

anniversary. Their service to this country is immeasurable as is our gratitude to all our Air Force service men and women. A big thanks also goes to all those involved with Saturday's event. I look forward to going back next year and seeing the festival officials, the city, the armed services, and the National Guard try and top this year's sensational performance.

#### FAMILY IMMIGRATION, SMALL BUSINESS, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN AMERICA

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, over the past 30 years, family immigration has contributed to a virtual renaissance of small business culture in the United States, according to Prof. Jimmy M. Sanders of the University of South Carolina, a witness at a recent hearing of the Senate Immigration Subcommittee. His examination of census data and field research shows that the family is an institution that embodies an important form of social capital that immigrants draw on and that the common self-interests of family members provide financial and labor resources crucial to establishing successful enterprises.

At the hearing we heard testimony from four immigrant entrepreneurs who were sponsored by family members and whose life experiences supported Professor Sanders' findings:

Ilija Letica, an immigrant born in the former Yugoslavia, started Letica Corp. as a family business, and still employs several family members. Today, the manufacturer of plastic and paper packaging products headquartered in Rochester, MI, employs 1,800 people in 10 other States as well—Delaware, Oklahoma, Iowa, Alabama, Nevada, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Tennessee, and Georgia. His daughter Mara Letica testified that her father witnessed the effects of communism: No food, no freedom, no opportunity, and ultimately immigrated to America so he could fulfill his entrepreneurial dreams.

Adrian Gaspar, born in Portugal, employs more than 20 people in Massachusetts at his firm Adrian A. Gaspar and Co., LLP. His company provides tax services to 400 small companies and over 1,400 individuals. He is proud that his office sits in the same building where his mother sewed clothes in the hope that she could make a better future for her son.

Perhaps the most inspiring testimony came from Ovidiu Colea, founder of Colbar Art, Inc., which manufactures sculptures and art reproductions in New York. He dreamed of seeing the Statue of Liberty with his own eyes, when an armed guard captured him

trying to escape to America. Communist authorities imprisoned him for 5 years in a Romanian labor camp. After 15 more years of wait, he finally made it to America, drove a cab, swept floors, and saved his money to buy a factory, which today is the country's largest producer of replicas of the Statue of Liberty.

Finally, we heard from John Tu, president of Fountain Valley, CA-based Kingston Technology, a leading manufacturer of computer memory products for personal computers. Mr. Tu, born in China, immigrated to America after being sponsored by his sister. He and fellow immigrant David Sun employ over 500 people and built the company, started as a family based business operating out of a garage, into a company they sold last year for \$1 billion. Both Mr. Tu and Mr. Sun took the \$1 billion in profits from the sale of the company and gave \$100 million to their employees, most of them native born, resulting in bonuses ranging from \$100,000 to \$300,000 per employee. "Only in America," Mr. Tu testified, "could this happen."

Gary MacDonald, a native born employee of Kingston Technology, pointedly noted in his testimony that four of the five high-growth companies that he has worked for in his career were started by immigrant entrepreneurs.

Overall, immigrants are approximately 10 to 20 percent more likely than the native born to start a new business in this country, and more than 1 in 10 legal immigrants own their own businesses. In addition, in 1995, 12 percent of the Inc. 500—a compilation of the fastest growing corporations in America—were companies started by immigrants. It is important to have a discussion about both what is right and wrong with different aspects of U.S. immigration policy. But any balanced debate on legal immigration must take into account the economic and social contributions made by the 1 in 10 legal immigrants who own small and large businesses in this country.

I ask unanimous consent that Mr. Colea's testimony be printed in the RECORD.

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

TESTIMONY OF OVIDIU COLEA, PRESIDENT, COLBAR ART INCORPORATED—BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, U.S. SENATE—APRIL 15, 1997

Good morning Senator ABRAHAM and subcommittee members, good morning ladies and gentlemen. My name is Ovidiu Colea, I am the founder and the president of Colbar Art Inc., manufacturer of sculptures and art reproductions, located on Long Island City, in New York State. It is a great pleasure and honor for me to be invited here. With your

permission, I would like to take some time to testify through my own experience about the positive side and the benefits of the legal immigration in the United States. I would like your permission to use some parts of my life story to better understand why the liberty and freedom from this country can change some lives forever and bring many benefits to this country.

I was born in Bucharest, Romania in 1939, during the beginning of World War II in Europe. That war changed for a long time the lives of people from many countries. After the war ended in 1945, when the paranoia communists came to power in many countries, many people left their home countries, but many could not. One of those people was my own father. When I grew older, I grew up with that missing spirit of liberty and freedom. I spent time together with my father night after night and year after year enjoying the only liberty. For 30 minutes each night, we got together in the house with the lights turned off and listening to our only hope, two radio stations, Voice of America and Free Europe. This was the only freedom we could afford.

When I was 18, I took my way to liberty, hoping to reach my dream. I decided to leave the country in order to come to America. In the summer of 1958, I decided to cross the border to swim over the Danube River on the night. I hid myself in the corn fields for many hours near the river, waiting for the night. When I felt the cold metal of the guard's gun pointing on my head, on that moment, my way to freedom and liberty was closed. I was arrested, then sent to a prison labor camp for the next 5 years. What was my crime? I wanted to be free, to have liberty and to reach America. Five years of starvation, physical punishment, long hours of labor in hot and cold weather, sleeping on the floor, eating the roots of the plants and digging for growing seeds in the soil and being punished for trying to learn a foreign language. Nothing of this changed my determination of trying to come to America. After two decades, I came to America with a visa. When I came to the United States, I was penniless, but this country gave me hope.

My first job in 1978 was working in a casting factory, making \$3.00 an hour. In the night, which was my second job, I drove a taxi in New York City. I also had a third job, which I worked during the weekends for over 3 years. I got married and had two children. After 9 months working for a company, I was laid off. After 1 week of unemployment, I opened a partnership company, Barrett-Colea.

In 1982, my company won a contract from AT&T for an Olympic project to make 65,000 replicas for the Olympic commemorative in Los Angeles, the largest sculpture reproduction ever produced in the United States of America. The company created many jobs for this project. In 1985, my company applied for and won a license from the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation. We gained the right to use the symbol of the Statue of Liberty on our product. The replicas of my company's product, which are made only in the United States, were presented to President Reagan, who sent us a beautiful letter of recognition of our effort on May 12, 1986.

Many jobs were created and through their hard work, the company was able to par-

ticipate on the national effort to restore the Statue of Liberty, our Nation's most precious symbol of liberty and freedom. Our replicas are used by the INS and other institutions around the United States of America. The company made a new advancement in the art field, developing new reproduction methods using acrylic. This technology is only available in the United States, which gave our country the advantage in the art field. In 1986, I applied for and obtained a patent on a new technique of embodiment for acrylic sculptures. In 1988, my new company, Colbar Art Inc., consisted of 5 employees developed new technique and reproduction methods.

In 1989, my new company, Colbar Art Inc., began a project with the Buddhist Association of America in Carmel, NY, a project to build the biggest statue of the Buddha in the United States of America, which will stand 37 feet high. This project created new jobs for the company, the largest of its type in the United States. The project took 3 years to complete. At present through my company's efforts, the jobs created over the time increased year after year. At the present time, the company employs more than 30 people, among them, many are immigrants.

At present, my company is the largest manufacturer of Statue of Liberty replicas in the United States and a large number of my employees are working to preserve the beauty of our symbol of freedom. At the same time, the company is manufacturing the best high quality limited edition reproduction of acrylic sculptures, which are made only in our company.

A new challenge faces American companies and the challenge comes from the emerging economic power with low labor costs. In order to be more competitive in this market, American companies must find people to employ on a priority basis which mean American companies must be able to employ the right person at the right time. Any delay could greatly affect the success or failure of the company. Despite the low labor costs on other countries, I chose to keep the jobs in my country, America, giving back something that she gave to me. I thank my country for the opportunity that was given to me. American companies must do everything possible to make jobs available primarily for our people first.

Mr. Chairman and subcommittee members, I thank you very much for your time and I hope my experience will be seen as a positive contribution of one immigrant who loves this country.

#### 13TH ANNUAL TUFTONIA'S WEEK CELEBRATION AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, this week marks the 13th annual observance of Tuftonia's Week by Tufts University in Medford, MA, in which many Tufts alumni from around the world return to honor their outstanding university. This celebration has special meaning for me. My daughter, Kara, is a graduate of Tufts, and I've worked closely with many scholars at Tufts for many years on a wide variety of public policy issues. I am proud to count myself as a member of the Tufts family.

For the second year in a row, the theme of Tuftonia's Week is community service. Participants will honor the large number of Tufts graduates

across the country who are volunteering in their communities and helping to improve the lives of others in their neighborhoods through the TuftServe Program. Last year, Tufts alumni contributed more than 218,000 volunteer hours.

Tufts deserves great credit for its leadership among the Nation's universities in emphasizing service learning and providing opportunities for students to combine community service with their academic curriculum. Programs like TuftServe are the types of service initiatives that will be highlighted at the President's Summit for America's Future, beginning next Sunday, April 27. The summit will reaffirm our national commitment to community service. Every American should have the opportunity to participate in projects that help others and improve their community.

I congratulate Tufts for giving their students that opportunity. I am honored to take this opportunity to commend Tufts' President, John DiBiaggio, and the many others in the Tufts community for their impressive accomplishments in enhancing education and service.

#### LEGISLATION TO RESTORE ELIGIBILITY OF LEGAL IMMIGRANTS FOR SSI AND FOOD STAMPS

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, last year, the President and Congress enacted welfare legislation which I said was welfare repeal, not welfare reform. At that time, researchers at the Urban Institute estimated 2.6 million people would fall below the poverty line because of the legislation, 1.1 million of them children. The same researchers projected that 3.5 million children would be dropped from the rolls in 2001 because of the time limits contained in the legislation.

During the debate last year, there was little attention given to the provisions concerning the eligibility of legal immigrants for benefits. These immigrants have come to America legally. They pay taxes and serve in our military. Yet the new law eliminates the eligibility of these immigrants—should misfortune strike them—for SSI and food stamps, and it severely limits their eligibility for TANF and Medicaid. Many legal immigrants affected by these restrictions are elderly. In my own State of New York, they might be frail disabled survivors of the Holocaust, or refugees from the former Soviet Union who are about to lose their only means of support. This situation has come to our attention now because it is among the first parts of the bill to be implemented.

The President has proposed restoring eligibility for SSI to those legal immigrants who become disabled after entering this country. He has also proposed permitting refugees and asylees additional time before becoming sub-

ject to the various restrictions, in light of the difficult circumstances under which they arrive on our shores. I support these proposals, although I regret that enactment of the welfare repeal law has made this new legislation necessary.

I am pleased to join with colleagues of both parties in introducing legislation to continue SSI and food stamp benefits to those legal immigrants already receiving them and to permanently exempt refugees and asylees from the eligibility restrictions. This is a good first step in addressing the immediate and pressing needs of these immigrants, and I urge our fellow Senators to join us in this effort. It represents the beginning of a bipartisan discussion on how to address this issue, and I commend the legislation to the Senate.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 7, 1997, the Secretary of the Senate on April 18, 1997, received a message from the President of the United States submitting a withdrawal and a nomination which was referred to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

The nomination received on April 18, 1997, is shown in today's RECORD at the end of the Senate proceedings.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 7, 1997, the Secretary of the Senate, on April 18, 1997, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1003. An act to clarify Federal law with respect to restricting the use of Federal funds in support of assisted suicide.