust between ratepayers and TVA. More worrisome, though, is that the errors in strategy and judgment have put the health, liability, and even the existence of TVA in jeopardy.

At its root, I believe, is the fact that TVA was allowed to fundamentally change its mission and to begin operating as a self-financing electric utility without the necessary structural changes. While TVA power grew rapidly as consequence, it still maintained the management and corporate structure of its original Depression-era mission of conservation, flood control, navigation, and economic development.

Yesterday, I introduced legislation to address those problems, and to make changes in the decisionmaking body of TVA that will more closely reflect its needs and the demands of the ratepayers and taxpayers. These are changes which, in truth, should have been incorporated into the TVA Act the day TVA became a self-financing corporation in 1959.

Under my TVA Modernization Act, the board of directors will grow from three full-time members to nine part-time members, and each member must have corporate management or a strong strategic decisionmaking background. My bill also shortens the members' terms from the current 9 years to staggered 5-year terms.

The expanded board would establish long-range goals and policies for TVA, as well as approve the annual budget and conduct public hearings on policies that have a major effect on ratepayers in the valley. The board will also determine electricity rates and ensure that independent audits of the corporation's management are conducted.

But unlike the current board, the expanded board will not be involved in the day-to-day management of TVA. Instead, it will appoint an independent chief executive officer to manage the corporation—much like businesses of its size throughout the country have done for decades.

While the President will retain the sole authority to appoint new board members, my bill will ensure that candidates have the business background necessary to take this \$6 billion corporation into the 21st century and a new era of deregulation. By requiring that no more than five members come from a single party affiliation, it will also help ensure that the board never becomes politicized. Together with an independent CEO, we can help avoid

the type of decisions and missteps that have saddled TVA with more than \$27 billion in debt over the years.

Once enacted, the bill would take effect on May 18, 1999—exactly 66 years after the original TVA Act took effect. Current board members whose terms don't expire until after 1999 may remain on the board as part-time members, along with the President's seven new appointees. Part-time board members will receive an annual stipend and per diem pay for their services, the total of which will not exceed \$35,000 per year. And instead of having a Presidential designee chairman of the board, members will elect their chairman.

TVA has experienced enormous growth over the years, from a Depression-era conservation and public works program to a multibillion-dollar electric utility. It's time we give TVA and ratepayers in the valley a management structure that's more responsive and stable and that can help this important agency face the upcoming dramatic changes in the electric utilities industry as effectively and efficiently as possible.●

EXPLANATION OF VOTES ON THE AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to explain my final vote on the fiscal year 1998 appropriations bill. The last amendment to this legislation was a second attempt by Senator HARKIN to fully fund FDA efforts to prevent underage smoking. Specifically, the amendment sought to fully fund a program which was established to punish establishments that sell tobacco to individuals under 18 years of age.

I support efforts to curb underage smoking. Unfortunately, I was forced to vote against Senator HARKIN's first attempt to fund this program because the amendment's offset would have imposed a new, \$34 million tax. The majority of Senators shared my concerns and the amendment failed by a 52 to 48 margin. In recognition of that shortfall, the amendment which Senator Harkin reintroduced identified a new, noncontroversial offset from a minor USDA program. In light of this new funding source, I was pleased to vote in support of the Harkin amendment. The motion to table the Harkin amendment subsequently failed by a 28 to 70 margin and the amendment was agreed to.

It is my hope, Mr. President, that the conferees can move quickly to resolve the differences between the House and Senate bills and allow us to vote on the conference report in the coming weeks.●

SOJOURNER TRUTH

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Sojourner Truth, a leader in the abolitionist movement and a ground breaking speaker on behalf of equality for women. The 200th