

with a veteran. I hope you will thank them today for having answered the call to serve, and for setting the footprints for our future. They have indeed shown us the way into the 21st century.

Mr. L. CHAFEE. Mr. President, one of my constituents, Mrs. Virginia Doris of Warwick, Rhode Island, recently sent my late father a poem she had written as a tribute to the veterans of World War II. I understand that he agreed to insert her poem in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in time for Veterans Day. I was honored when Mrs. Doris asked me to carry out that task in his place.

Before I do so, I would like to take a brief moment to alert my colleagues to Mrs. Doris's own contribution to the war effort.

During World War II, 23,000 Oerlikon-Gazda 20mm anti-aircraft guns were manufactured in my home state of Rhode Island. Originally produced in Switzerland, these guns were critical to the Allied campaign—nearly every ship in the fleet carried them by the end of the war.

And Virginia Doris was right in the thick of this arms production effort, working long hours in the drafting room of the Oerlikon-Gazda command center, located in downtown Providence. In a 1990 interview with the Providence-Journal, Mrs. Doris described her years at the center "as this marvelous period in my life." Equipped with what she refers to as her "turbo persona," Mrs. Doris was a valued and trusted member of the Oerlikon-Gazda team.

I ask unanimous consent, Mrs. Doris's poem, "Ode to Comrades-In-Arms: World War II," be printed in the RECORD.

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

ODE TO COMRADES-IN-ARMS
WORLD WAR II

O, Heavenly Father, gaze upon the tombs
Of Patriots, foster their eternal plumes
Nourished in they omnipoint song of hallow,
Shed gentle tears to moist their marrow.
Enfolded in thine unchanging flame
Behold the farflung earthly frame,
Its pulsing marbles sculptured strong,
With ebbing currents and silvery thong,
Each graven with the threaded embrace
Is beaming out of seven-hued grace!
The mystic temple wakes the slumbering
forms,
Takes the sacred dust they mercy warms,
And sounds the bugle near and clear white
stone,
Close by these mounds which hold thy own.
We implore, O' Savior, here let sleeping lie,
'Till Heaven's luminous shadows prepare to
die,
And join the manhood's folded-flock at
night,
Psalms for bravery shall not pass in flight,
As raging battles, and girded loins, last time
To bond, lips to stir, a soldier's final clime!
O, Heavenly Father, mark their burden of
decay,
The lives so young, war's lingering ebon
fray,
Delivers them a shrouded throne, and solemn
biers,

Can we not dream that those we loved are
here?

Beckon them all in memory, as the vine
Whose tangled stems have long untwined
The crystal pillars, and clasp around
The sunken urns, the forlorn sounds;
With mournful message to our brothers, re-
sign,
Tried and true, and close the broken line.

OLE MISS HOSTING FIRING LINE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, Senator COCHRAN and I are pleased to announce that the University of Mississippi, which we fondly refer to as Ole Miss, will be hosting the final broadcast of the Emmy-winning PBS program "Firing Line." Senator COCHRAN and I want to join the University of Mississippi in congratulating all those affiliated with "Firing Line," including its host, Mr. William F. Buckley, Jr., and its producer, Mr. Warren Steibel, for their outstanding accomplishments during 34 years of telecasts. Since 1966, Mr. Buckley and Mr. Steibel have given the American public an opportunity to make informed decisions on the important topics of the day by bringing all angles of an issue to the surface through their lively debates. No public affairs program in history has run longer with the same host.

Firing Line has brought a wide range of topics to the forefront since joining the PBS family on May 26, 1971, including "Separation of Church and State," "Is Socialism Dead," "Health Risks in a Nuclear Environment," and its final topic, "The Government Should Not Impose a Tax on Electronic Commerce." These and other topics have been debated by Presidents George Bush, Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, and Richard Nixon; and prominent figures such as Margaret Thatcher, Muhammad Ali, Henry Kissinger, and Bob Dole.

Mr. President, the past decade has brought many references to the end of the millennium. It is a tribute to programs of its kind that "Firing Line" leaves the airways at this historic time. The guests, topics, and fervor with which the issues have been approached throughout the years on the program define the culture of the day. All attitudes and opinions have been expressed and analyzed, reflecting our society's nature to embrace conflict and discourse in the name of answers and truth. William F. Buckley and Warren Steibel created an educational art form that did as much teaching as any other television program in memory.

This final telecast also marks the fourth time that the University of Mississippi has hosted the "Firing Line" program. This relationship began with "Firing Line's" first visit to Oxford in 1989, and continued with its return in 1992, 1997, and now in 1999. Firing Line and Ole Miss have blended well over the years because of their commitment to furthering knowledge and challenging individuals to constantly expand their thinking. The University of

Mississippi's growing impact across the world in the realms of politics, economics, social issues, technology and leadership make it a fitting backdrop for the closure of "Firing Line's" award-winning run.

TATANKA HOTSHOT CREW

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure today to recognize the members of the Tatanka Hotshot Crew of the Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota. This fall marks the end of the first fire season that this crew has been operational, and I am delighted to say that it has proven to be an outstanding success.

Each year serious wildfires threaten national forests across the United States, burning thousands of acres of woodlands and endangering private property. Our first line of defense against these fires is the United States Forest Service, whose firefighters risk their lives in arduous, often isolated conditions to bring wildfires under control.

The best of these teams are known as Hotshot crews—elite firefighters who are sent to the worst fires, to do the most difficult, dangerous work necessary to protect our forests and the homes of nearby residents. All around the country, these teams have been recognized for their skill and bravery.

Last year, we created the first of these elite teams ever to be based in the Black Hills National Forest. It is called the Tatanka Hotshots, after the Lakota word for the bison that used to roam the Great Plains by the tens of thousands. The nearly two dozen members of this team, virtually all of whom are Native American, come from diverse backgrounds. Some came from South Dakota towns like Custer and Aberdeen. Some joined the Tatanka crew from other hotshot teams or elite smokejumping units. Others are veterans of the Gulf War. Still others are young individuals working their way through college. I am proud to say that after a year of intense training and working together, the Tatanka team quickly has become one of the most highly-regarded firefighting teams in the nation.

In addition to work in the Black Hills, the Tatanka crew spent 71 days away on wildland fire assignments, accumulating 1,550 hours of work in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and California. It conducted seven large firing/burnout operations, built miles of fireline, constructed helispots and medivac sites, and conducted large tree falling operations in steep, hazardous terrain. Other noteworthy accomplishments included backpacking 6,500 pounds of sandbags up Mount Rushmore to prepare for the July 4th fireworks display, tending the commemorative crosses at the 1994 South Canyon fire fatality sites in Colorado, and working in conjunction with the Tahoe Hotshots to rescue a pack horse which had fallen off a mountain trail in California.

Over the course of the summer, the Tatanka crew earned its reputation as a team that could be depended upon to get its job done quickly and effectively. Based upon its outstanding performance ratings and the respect it earned from other highly regarded Hot-shot crews, Forest Service officials expect the team to attain National Type 1 status—the highest rating a fire-fighting team can receive—before the 2000 fire season, a full year ahead of schedule.

Mr. President, I am very proud of the accomplishments of this crew. Forest fires are dangerous and unpredictable, and fighting them is one of the most difficult, physically-exhausting jobs of which I know. Firefighters spend days deep in forests and far from possible help, digging fire lines and cutting trees to keep fires from spreading. In just one year, the Tatanka team has met these challenges head-on, and shown that it is equal to the toughest challenges our nation has to offer. I want to offer my congratulations to all of those who served on the team. I am sure that they will have an outstanding future.

OPPOSITION OF EFFORTS TO BLOCK THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE'S RECENT ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak briefly about an issue which has surfaced recently in the national press, and now arises with regard to the remaining appropriations bills before us. On November 3rd, the Justice Department filed seven lawsuits on behalf of EPA against electric utility companies in the Midwest and South. The lawsuit charged that 17 power plants illegally polluted the air by failing to install pollution control equipment when they were making major modifications to their plants. This action is one of the largest enforcement investigations in EPA's history, and seeks to control pollution which contributes to degraded air quality throughout the Northeast. I have recently learned that some of the defendants may be seeking relief from this enforcement action by adding a rider to one of the remaining appropriations bills. I am speaking with my colleagues here today in strong opposition to this effort. To seek relief for pending violations of federal law through a rider without any congressional hearing, debate, or voting record, is utterly inappropriate. It undermines the democratic process which is constitutionally guaranteed to American citizens, and to the states which have similar cases pending.

The alleged violations are extremely serious. Congress has long recognized the need to control transported air pollution. Provisions to study and address the issue have been included by major amendments to the Clean Air Act. Yet the problem still remains and the statistics are staggering. They dem-

onstrate just how much older, Midwestern powerplants contribute to air pollution in the Northeast. For example, one utility in Michigan emits almost 6 times more nitrogen oxides than all the utilities in the entire state of Connecticut. Ohio power plants produce nearly 9,000 tons a day of sulfur dioxide, which directly contributes to acid rain. One single plant in Ohio produces as much nitrogen oxide as all of the plants in the state of New York. Approximately 67 million people east of the Mississippi River live in area with unhealthy levels of smog. EPA estimates that every year that implementation of regional pollution controls are delayed, there are between 200–800 premature deaths, thousands of additional incidences of moderate to severe respiratory symptoms in children, and hundreds of thousands of children suffering from breathing difficulties. Now these polluting power plants want special relief during the court's review.

The alleged violations result from a portion of the Clean Air Act that many refer to as the "grandfathering" provisions. When the Clean Air Act was amended in 1970 and 1977, there were two categories of requirements: those for existing power plants, and those for new sources. At the time, most people envisioned that the older coal burning plants would soon be retired, making the additional controls for old plants unnecessary. Instead, the life span of older coal fired plants has been extended by modifications to their facilities. Many of the older coal fired plants have stayed around for three decades; and coal power plants are now the largest industrial source of smog pollution. Of the approximately 1,000 power plants operating today, 500 were built before modern pollution control requirements went into effect.

Although the Clean Air Act did exempt older plants from the new standards, it required that the plants meet a test of "prevention of significant deterioration" to protect the public when a plant undertook a major modification. Although the definition of "major modification" has been debated, Section 111 of the Clean Air Act clearly states that a modification means "any physical change . . . which increases the amount of any air pollutant emitted by such source or which results in the emission of any air pollutant not previously emitted." What is at stake in the recent enforcement action is the question of whether the power plants undertook major modifications without installing state of the art pollution controls, in violation of this Clean Air Act requirement.

Mr. KERRY. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Certainly.

Mr. KERRY. I understand from some of the publicity around a similar suit filed by the New York Attorney General that some of the modifications being made to power plants were significant. For example, one company al-

legedly replaced a reheater header and outlet, a pulverized coal conduit system, the economizer, and casing insulation. While it is impossible to judge any of these types of modifications without additional information, it certainly seems like utilities created a loophole in the law to essentially rebuild the system without considering it as a major modification. Would a legislative rider on this issue essentially pre-judge the court's findings as to whether the modifications undertaken at the plant are indeed "major"?

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Yes. With this rider, Congress would be substituting its opinion for the factual and legal analysis by the court. There will be no opportunity for expert opinions to be heard. In fact, I understand there may even be discussions about trying to add rider language which would allow modifications which would result in significant increases in emissions, by basing them on a unit's potential to emit pollution. This change is a significant departure from the current law, which requires that pollution controls be included when plants are making modifications that cause emissions to increase. For example, a plant's potential to emit pollution may be at 10 tons, while it actually emits 7. The test has been that if modifications are made that raise emissions above the 7 tons, pollution controls are required to be instituted. Since the potential emissions are often much greater than actual emissions, actual emissions have been the threshold to trigger public health protections. A rider that would seek to allow modifications to go forward would give utilities a license to continue to pollute our air while the enforcement action is pending. In its worst form, it would also "pre-judge" the court's determination on these matters. These are major reasons why I oppose using a rider to address this issue. It makes no sense for Congress to make a statement on this complex issue with no opportunity for public deliberation. I yield back to my colleague from Massachusetts.

Mr. KERRY. I understand that some suggest that it would be impossible to achieve new pollution standards because of technological limitations. I would like to address that point. States in Northeast have already taken steps to reduce pollution to comply with Clean Air Act requirements, including instituting major controls on these older power plants ed plants. Northeast Utilities has spent \$40 million in the last 8 years to reduce fossil plant emissions. In a July 31, 1998 letter to Administrator Browner, Northeast Utilities wrote that "in our experience the Merrimack Station selective catalytic reduction technology is effective in removing NOX, can be installed fairly quickly, and the installation has minimal impact on the availability of the generating unit." Other companies, including Pacific Gas & Electric and Southern Company have made similar