

both bills to support robust funding of the Commercial Remote Sensing Program to enable a \$10 billion commercial remote sensing industry by 2010. He assisted greatly in the economic development in the State of Mississippi by bringing Aerospace companies and Mississippi Economic Development officials together.

Mr. Nunez worked with former Congressman G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery to enhance the educational benefits of the Montgomery G.I. bill through S. 1402, the "Veterans and Dependents Millennium Education Act." He also worked with the Veterans Administration to open more Community Based Outpatient Clinics in Mississippi.

Mr. Nunez began his aerospace career as a contract engineer supporting the Space Shuttle Main Engine Test Program at NASA's Stennis Space Center shortly after graduating from Mississippi State University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. He joined NASA as a systems engineer supporting various propulsion development programs at Stennis Space Center, including the Space Transportation Main Engine and Space Shuttle Main Engine. He then took on additional responsibilities as Chief Engineer for various component and hybrid motor development test programs, including the first ever successful tests of a turbopump-fed hybrid motor. His next challenge was project lead for test program support of Boeing's Phase I Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle Low Cost Concept Validation Program. The test program support was completed under budget and ahead of schedule. This program demonstrated water recovery of a Space Shuttle Main Engine propulsion module and culminated in a successful hot fire test after the propulsion module was dropped into the Gulf of Mexico.

Mr. Nunez is no stranger to Washington, D.C. where he served a one year detail to the Associate Administrator for the Office of Space Flight at NASA Headquarters. Prior to starting his Congressional Fellowship, Mr. Nunez served as X-33 Project Manager at Stennis Space Center where he was responsible for all reusable launch vehicle initiatives there totaling \$35 million. As X-33 Project Manager, he led a team of engineers and technicians in the successful test firing of the X-33 Linear Aerospike Engine, whose success has been a major highlight of the X-33 Program.

A native Mississippian, Mr. Nunez is married to the former Cynthia Marlene Cuevas of Leetown, Mississippi. They have one son, Stephen C. Nunez, II. Mr. Nunez is a registered Professional Engineer in Mississippi who looks forward to returning to the NASA team. I will truly miss his talents and expertise, and wish him all the very best as he helps NASA's efforts to advance human space flight in the 21st century.

#### VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, it has been more than a year since the Columbine tragedy, but still this Republican Congress refuses to act on sensible gun legislation.

Since Columbine, thousands of Americans have been killed by gunfire. Until we act, Democrats in the Senate will read the names of some of those who have lost their lives to gun violence in the past year, and we will continue to do so every day that the Senate is in session.

In the name of those who died, we will continue this fight. Following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago today.

October 24, 1999:  
Yveta Boyland, 30, Memphis, TN;  
Andy Carr, 18, Atlanta, GA;  
Chun Man Choi, 27, New Orleans, LA;  
Javier Cortez, 29, Houston, TX;  
Anthony Jackson, 38, Dallas, TX;  
Ricky Harris, 22, Oakland, CA;  
Mary Mata, 16, Fort Worth, TX;  
Matthew Nimene, 39, Minneapolis, MN;

Robert D. Steward, 29, Chicago, IL; and

Jones Tiran, 21, Dallas, TX.

Following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

October 20, 1999:  
Rossi Anderson, 37, Houston, TX;  
Melvin Axler, 75, Miami-Dade County, FL;  
Steve Gaitan, 19, Miami-Dade County, FL;  
Michael Hanton, 24, Philadelphia, PA;  
Darrion Johnson, 28, Chicago, IL;  
Roasiare Morneault, 58, Hollywood, FL;  
Rafel Stokes, 41, Detroit, MI;  
Carlos Thomas, 23, Washington, DC;  
Richard Washington, 20, Chicago, IL;  
Manuel Watkins, 14, Dallas, TX;  
Betty Weaver, 56, Detroit, MI;  
Albert Winters, 24, Washington, DC;  
Shavon Young, 16, Irvington, NJ; and  
Unidentified male, San Francisco, CA.

October 21, 1999:  
Alexander Bednar, 87, Seattle, WA;  
Kwame Bellentine, 24, Miami-Dade County, FL;  
Calvin Berry, 29, Detroit, MI;  
Antonio Davis, 20, Washington, DC;  
Jerry Dodd, 35, Chicago, IL;  
Vivian C. Geary, 72, New Orleans, LA;  
Devon Gross, 19, Wilmington, DE;  
Judith Herbert, 57, Denver, CO;  
Orlando Jones, 24, St. Louis, MO;  
Edward Morris, 29, Atlanta, GA;  
Marilyn Starr, 42, Dallas, TX;  
Nichole Thomas, 19, St. Louis, MO;  
Richard Wilson, 27, St. Louis, MO; and

Kirk C. Wint, 25, Chicago, IL.

October 22, 1999:  
Antonio Crawley, 20, Houston, TX;  
Juan Maldonado, 38, Chicago, IL;  
David Marshall, 18, Washington, DC;  
Thomas McEvoy, 47, Miami-Dade County, FL;

Martin McCinigley, 35, Philadelphia, PA;

Tita-Marie Murray, 36, Washington, DC;

Huey M. Rich, 29, Chicago, IL;  
Eugene Richardson, 20, Baltimore, MD;

Timothy Spain, 22, Atlanta, GA;  
Donald Storeball, 20, Detroit, MI;  
Unidentified Male, 37, Honolulu, HI; and

Unidentified Male, 36, Newark, NJ.

October 23, 1999:  
Juan Castellanos, 29, Dallas, TX;  
Deandre Clark, 4, Gary, IN;  
Clyde K. Edwards, 23, Oklahoma City, OK;

Lu Hu, 24, Houston, TX;  
Walter Joseph Kurtz, 45, Baltimore, MD;

Timothy Lockett, 32, Baltimore, MD;  
Timothy Massey, 26, Baltimore, MD;  
Juan Pina, 28, Dallas, TX; and  
Walter L. Weber, 77, North Little Rock, AR.

We cannot sit back and allow such senseless gun violence to continue. The deaths of these people are a reminder to all of us that we need to enact sensible gun legislation now.

#### COMMENDING SOUTH DAKOTA FARM, CONSERVATION, WILDLIFE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to offer sincere thanks and gratitude for the cooperation and leadership demonstrated this year in South Dakota by a large coalition of farm, conservation, wildlife, and environmental groups in my great State. These groups have taken an almost unprecedented step to cooperate in solving a problem concerning the treatment of wetlands in the context of production agriculture in South Dakota.

Their cooperation led to the adoption of a pilot project—the Conservation of Farmable Wetland Act of 2000—negotiated through Congress by Senator DASCHLE and me whereby farmed wetlands in a six-state region can become eligible for enrollment in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

When it comes to conservation policy and the federal farm program, many issues are hotly debated. Perhaps nowhere has this become more evident than in the administration and policy implications of managing wetlands on farmground in South Dakota and the entire country. A real battle over the management of farmed wetlands has waged over the years between farmers—who own and farm the productive land where these wetlands are located—and conservation groups—who believe these wetlands should be maintained in their natural state.

Earlier this year, over thirty South Dakota groups struck an agreement in principle regarding the treatment of wetlands with some constructive ideas to signify a cease fire of sorts in this battle over the management of wetlands. Their agreement in principle expressed support for financial assistance

for farmers and landowners who voluntarily chose to commit the wetlands on their private lands—primarily land in crop production—to conservation under CRP. The farmable wetlands targeted in their agreement are located in low-lying draws or waterways that run through crop fields and carry runoff and topsoil into creeks and rivers in wet years. In dry years, these wetlands are farmed. Currently, grass filter strips surrounding these farmed wetlands qualify for CRP, but not the actual wetland acreage.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the agreement in principle and name of every group signing the agreement be printed at this point in the RECORD, and that my statement continue in the RECORD at the conclusion of the agreement in principle and list of groups.

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

Agreement in Principle Between Central Plains Water Development District; Clay County Conservation District; Clay County Farm Bureau; Delta Waterfowl Foundation; Ducks Unlimited, Inc.; East Dakota Water Development District; Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe; Izaak Walton League, Kempeska Chapter; Izaak Walton League, South Dakota District; James River Water Development District; National Audubon Society; Sierra Club-East River Group; Sierra Club-Living River Group; South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts; South Dakota Corn Growers Association; South Dakota Department of Agriculture; South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources; South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks; South Dakota Farm Bureau; South Dakota Farmers Union; South Dakota Grassland Coalition; South Dakota Lakes and Streams Association, Inc.; South Dakota Pork Producers Council; South Dakota Resources Coalition; South Dakota Soybean Association; South Dakota Stock Growers; South Dakota Water Congress; South Dakota Wheat Inc.; South Dakota Wildlife Federation; The Wildlife Society, South Dakota Chapter; Turner County Conservation District; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Vermillion Basin Water Development District; and Vermillion River Watershed Authority.

#### PURPOSE

This memorandum is made by the organizations listed above, hereinafter called the partners, to express support for financial assistance to landowners who voluntarily choose to maintain wetlands on private lands and retire them from crop production in the Prairie Pothole Region of South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and Montana. The people of this partnership are united in their belief that programs should be available that compensate landowners who voluntarily commit their wetlands to conservation. We offer specific suggestions that certain wetlands be eligible for enrollment under the USDA Conservation Reserve Program, continuous sign up for buffers and filter strips and that incidental, after harvest grazing be better accommodated on these filter strips and buffers.

#### BACKGROUND

The Prairie Pothole Region of South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and Montana is a unique region of diverse wetlands on an agricultural, prairie landscape.

Wetlands in this region function as habitat for wildlife and they retain runoff waters, sediments and pollutants. They interact with ground water and they play a role in protection of the quality and quantity of water used in homes, farms, ranches and industry throughout the region and beyond.

Most wetlands in the region are small, temporary wetlands. They typically hold water for only a few weeks after spring runoff and for short periods of time after heavy precipitation events. Many non-depressional wetlands in the region are the headwaters of major streams and rivers that reach across the North American continent. When they are dry, most temporary wetlands in agricultural fields are farmed.

The Prairie Pothole Region is also a region of deep rich soils and is recognized worldwide for its strong, diverse agricultural industry and abundant wildlife resources, which are second to none.

For decades wetland interests have often differed with agriculture and other development interests. While wetlands are valuable to society for the functions they provide, the cost of maintaining these values is often borne by those who own or farm the land. In the Prairie Pothole Region, most of the land is privately owned by farmers and ranchers, some whom find wetlands to be a hindrance to the efficient use of their land for cropping. In recent years they have been bound by legislation which prevents them from converting wetlands for agricultural development while retaining Federal farm benefits.

The USDA Conservation Reserve Program, established by the Food Security Act of 1985, provides annual payments to landowners who voluntarily retire qualifying lands from agricultural production for 10 or 15 years. Later farm acts provided for continuous CRP sign ups for environmentally sensitive lands and lands that contribute to water quality improvement such as riparian buffers and filter strips around wetlands.

In the Prairie Pothole Region, continuous sign up CRP for filter strips and buffers has not been widely used. One major obstacle to participation is that present USDA rules allow enrollment of a buffer or filter strip around a wetland, but have no provision for including the wetland acreage within the buffer or filter strip to be enrolled for payment. While this may be appropriate for lakes, rivers and deep permanent wetlands, it is not a good fit for the small frequently farmed wetlands of the Prairie Pothole Region.

In the prairie states, like elsewhere, farmers and ranchers typically move livestock into harvested grain fields to feed on waste grain and other crop residues. In fields where there are CRP filter strips or buffers, livestock grazing after harvest also graze the dormant grass of the filter strips and buffers unless they are fenced out. To avoid the need for this fencing, present USDA rules permit incidental grazing on buffers and filter strips, in conjunction with after harvest grazing of crop residues, for no more than two months. CRP payments are reduced by 25% for years when such grazing takes place.

In many years, winter weather sets in soon after harvest is complete and two months is an adequate time limit for after harvest grazing and incidental filter strip and buffer grazing. During open winters, however, when little or no snow falls, crop residue grazing may take place for more than two months. During these winters, incidental livestock use of those portions of fields enrolled in CRP filter strips and buffers could put the operator out of compliance with CRP rules.

Under the present rules, a person may enroll land around a wetland in a filter strip or buffer, but the wetland within must be excluded from the rental payment, even if that

wetland is one that is frequently farmed when dry and the owner may be physically able to farm it, no payment is made for the wetland acreage.

To make the wetland protection measures of the continuous sign up CRP wetland buffer and filter strips more effective, USDA rules need to be changed so that frequently farmed wetlands are included in the continuous sign up CRP program in addition to the surrounding filter strip or buffer.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

The partners recommend to the USDA that continuous sign up CRP rules be amended to allow wetlands with a cropping history, regardless of size, to be enrolled in the CRP along with adequate buffers and filter strips to protect the quality of water entering and leaving the enrolled wetlands. We also recommend that restrictions on duration of incidental grazing of filter strips and buffers, associated with after harvest grazing, be removed and that payment rates be adjusted for those years when grazing occurs.

These rule changes will allow participating landowners to realize a degree of compensation for income lost by leaving these wetlands uncultivated when dry and will allow farm operators to graze crop residues in certain years without fencing out buffers and filter strips enrolled in continuous enrollment CRP. This suggested change does not imply that filter strip or buffer grazing be allowed during the growing season, nor on other CRP acres.

We further recommend that USDA modify their specifications for filter strips around wetlands and buffer strips along riparian areas to make them more compatible with today's farming practices and machinery. We recommend that maximum allowable widths of these strips be adjusted with consideration for farmability of adjacent cropland and to protect wetlands and enhance wildlife habitat.

We recommend that USDA re-evaluate soil group rental payments for wetlands, filter strips and buffers for the continuous sign up CRP. Present rental rates do not adequately address the true value of wetland soils which are on the low end of rental payment schedules. Present soil rental rates do not take into account severance factors associated with the relatively small acreage that would be enrolled in a wetland/filter strip continuous CRP.

We recommend that selected members of the partner agencies and organizations listed in this agreement shall have input into USDA policy before final CRP rules are issued to assure that these recommendations are considered.

#### SOUTH DAKOTA CRP-WETLANDS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE SIGNATORIES

Roger Strom, Clay County Conservation District.

Jerry Schmitz, Clay County Farm Bureau. Lloyd Jones, Delta Waterfowl Foundation. Jeff Nelson, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Jay Gilbertson, East Dakota Water Development District.

Wes Hansen, Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe.

Ken Madison, Izaak Walton League, Kempeska Chapter.

Chuck Clayton, Izaak Walton League, South Dakota Division.

Darrell Raschke, James River Water Development District.

Genevieve Thompson, National Audubon Society.

Jeanie Chamness, Sierra Club, East River Group.

John Davidson, Sierra Club, Living River Group.

Gerald Thaden, South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts.

Ron Olson, South Dakota Corn Growers Association.

Darrell Cruea, South Dakota Department of Agriculture.

Nettie Myers, South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

John Cooper, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks.

Michael Held, South Dakota Farm Bureau.  
Dennis Wiese, South Dakota Farmers Union.

Ron Ogren, South Dakota Grassland Coalition.

Don Marquart, South Dakota Lakes and Streams Association, Inc.

Mari Beth Baumberger, South Dakota Pork Producers Council.

Lawrence Novotny, South Dakota Resources Coalition.

Delbert Tschakert, South Dakota Soybean Association.

Bart Blum, South Dakota Stockgrowers.

Rick Vallery, South Dakota Wheat, Inc.

Chris Hesla, South Dakota Wildlife Federation.

Ron Schauer, Wildlife Society, South Dakota Chapter.

Dennis Johnson, Turner County Conservation District.

Carl Madsen, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Amond Hanson, Vermillion Basin Water Development District.

Lester Austin, Vermillion River Watershed Authority.

David Hauschild, Central Plains Water Development District and South Dakota Water Congress.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, given that over thirty groups and several more individuals were active participants in this historic agreement in South Dakota—it is impossible to aptly recognize every single one that deserves credit for this achievement. However, I cannot overlook the efforts of two real champions of this agreement and pilot project—two individuals who worked closely with me to make sure their idea developed from a South Dakota agreement to a six-state pilot project that the 106th Congress enacted and that the President will sign into law.

Paul Shubeck, a Centerville, South Dakota farmer and Carl Madsen, a Brookings, South Dakota private lands coordinator for the Fish and Wildlife Service developed this plan and helped negotiate its path through Congress.

Paul Shubeck greatly impressed me with his ability to shepherd this proposal, not only within a diverse coalition of South Dakota groups who normally do not tend to agree on wetlands matters, but also at the national level where he consistently advocated on behalf of the American family farmer who just wants a chance to produce a crop on his land and protect the environment all at the same time. Paul's drive and ability to compromise were key to the success of our pilot project.

Carl Madsen was a real source of passion for this project and provided us with a sense for the big picture—how our pilot would and could work in South Dakota and other parts of the United States. Carl's deep knowledge of wetlands and conservation policy provided us with critical technical assistance to ensure this pilot project was a credible, practical program.

Many, many more individuals and groups in South Dakota and the United States provided direct assistance to this effort Mr. President, and I want them all to know I am deeply grateful.

Earlier this year Mr. President, Senator DASCHLE and I urged Secretary Dan Glickman and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to implement the South Dakota agreement in principle on an administrative basis. While USDA was supportive of the concept, they were reluctant to implement such a program without a clearer understanding of the purpose and implications of the program.

In response, on July 7, I brought a top USDA official to a farm near Renner, South Dakota where we met with several groups and individuals to discuss how to conserve these critical wetlands yet compensate farmers for taking the wetlands out of crop production. It was there that some suggested a pilot project would be the best route to take. Then, on July 27, Senator DASCHLE and I introduced S. 2980 to create a South Dakota pilot project permitting up to 150,000 acres of farmable wetlands into CRP.

Once S. 2980 was introduced, national conservation, wildlife, and farm organizations took interest and requested that we expand the pilot to cover more than South Dakota. The proposal adopted by Congress is the result of weeks of negotiations between Senator DASCHLE, myself, USDA, Senator LUGAR who serves as the Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, and several national groups who now support the pilot. The changes resulted in expanding this program to the Prairie Pothole Region of the United States, including South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa, and Montana. It is limited to 500,000 acres in those states, with an assurance that access be distributed fairly among interested CRP participants.

I truly believe this pilot project will provide landowners an alternative to farming these highly sensitive wetlands in order to achieve a number of benefits including: improved water quality, reduced soil erosion, enhanced wildlife habitat, preserved biodiversity, flood control, less wetland drainage, economic compensation for landowners for protecting the sensitive wetlands, and diminished divisiveness over wetlands issues.

Moreover, the pilot project is consistent with the purpose of CRP, and, if successful, could serve as a model for future farm policy as we look toward the next farm bill. I believe Congress will be unable to develop a future farm bill without the support of those in the conservation and wildlife community. I am a strong supporter of conservation programs that protect sensitive soil and water resources, promote wildlife habitat, and provide farmers and landowners with benefits and incentives to conserve land. I have introduced the Flex Fallow Farm Bill Amendment to achieve some of these objectives. It is

my hope that the success on our pilot project can serve as a model to once again bring conservation groups together with farm interests in order to develop a well-balanced approach to future farm policy that protects our resources while promoting family-farm agriculture.

Finally, I fully understand the successful adoption of this wetlands pilot project—no matter how important—will not put an end to the ongoing debate over the management of wetlands on farmland. Yet, I really hope that everyone engaged in the debate considers how effective we can be when we cooperate and compromise on this important issue.

#### PASSAGE OF CERTAIN LEGISLATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today we consider four bipartisan bills offered together as a package: the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act, H.R. 46, the Computer Crime Enforcement Act, which I introduced as S. 1314, on July 1, 1999, with Senator DEWINE and is now also co-sponsored by Senators ROBB, HATCH and ABRAHAM; a Hatch-Leahy-Schumer "Internet Security Act" amendment; and a Bayh-Grass-Leahy-Cleland "Protecting Seniors from Fraud Act" amendment. I thank my colleagues for their hard work on these pieces of legislation, each of which I will discuss in turn.

I support the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor. I cosponsored the Stevens bill, S. 39, to establish a Public Safety Medal of Valor Act. In April and May, 1999, I made sure that the Senate acted on Senator STEVENS' bill, S. 39.

On April 22, 1999, the Senate Judiciary Committee took up that measure in regular order and reported it unanimously. At that time I congratulated Senator STEVENS and thanked him for his leadership. I noted that we had worked together on a number of law enforcement matters and that the senior Senator from Alaska is a stalwart supporter of the men and women who put themselves at risk to protect us all. I said that I looked forward to enactment of this measure and to seeing the extraordinary heroism of our police, firefighters and correctional officers recognized with the Medal of Valor.

In May, 1999, I was privileged to be on the floor of the Senate when we proceeded to consider S. 39 and passed it unanimously. I took that occasion to commend Senator STEVENS and all who had worked so hard to move this measure in a timely way. That was over one year ago, during National Police Week last year. The measure was sent to the House where it lay dormant for over the rest of last year and most of this one.

The President of the United States came to Capitol Hill to speak at the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Service on May 15, 2000, and said on that occasion that if Congress would