

to be an inspiration to so many people, including an organization from my home State of Michigan. The members of the Michigan FDR Committee used their time and talents to raise money to send a group of students and senior citizens from Michigan to Washington for the dedication of the Roosevelt Memorial.

The officers of the Michigan FDR Memorial Committee who are leading this delegation are Gerald T. Harris, Kathleen Jansen, Ken Pittaway, Meena Narula, Susan Purdy, Colleen Harris, Dennis Nauss, Cherie Maleyko, Jean Kearney and Charlie Brown. Guests of the committee are Heather Avery, Erik Bardram, Dan Browning, Jennifer Burss, Becki Cadarette, Mrs. D. Cadarette, Jill Carouso, Mary Jane Condon, Joe Cook, Sherrie Goble, Edna Heck, Paul Kuplicki, Jr., Heather Lotter, Rocco Marcola, Shona Narula, Vijay Narula, Deon Pearson, Stephen Rafter, Nehal Raval, Linda Shariak, Mario Smith, Barb Strojny and Cynthia Vlachos.

The presence of the Michigan FDR Memorial Committee delegation at the dedication ceremonies for the memorial is most welcome, and I encourage our colleagues to join me in welcoming them to Washington. •

EDITH PRATT "PATTY" MASTERTSON

• Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I rise today to note the passing of Edith Pratt "Patty" Masterson. She died Sunday, April 20, 1997, at the age of 75.

Ms. Masterson was very active in Virginia politics, and her contributions to Virginia were noted in the Virginia Pilot newspaper in Norfolk. I ask that a February 16, 1997, article from the Virginia Pilot be included in the RECORD.

As the article indicates, for the past 6 years Ms. Masterson was active in public life as the chief lobbyist for Virginians Against Handgun Violence. Her most prominent victory with that organization was the passage of the one gun per month law in Virginia in 1992. Gun violence is a scourge that threatens the lives of our young people, and simply for her efforts to end gun violence, Ms. Masterson deserved recognition and high praise.

But Ms. Masterson's lengthy and remarkable public life, which began more than half a century ago, also deserves recognition. In the 1940's Ms. Masterson became the first woman to argue a case before the South Carolina Supreme Court, and she won her case. She also raised five children and later she went on to teach for 35 years. John Casteen, now the president of the University of Virginia, stated Ms. Masterson was the "best teacher I've ever seen." Ms. Masterson's participation in a variety of civic and educational organizations continued during her last years, and in 1991 she was named Hampton Roads Pioneer Woman of the Year.

Mr. President, I commend to this body and the American people the life and public service of Ms. Edith Pratt Masterson.

The article follows:

[From the Virginian-Pilot and the Ledger-Star, Feb. 16, 1997.]

PATTY MASTERTSON: A VIRGINIA-MADE
ACTIVIST

(By Margaret Edds)

The volume is thick as a phone book and appropriately covered in red. "Only in Virginia—1996," the title reads, calling to mind the state's proud promotional slogan, "Made in Virginia."

But the handiwork recorded in this fresh-off-the-copying-machine document is no cause for civic pride. The 200-page compilation is of 1996 Virginia newspaper clippings that feature guns and bloodshed. The sampling of Virginia murders, woundings, accidents and suicides is representative but incomplete.

Pages contain up to five clippings each, gathered by volunteers across the state. Virginians Against Handgun Violence oversaw the project. The League of Women Voters helped. The Center to Prevent Handgun Violence in Washington contributed. It is a chilling work.

"When it was clear last year that we were going to have absolutely nothing (in terms of gun-control legislation), it occurred to me that if you could clip all the events involving bloodshed by firearms, not the burglaries or the robberies, it might make an impression," said Patty Masterson, a retired Norfolk Academy English teacher who conceived the volume and last week helped distribute it around Capitol Square.

She was right. The page-after-page drumbeat of tragedy is first startling, then compelling, then exhausting. One of the women who provided clippings from the Richmond area recently quit. It was too dispiriting an exercise, she said.

This is the sixth winter since Masterson, then newly retired from the classroom, adopted the cause of handgun control and moved from Virginia Beach to a Richmond hotel room for a two-month vigil. As a volunteer lobbyist for Virginians Against Handgun Violence, she has become a fixture in the legislative halls, brightening committee rooms with her white hair, knit sweaters and welcoming smile.

In this role, Masterson has brought to bear all the skills that have sustained her through an adventurous 74 years—creativity, passion, good sense. The combination helped make her one of the first female attorneys in South Carolina, a Navy wife and enthusiastic mother of five, a popular teacher for 35 years and the force behind a series of seminars on how children learn.

But those characteristics have yet to penetrate the mass consciousness in the Virginia General Assembly. Masterson's most thrilling moments in Richmond were among her first. In the 1992 session, with then-Gov. L. Douglas Wilder leading the charge, lawmakers limited over-the-counter handgun sales to one per person per month.

"We did nothing to create it," Masterson said recently of the law, "but we had the fun of surfing in with it." Since then, Masterson and her gun-control colleagues have learned both the importance of having a governor in your corner and the frustration of going up against a lobby as entrenched as the National Rifle Association. Last year, all of the major legislation they supported died. This year, two of the three bills Masterson cared most about were not even heard in committee.

Her response, like a schoolmarm with a class of sluggards, has been to search for new

ways to make lawmakers sit up and take notice. "Only in Virginia" is one result. Masterson believes anyone who takes time to peruse its headlines—"Father Shot on Way Home," "Boy, 5, Shoots Mother With Father's Rifle," "My Only Son," Mother says after Slaying,"—must be moved to act.

Her commitment does not blind her to the limitations of gun control. "Even if the sale of handguns to civilians were stopped here and now, we'd still have problems because of the millions of handguns out there," Masterson acknowledged. But she also recognizes the consequences of inaction. "It can only get worse if we do nothing."

Not surprisingly, the shootings that Masterson most deplors are those involving domestic violence and children who accidentally set off guns. Such deaths or woundings "seem so unnecessary," she said. "To me, they are products of a proliferation of handguns."

At a minimum, she believes, gun sales should be limited to storefront transactions or—with private sales—to law-enforcement offices; purchasers should be required to take gun-safety courses, and trigger-locks should be required on guns.

As a student of human development, she also believes that society should do much more to guard against the eruption of violence. Gun-control advocates are "dealing with the tippity, tippity, tip of the iceberg," she said. Those working with preschool education and domestic relationships are closer to the core of the problem.

Legislative victories or no, what keeps her going is "a passion for living, for learning, learning, learning," she said. It's an attitude that qualifies Masterson as a state treasure, Made In Virginia. •

CYBER-CHATS

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, over a year ago, I began having online computer chats with students from around my home State of Vermont. These chats have been a lot of fun and very informative. The questions that the students have asked me reflect not only their interest in government and current events, but also the advantages that they have in terms of access to knowledge via the information superhighway.

Just 3 or 4 years ago, I could not have imagined coming back from a vote on the Senate floor, sitting down in front of my computer and having a conversation with a group of young Vermonters over 500 miles away. The advances in technology have amazed me, but so have the understanding students have about technology and what it means for all of our futures.

Students' questions have ranged from my legislation to protect the privacy of our online communications to United States policy toward Iraq to how to get them out of their next period math test. While I will never be able to help a student skip a math test, these discussions have convinced me of the thirst of our children for the opportunities these technologies represent and our responsibility as leaders to help provide them.

Last week, I had the unique opportunity to chat with students from one of the Nation's oldest running one-room schoolhouses in Granville, VT. I

ask that the transcript from this chat be printed in the RECORD as testimony of the wonders of Internet technology and, more important, of our Nation's youth.

I also want to thank Shannon Roland, the teacher at Granville, for her work in preparing these exceptional students. She should be commended for bringing their education outside of and beyond the walls of a one-room schoolhouse.

The transcript follows:

ONEROOM 1. Glad to be here. I am now surrounded by 17 beautiful first through fourth graders, aged 7 to 10. AP and Channel 22 are also here. Hello Senator.

PATRICK L. I wish I could be there with you in person but we are all excited in Washington to be doing this.

ONEROOM 1. We are too. Jack has a question for you. Have you ever seen a land mine?

PATRICK L. I am not the world's best typist so I apologize if I make some mistakes.

ONEROOM 1. That's fine. We're learning too.

PATRICK L. I have seen landmines all over the world and have two deactivated ones on my desk. They are horrible weapons that should all be banned. They kill mostly children and innocent civilians.

ONEROOM 1. Brian wonders if you've ever seen the Granville School web page.

PATRICK L. Love the picture of the school on the front. Who is the student?

ONEROOM 1. That's a picture of Benny. He's going to be a bug scientist. Dylan asks, where do you live?

PATRICK L. I live on a tree farm that belonged to my parents in Middlesex, Vermont. I drive down route 100 often.

PATRICK L. I also have a house in the Washington area where I live when the Senate is in session.

ONEROOM 1. Brooke wonders if you might stop by our school sometime.

PATRICK L. I would like to drop by sometime. Unfortunately we are often in session while you are in school and you are out when I get home to Vermont for the weekend. After seeing your web page I am especially eager to drop by.

ONEROOM 1. We'll be going to school on Memorial Day if you're around. We've had lots of snowdays. Harlie wonders if you know any of the children who were killed by landmines.

PATRICK L. I have visited a lot of hospitals around the world where we use the Leahy War Victims Fund. My wife is a registered nurse and I have watched her help with some of the children who have been injured. It is a real tragedy and it has to stop.

ONEROOM 1. We agree. Benny (the boy in the picture) wonders what you do in your free time.

PATRICK L. Benny I try to cross country ski around my farm during the winter and hike there during the summer when I am home. I am also an avid photographer and bring a camera with me almost everywhere I go even to meetings at the White House.

PATRICK L. Benny you look great in the photo!

ONEROOM 1. We like to cross country ski. In fact, we had lessons here all winter. Sammi wonders if you have ever been to a one room schoolhouse. We think you would like to meet our teacher because she's really nice. [Picture].

PATRICK L. I think you are very fortunate to have Shannon as your teacher. I have not been in a one room schoolhouse since I was a child but it seems to me you are getting a better education than a lot of very large schoolhouses.

ONEROOM 1. We think so too. We're going to Boston to the museum and the aquarium for our school field trip. Jasmine wonders when you started being a senator.

PATRICK L. The field trip sounds great. I did one like that when I was 12 and still remember it. Jasmine I became a Senator when I was 34. That was in 1975.

ONEROOM 1. Erica asks, have you ever lost a law you wanted?

PATRICK L. Many times, Erica, I will push for legislation that doesn't pass the first time around but we keep working until it does. One example is the Northeast Dairy Compact. At first it failed but finally passed and will help the dairy farmers in Vermont.

ONEROOM 1. Christopher is also concerned about landmines. He wonders where most of them are.

PATRICK L. Most of the landmines, Christopher, are in Africa.

ONEROOM 1. Dylan says that it scared him too. Brooke says her favorite book is "Anne of Green Gables." Sammi wonders if you can make a link from your site to our web page.

ONEROOM 1. Brian wonders if that's your wife skating with you in the picture on your web page.

PATRICK L. Sammi we will link it with the transcript and a couple drawing. Dylan I know what you mean and Brooke I liked that one too and read it to my children when they were young.

ONEROOM 1. All of the children say thank you for taking the time to do this. This is cool to talk back and forth like this. And it's neat the way we can send questions and have you answer them. Thank you very much. We have to go to recess now.

PATRICK L. Brian that is my wife Marcelle with me and it was taken on one of the fields at our farm in Middlesex—just a ways up route 100.

PATRICK L. Thanks—wish I could go to recess with you but instead will head to the Senate floor. I am very proud of all of you and thank you!

AVOID FURTHER BLOODSHED, NEGOTIATE PEACE IN ZAIRE

• Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, Zaire must seize the current moment to avoid further bloodshed and negotiate a peaceful resolution to its current crisis. A tentative agreement for a meeting on Friday between President Mobutu Sese Seko and rebel Alliance leader Laurent Kabila has been reached. This meeting is critical to avoid further loss of human life in Zaire. I applaud Ambassador Richardson's presence in Zaire and fully support his important and courageous efforts to facilitate a peaceful settlement to the current political turmoil.

The current crisis in Zaire has reached a critical fork in the road. In one direction lies the peaceful path of democracy and economic reform. In the other, the well-worn road of violence, bloodshed, and political instability. President Mobutu Sese Seko and rebel Alliance leader Laurent Kabila at this moment hold the fate of their country in their hands.

I strongly encourage President Mobutu and Mr. Kabila to earnestly engage in a critical dialog on the future of Zaire. I urge them to put the interests of Zaire and their countrymen first, and resolve the current political crisis without further unnecessary loss of life.

I have been deeply troubled by recent reports of wide-spread human rights abuses and mass killings of refugees and displaced persons in rebel-controlled Zaire. There are numerous accounts of desperately ill and malnourished women and children being indiscriminately slaughtered and maimed.

Recently 55,000 refugees have inexplicably disappeared from a refugee camp outside Kisangani. Of these refugees, some 9,000, including 2,500 severely malnourished children, had only days earlier been deemed medically unfit to travel by visiting relief workers.

After a week of repeatedly denying the United Nations to care for and repatriate refugees in rebel-controlled territory, today's news reports indicate the rebel Alliance is once again allowing the United Nations to care for the sick and the dying. Refusal to have given access to the United Nations over the past week, resulting in the maltreatment of refugees and displaced persons has been nothing short of deplorable.

I call upon Mr. Kabila to put a permanent end to the bloodletting of innocents in Eastern Zaire. All impediments to humanitarian relief efforts in Zaire must be permanently removed.

The United Nations must be permitted continued full access to these refugees and allowed to repatriate them to Rwanda without interference. Furthermore, the slaughter of those refugees suspected of responsibility for the 1994 Rwandan genocide must cease, as it is neither justifiable nor defensible. These people must be returned to Rwanda where they can stand trial in an appropriate court of law and rightly be held accountable for their crimes.

It is time for President Mobutu and Mr. Kabila to signal their willingness to set Zaire on the path to peace and democracy. Zaire is a country of enormous potential that has suffered untold tragedies. Failure to seize this critical opportunity to negotiate peace in Zaire will only set that country woefully back.

The fighting in Zaire must stop. The crisis in the country cannot be resolved by force. Replacement of the Mobutu regime with yet another authoritarian regime is a recipe of further political instability. I strongly urge both President Mobutu and Mr. Kabila to seize the current opportunity to avoid further bloodshed and choose the constructive path of peace and democracy in Zaire. •

AMENDING TITLES XVIII AND XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 968, and further that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report.