

begin the process of protecting our Nation's children from an industry that kills 410,000 Americans each year. And we can't let the tobacco lobby undercut this effort.

The rule that goes into effect today would bar the sale of cigarettes to persons under the age of 18. Additionally, in order to ensure that no children slip through the cracks, stores would be required to check the identification of any individual who appears to be 26 or younger. This Federal rule is necessary because recent studies have shown that kids are able to buy cigarettes over the counter 67 percent of the time.

I have seen evidence of this problem firsthand. I went along on a sting operation in my home State in which I witnessed children purchase cigarettes with ease. It was very disturbing, but typical.

Mr. President, the rule that goes into effect today is a historic first step toward eradicating the epidemic of children's smoking plaguing our Nation. David Kessler, the outgoing Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration has called this problem a pediatric disease and he is right. Of the 3,000 kids who start smoking every day, 1,000 will die of smoking-related illness.

So, Mr. President, I again commend the administration for their battle against teen smoking. And I pledge here and now that if anyone tries to undermine that effort, I will fight it every step of the way.

After all, we're talking about saving lives here. The lives of our children and grandchildren. And all of us have a responsibility to stand up to the tobacco lobby, and do the right thing.●

TRIBUTE TO MEGAN CHAMBERLAIN ON BEING HONORED WITH THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Megan Chamberlain for receiving the Girl Scout Gold Award by the Swift Water Girl Scout Council in Manchester, NH.

Megan is a member of Girl Scout Troop No. 1487 and has diligently served her community and the people of Manchester. She started working toward the Girl Scout Gold Award in 1995. Megan had to earn four interest project patches, which are the Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, the Senior Girl Scout Challenge and design and implement a Girl Scout Gold Award Project. She completed her project in the areas of community service and environmental awareness.

Megan received outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. The Swift Water Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest attainable rank for a young woman between the age of 14-17. Megan has every reason to be proud of this recognition.

Megan promotes citizenship, character-building, and community service among the girls of our country. She also provides a respectable, solid role model for the youth of our Nation and teaches commitment, dedication and hard work. As a member of the Swift Water Girl Scout Troop, Megan learned valuable skills that will serve her for a lifetime.

I am proud to honor Megan for her outstanding accomplishments and congratulate her on this truly deserved award.●

R&D TAX CREDIT

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I believe that the Congress must make permanent the research and development [R&D] tax credit. The R&D credit has proven to be critical to the United States' economic growth and international competitiveness. The credit has led to many successes in U.S. scientific research and innovation, such as extraordinary accomplishments in pure mathematics; unprecedented growth in the power and availability of information technology; and rapid progress in finding cures for life threatening diseases such as AIDS, cancer, and multiple sclerosis.

For my State of North Dakota, the new information technologies mean that information industries are creating thousands of jobs. Despite these accomplishments, and the obvious long-term benefits, the R&D credit continuously faces challenges to its existence. Because the R&D credit has never been made permanent, it has had to be extended seven times by Congress since its inception. This transitory treatment of the R&D credit has forced R&D companies to be more hesitant in planning future research projects. Unfortunately Mr. President, this on-again off-again process also led to an unnecessary and disturbing circumstance in 1996. For the first time in the history of its consecutive extensions, last year the R&D credit was not extended retroactively, leaving a gap in the law from July 1, 1995 through July 1, 1996. The gap has, and will continue to, adversely affect our country's R&D efforts. The gap has already contributed to decreased investment in R&D and less planning for future R&D projects by many companies. Currently, the R&D credit is due to expire on May 31, 1997.

Mr. President, we must act now to permanently extend the R&D credit and send the right signal to our Nation's innovators. Failure to act will not only jeopardize our Nation's research efforts, but it will also threaten the United States's world leadership in R&D. Our Nation's growth in R&D investment over the past decade has already been slow compared to Japan, Germany, Italy, and France. Budget realities are forcing the United States to further curtail discretionary spending for basic research. In fact, United States non-defense R&D investment has been flat at 1.9 percent of GDP

after peaking at 2.0 percent in 1985, while Japan's has continued to grow to 3.0 percent. Although Germany's R&D commitment has been fairly stable at 2.7 percent since 1987, it is significantly higher than in the United States. One of the main reasons the United States lags behind these countries in R&D investment is because these countries offer their innovators generous tax incentives for R&D, including both deductibility of current expenses and special tax credits. Future economic challenges to the United States are also likely to come from developing countries in Asia as they boost R&D investment to catch up to the rest of the world.

New realities are being shaped by rapidly growing international R&D capabilities. These new R&D capabilities have created both global options as well as competitive pressures whose dimension are barely understood. Unless Congress decides to adapt to these realities and to enact a permanent R&D credit, the United States' leadership in the global arena may plummet. Such a result will not only adversely impact the United States internationally, but at home as well in lost jobs, diminished economic growth and a decreased standard of living.

As we prepare for the 21st century, we must remain committed to providing an environment that fosters technological investment, scientific exploration, and global competitiveness. Future economic growth and the prosperity of all Americans depends on continued R&D. America's well being depends on it. Let's remove the uncertainty surrounding the R&D credit's extension once and for all, and extend the credit permanently.●

STAND DOWN OF A-6E INTRUDER

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I am proud today to honor the retirement of the Navy's A-6E Intruder. Attack Squadron 196 at Whidbey Naval Air Station in my home State and Attack Squadron 75 in Virginia Beach will stand down the final two Intruder squadrons in simultaneous ceremonies today.

As the backbone of carrier attack aviation for the past 36 years, the A-6E Intruder stood ready to face the enemy in any weather, day or night. The A-6 put teeth in the term "carrier forward presence." It saw combat in Vietnam, Lebanon, Libya, in the waters of the Arabian Gulf and over the shores of Kuwait and Iraq. It delivered iron bombs, laser guided bombs, and every air-to-ground missile available in the Navy inventory for the past three decades. The A-6E Intruder was the hardest working plane on the flight deck.

The pilots and bombardier/navigators who flew the Intruder had great affection and respect for the aircraft and its ability to withstand heavy enemy fire. They too should be honored for their courage and dedication to this great nation. They will truly miss the A-6.

We also honor the thousands of Intruder maintainers, both past and present, who kept the A-6E flying day and night, at sea and ashore. The excellent record of the Intruder is a testament to the hard work of these men and women.

Finally, let us remember the Intruder crews who never returned. In service to our Nation, they paid the ultimate price flying this machine that they loved. We must never forget them. From this day on, the United States Navy must continue to carry on the spirit of Intruder attack.

On a personal basis, my son-in-law, Joe Nortz, was an A-6 bombardier/navigator during most of his 20-year Navy career. He is attending the stand down ceremony at NAS Whidbey as a great admirer of a great aircraft.●

COMMEMORATION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONCORD COLLEGE

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, on February 28, 1872, the West Virginia State Legislature passed a proposal to create the Concord State Normal School. Now, 125 years later, Concord College, as it is commonly referred to, educates some 2,400 students in a wide range of programs. I wanted to take this opportunity to share with my colleagues my pride in this remarkable institution that celebrates its 125th year of bringing southern West Virginia's best and brightest together.

The enabling legislation that created Concord provided no State funds for the school. So the townspeople raised \$1,700 by subscription to erect the first building on land donated by Mr. William Harvey Martin. On May 10, 1875, 70 students attended classes that first session in a rough frame building. In 1885, under the leadership of principal Capt. James Harvey French, the school received \$5,000 in State funds to build a new brick building to recognize the service given the State by the school. That new building was completed in 1887, and the first dormitory was built in 1891, on North State Street. In 1896, the town in which the college is located changed its name to Athens in recognition of Concord's role as a crucial and influential center of education for southern West Virginia.

In November 1910, the downtown facilities were destroyed by fire. The faculty and students were resilient, as typical West Virginians are, and they began holding classes the next day in other locations about town. The current campus site on Vermillion Street in Athens was bought by the town in early 1911. The campus endured a second and even more damaging fire in 1912, but Concord rebounded stronger than ever.

On July 1, 1919, Concord gained its independence from the State Normal School in Huntington. The title of principal of the institution was changed to president. The school awarded its first baccalaureate degree

to three graduates in June 1923. Eight years later the school changed its name to the Concord State Teachers' College. Under the direction of President Joseph Franklin Marsh, Sr., the named changed again in 1943, to the current Concord College.

President Joseph F. Marsh, Jr., one of the longest serving presidents, oversaw the construction of the Alexander Fine Arts Center, Centennial Hall, three residence halls, the faculty housing units at Witherspoon Park, and the maintenance building. Years later, in the administration of President Meredith N. Freeman, enrollment grew and several new academic programs were established. And as of 1991, under the direction of current president, Jerry Beasley, Concord became one of the first institutions in the Nation to join the prestigious Bonner Scholars Program. The Bonner Program rewards students who are actively involved in public service by helping to finance their college education.

This program, in particular, is very dear to me. In 1964, I moved to West Virginia as a VISTA volunteer. To see that our young people want to be involved in community service warms my heart and gives me hope for the future.

In recognition of the legislative act founding Concord State Normal School, an anniversary convocation has been designated for today in Athens.

Mr. President, Concord College is an enormously important part of West Virginia higher education, and continues to be an institution West Virginia residents are proud of. The 125th anniversary convocation taking place today is a program commemorating the college's beginning—and its future. I have no doubt the school's future will continue to be a bright one.●

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE BALD ON BEING NAMED THE ROCHESTER BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to commend George Bald, the economic development director for the Pease Development Authority and a Rochester community leader, on being named the Rochester Business Leader of the Year. I congratulate him for his record of excellence in business and community development.

George Bald's record of achievement is certainly worthy of this outstanding honor. In 1978, he was elected mayor of Somersworth where he served until 1984. He had a bold plan for the Rochester area which spearheaded the development of a new municipally owned industrial park while utilizing an existing park. George's next endeavor was as head of the newly established economic development department where he became known for exceptional economic success. Through his leadership, Rochester was effectively promoted as

an attractive business location. He also strengthened relations with existing industries. Thanks to George's efforts, Rochester became the corporate headquarters of Cabletron Systems and during his tenure thousands of new jobs have been created.

George also helped establish a solid foundation on which the city of Rochester will continue to grow. From 1991 to 1993, he became city manager and in 1994, George was entrusted the position of economic development director for the Pease Development Authority. He served on the Industrial Affairs Council at the Chamber of Commerce and the Governmental Affairs Committee.

His outstanding community support is demonstrated in his participation with the Heritage Trust and his service on several boards of directors such as the Frisbie Memorial Hospital, the Rochester Visiting Nurses Association, the Gafney Home and the Somersworth Housing Authority. George is a former vice president of the New Hampshire Association of Industrial Agents, a member of the American Economic Development Council and a director of the Northeast Industrial Developers Association. Equally important, his friends know him for his integrity and dedication and as a man who is willing to go the extra mile to help his community.

I wish to congratulate George for his recognition as Rochester's Business Leader of the Year, and I am proud to represent George in the U.S. Senate. He has certainly earned this praise from the business community he has sought to help over the years. Congratulations George.●

VONNIE AND DALE BROWN

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, the great State of North Dakota has brought forth many sons and daughters who have made tremendous contributions to our Nation and our world. Throughout its history, our State has given rise to individuals of great character, strong perseverance, and expansive vision. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing two such individuals of whom North Dakota is very proud: Vonnie and Dale Brown.

A native of Columbus, ND, Vonnie Ness was the daughter of Martha and Clifford Ness and the granddaughter of Norwegian homesteaders, who came to the United States in the 1800's to settle in North Dakota. Possessed with both a great love and talent for dance, Vonnie graduated with a degree from Minot State University. When she and Dale married and later moved to Baton Rouge, LA, she combined a career as an instructor at Louisiana State University with the responsibilities of full-time motherhood to their daughter, Robyn. For many years, Vonnie taught a variety of dance courses at LSU where she was a much-loved and highly popular instructor. Since leaving LSU, she has continued her internationally acclaimed research in ethnic and folk