

Sharing this experience with Bill Cohen is his wife, Janet Langhart Cohen. She has been equally enthusiastic in her role supporting him—and military personnel throughout the world—as a “First Lady of the Pentagon.”

Janet Langhart Cohen's tireless and selfless work for our men and women in uniform, and their families, has been remarkable. She has been committed to making sure that the American people's hearts and minds are fully joined with those who are wearing the uniform. Thanks to Janet Langhart Cohen, soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines have come to know how much they are appreciated by their fellow Americans.

To this end, Janet Langhart Cohen called on the USO—and their volunteer entertainers—to bring the message from the homefront to our forward deployed military men and women. She recognized that the USO helped those in the military who are far from home give in to laughter rather than give way to loneliness and despair. With the USO, Janet Langhart Cohen reinvigorated the spirit of our warriors.

Understanding the important relationship between the men and women of the Armed Forces and the USO, Janet Langhart Cohen led the effort to build a lasting exhibit to the USO in the Pentagon. Thanks to her, the tribute was unveiled just a few short weeks ago. To many, she is now also recognized as the “First Lady of the USO.”

Together, Bill and Janet have been a dynamic team. They have tackled many of the problems facing military families today. They have also circled the globe together to demonstrate their combined conviction and support for our men and women in uniform wherever they are deployed. Only recently, Bill and Janet completed their third trip to Kosovo since the June 1999 end of the air campaign.

In our brief years, Secretary Cohen, through tireless work, study, and travel, has continued to develop his already formidable understanding of global, economic and national security issues. And as had been the case during his 24 years of service in the Congress, Secretary Cohen's conviction for supporting the troops continued without question.

Anyone who has been privileged to serve in the Department of Defense, especially as the “Top Gun,” knows there is no more difficult a job in the Executive Branch of our government. Bill Cohen earned his place in history, alongside the best, and the men and women in uniform render a respectful “hand salute.”

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mrs. BOXER. 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.

December 15, 1999:

Jerome Anderson, 26, Washington, DC; Danta Dandridge, 17, Washington, DC; Diane Gibbs, 39, Atlanta, GA; Jimmy Gibbs, 21, Atlanta, GA; Kasma Hall, 18, Miami-Dade County, FL; Byron Johnson, 21, Pittsburgh, PA; Antoine Omar, 19, Boston, MA; Glenn Roundtree, 29, Chicago, IL; Oscar Segura Nieto-Lopez, 32, St. Paul, MN; Ricky Truss, 27, Detroit, MI; William Wilder, 39, New Orleans, LA; Venis Woods, 29, Philadelphia, PA; and Unidentified Male, 24, Newark, NJ.

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.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN JULIAN DIXON

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise in tribute to a friend and colleague, Julian Dixon. Congressman Dixon honorably represented the 32nd District of California for more than 22 years. Julian and I were members of the Congressional Freshman Class of 1978. It was my pleasure to serve with him for more than two decades.

Everyone in the Senate knew him and I know no member of the House or Senate who did not like him, as well as respect him. His life exemplified public service and his actions were always motivated by truth, justice and compassion. He was without question a Distinguished Gentleman.

During his tenure in office, Congressman Dixon accomplished many things. He was always magnanimous in victory and gracious in defeat and accepted difficult assignments, such as the Chairmanship of the House Ethics Committee in 1989. It is a responsibility that few members seek and only the most selfless accept. Congressman Dixon did so, and the House of Representatives is a better place for his service.

From 1957 to 1960, he served as an enlisted man in the United States Army, rising to the rank of sergeant. This experience made him a life long advocate for the men and women in the Armed Forces. He understood their hardships and needs as well as any member of the Congress. The military services have lost a good friend.

At the conclusion of the Cold War, our defense expenditures were cut dramatically. Literally, hundreds of military installations, large and small, around the Nation were slated for closure. Thousands of small businesses de-

pended entirely, or mostly on work generated by the defense industry, and they were in danger of failure.

In an effort to help these businesses, Congressman Dixon sponsored legislation to assist small businesses in making the difficult transition to new markets. His efforts saved innumerable small businesses from going under and now many are thriving because of his foresight and stewardship. Most recently he was the very able Ranking Member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. He was a voice of reason and restraint in an arena that often lends itself to hyperbole and grandstanding. Julian served his country well in this capacity.

Congressman Dixon was known for his intelligence, political savvy and strong character. While Julian surely had much left to accomplish, he truly made a difference while he walked among us. He was a family man and a man of the people. He will be missed. Our prayers are with his family, friends and people he served so well.

DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT ACT OF 2000

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleague, Senator HATCH, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, to comment on a provision of the recently enacted omnibus children's health legislation (H.R. 4365; Public Law 106-310) that established a number of excellent children's health programs. The bill also included important new legislation, the Drug Addiction Treatment Act [DATA], which I authored along with Senator HATCH, working with our colleagues Senators BIDEN and MOYNIHAN. It will make a revolutionary difference in the way in which we battle heroin and other opiate addiction.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, my colleague from Michigan is correct. Additionally, as my colleagues are aware, the bill reauthorized the operation of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and established and reinforced penalties for illegal manufacture, sale, and possession of certain illicit drugs.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, when implemented, the DATA bill, as we call it, will change significantly the way opiate addiction is addressed by allowing qualified physicians, for the first time, to prescribe in their private offices, substances which block the craving for heroin and otherwise address this deadly addiction.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, as Senator LEVIN knows, the DATA bill includes a provision similar to one applicable for many years to both the Medicaid and Medicare programs, which makes clear that basic decisions about the way medicine is practiced are to be made by physicians and patients, not by the federal government.

Mr. LEVIN. In other words, it is our intent that with respect to the amendments to the Controlled Substances

Act made by the provisions incorporated in H.R. 4365, decisions by qualified physicians about the appropriate means to treat their patients and to prescribe and dispense medications are not a proper matter for government regulation.

While the bill clearly provides authority for the Department of Health and Human Services to issue regulations to expand the pool of qualified physicians, it is not the intention of our legislation that those regulations extend to the practice of medicine.

Mr. HATCH. I certainly agree with that. Indeed, such an interpretation is expressly prohibited by the language: "Nothing in such regulations or practice guidelines may authorize any Federal official or employee to exercise supervision or control over the practice of medicine or the manner in which medical services are provided."

Mr. LEVIN. This clarification is important, both for the qualified physicians who wish to participate in this new approach to addiction treatment and for patients for whom a new treatment option may present a life-changing possibility. I know my colleague from Utah agrees that we want this legislation to work. An unauthorized and ill-advised attempt to regulate the practice of medicine, including the practice of prescribing anti-addiction medication, would make it unworkable.

Mr. HATCH. I do agree wholeheartedly. I feel compelled to add, however, that as the Chairman of the Committee of jurisdiction, it was important to me to make certain that the bill in no way impedes the Drug Enforcement Administration [DEA] from vigorously enforcing the Controlled Substances Act. Specifically, the DATA legislation is not intended to prevent the DEA from its historic role of prosecuting physicians for dispensing controlled substances without a legitimate medical purpose.

Mr. LEVIN. I agree with my colleague. I believe we successfully balanced both interests in the DATA bill. It is important legislation and I am pleased to have had the support of the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee and Senators BIDEN and MOYNIHAN as we successfully moved this bipartisan legislation to enactment.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise in support of the passage of H.R. 1653, which includes the Pribilof Islands Transition Act and the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000. This bill contains a number of ocean, coastal, and fisheries related titles that will result in major conservation gains for our nation's marine resources at a time when we are placing enormous demands on them. The bill not only attempts to provide additional environmental protections through a number of state and local programs, but also tools for better management.

Title I of this bill is the Pribilof Islands Transition Act. The Alaskan Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea were

a former reserve for harvesting fur seals. The Commerce Department, acting through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), has been involved in municipal and social services on the islands since 1910. In 1983, NOAA tried to remove themselves from administering these programs. However, despite the \$20 million in funds the Pribilof Islands received to replace future annual Federal appropriations, the Pribilof Islanders claim that the terms of the transition process were not met and the withdrawal failed.

This title authorizes \$28 million over five years to again attempt to achieve the orderly withdrawal of NOAA from the civil administration of the Pribilof Islands. Additionally, it authorizes \$10 million a year for five years for NOAA to complete its environmental cleanup and landfill closure obligations prior to the final transfer of federal property to the six local entities. The Pribilof Islands have historically been a very expensive program to the American taxpayers. Congress expects that this title will provide a final termination of NOAA's municipal and social service responsibilities on the islands and a distinct end to federal taxpayer funding of those services.

Title II of this bill is the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000. It is based on legislation that I first introduced over three years ago and S. 725, a bill that I introduced earlier in the 106th Congress along with Senator MCCAIN, the Chairman of the Commerce Committee.

Over the last decade, the United States had been leading a focused effort to conserve and manage coral reef ecosystems. The plight of coral reefs, both in the United States and internationally, gained much attention in 1997, the International Year of the Reef. One very successful program undertaken during the year-long event involved grants to local groups to build grassroots support for coral reef conservation, management, and educational programs. Since that time, NOAA has steadily improved coral reef management programs utilizing the full range of existing statutory authorities including the Coastal Zone Management Act, the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Endangered Species Act. These complementary authorities provide the framework for comprehensive coral reef conservation and management. Working in partnership with the States and other agencies, NOAA has demonstrated its unique ability among the federal agencies to effectively manage these valuable resources.

This title will augment the tools already available and provides an outline to assist NOAA as it moves forward with coral reef ecosystem management plans. It requires the creation of a national coral reef action strategy. Of

particular note is the use of marine protected areas to serve as replenishment zones. The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force has called for setting aside 20 percent of coral reefs in each region of the United States that contains reefs as no-take areas. However, many of the U.S. islands that have coral reefs have significant cultural ties to these reefs. It is imperative that any new marine protected areas are developed in close cooperation with the people of these islands and account for traditional and cultural uses of these resources. Without such cooperation, there will not be public support. The national strategy will address how such traditional uses will be incorporated into these replenishment zones.

The national program will also incorporate such important topics as mapping; research, monitoring, and assessment; international and regional management; outreach and education; and restoration. According to NOAA, the majority of our nation's coral reefs are within federal waters, therefore it is expected that NOAA will continue to work cooperatively with the states, territories, and commonwealths in the development and implementation of coral reef management plans and not shift the burden of responsibility onto these states, territories, and commonwealths. It is particularly important that NOAA not let recent activities in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands consume too much of the agency's personnel and financial resources at the expense of the rest of the nation's reefs. While the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Reserve will provide protection for the majority of reefs within our borders, it will not provide protection for our most heavily degraded reefs. NOAA must work collaboratively with our island partners to implement meaningful coral reef management strategies that target the full range of problems.

The title also creates a new coral reef conservation program, which will provide grants to states, governmental authorities, educational institutions, and non-governmental organizations. This is intended to foster locally based coral reef conservation and management. Creation of a coral reef conservation fund is also authorized. This fund would allow the Administration to enter into agreements with nonprofit organizations to support partnerships between the public and private sectors to further the conservation of coral reefs and help raise the matching funds required as part of the new grants program.

The title authorizes a total of \$16 million a year for fiscal years 2001 through 2004 to be split equally between the local coral reef conservation program and national coral reef activities. It is our expectation that this money will be utilized in such a way that builds upon partnerships with the U.S. islands.

Title III of the bill makes a number of minor technical changes to fisheries

laws. The fourth title of the bill authorizes the study of biological and environmental factors that are responsible for an increase in deaths in the eastern gray whale population. Two hundred ninety thousand dollars is authorized for fiscal year 2001, and \$500,000 is authorized for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2004.

Title V of the bill makes a technical correction to the American Fisheries Act (AFA) with regard to two fishing vessels, the *Providian* (United States Official Number 1062183) and the *Hazel Lorraine* (United States Official Number 592211). The 1998 AFA authorized the participation of certain US-owned fishing vessels in the Bering Sea pollock fishery. The AFA was designed to work in conjunction with the license limitation provisions of the fishery management plan developed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. Certain "qualifying years" were established in order to determine which vessels had earned a "fishing history" to allow them future access to pollock-fishing quotas. During the consideration of the AFA, the special circumstances of many vessels were taken into account. At that time, the fishing vessel *Providian* was being built in a U.S. shipyard as a replacement vessel for the pollock-fishing vessel *Ocean Spray*.

In 1994, the *Ocean Spray* was lost at sea—fortunately without the loss of a single life. Had the *Ocean Spray* not been lost, the vessel would have continued to fish for Bering Sea pollock during the years leading up to the development of the AFA. After the loss of the *Ocean Spray*, the owner-operator followed the replacement guidelines in order to secure his federal fishing permits and endorsement for his new vessel, the *Providian*. According to landing records, it appears that the average pollock harvest of the *Ocean Spray* during the years 1992 through 1994, exceeded 2000 metric tons.

Since the construction on the *Providian* was completed, the owner decided to bring his vessel to Bath, Maine to work in the Maine herring fishery. The current location of this vessel does not eliminate the need to establish fairness and restore the vessel owner's pollock-fishing rights earned with the *Ocean Spray* during 1992–1994. This amendment to the AFA is intended to provide the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service with the authority to qualify the *Providian* under the AFA with directed onshore pollock-fishing rights equivalent to those earned by the *Ocean Spray* during the years 1992–1994.

Mr. President, the authors of the AFA certainly took into account the particular circumstances of other vessel owners and companies. This technical amendment simply qualifies two vessels, the *Providian* and the *Hazel Lorraine* under the AFA for fishing rights that they otherwise should have received allow for the participation of

two additional catcher vessels in the Alaskan pollock fishery. These vessels were able to demonstrate that they should have been included in the Act when it passed in 1998.

I would like to thank Senator KERRY, the ranking member of the Oceans and Fisheries Subcommittee for his hard work and support of this bill. I would also like to thank Senator INOUE for his support, particularly for his contributions to the coral reef conservation section of the bill. In addition, I would like to thank Senator MCCAIN, the chairman of the Commerce Committee, and Senator HOLLINGS, the ranking member of the Committee, for their bipartisan support of this measure. We have before us an opportunity to significantly improve our nation's ability to conserve and manage our marine resources and I urge the Senate to pass H.R. 1653, as amended.

RECOGNITION OF CONGRESSMAN NEIL STAEBLER

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the life and accomplishments of a distinguished and principled public servant who served as a Member of Congress from my home state of Michigan, Neil Staebler. For nearly six decades, Neil embodied the very ideals on which this nation was founded. Born in 1905, Neil Staebler is widely credited as a founder of the modern Michigan Democratic Party. However, Neil's greatest desire was to make our government work for all its citizens.

Throughout his life, Neil dedicated himself to serving the United States of America. At the age of thirty-seven, he joined the World War II effort by enlisting in the United States Navy, where he served as a lieutenant.

After the conclusion of the war, Neil and a group of other distinguished citizens from Michigan, including former Governor G. Mennen Williams, former Congresswoman and Lieutenant Governor Martha Griffiths, and Martha's husband Hicks, helped to re-shape the Michigan Democratic Party and alter the landscape of Michigan politics. They sought to reinvigorate the Democratic Party and make it more responsive to the will and the needs of Michigan's citizens. Their efforts led to a renewed vibrancy within the Michigan Democratic Party, and propelled Neil to the chairmanship of the Party.

Neil served as state chairman for over a decade, and was able to use his position to encourage active political participation by all people. In addition to serving as state chairman and winning a seat to Congress in 1962, he ran an unsuccessful but hard fought challenge of Governor George Romney in 1964.

While he was a loyal member of the Democratic Party, Neil Staebler was first and foremost committed to our nation's institutions and the need for all citizens to participate in the democratic process. President Gerald Ford

recognized Neil's commitment to civic participation when he appointed him to serve on the first Federal Elections Commission.

Throughout this year's election, people of differing political allegiances have remarked on the stable and resilient nature of our nation's institutions. Our health as a democracy is due, in a large part, to the dedication and efforts of individuals like Neil Staebler. Neil Staebler was one of the true lions of Michigan and American politics. I am sure that my Senate colleagues will join me in honoring the memory of Neil Staebler, and in wishing his wife Burnette and their family well in the years ahead.

THE MILLENNIUM HOLIDAY TREE

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, the wonderful tree currently gracing the West lawn of this Capitol is from Colorado. I have had the pleasure of working towards getting this tree to DC for 2½ years, and I wanted to share with my colleagues a little about my home state's gift to the nation.

The Millennium Holiday Tree is a gift from the entire state of Colorado to our nation. It is a celebration of all that is Colorado: natural beauty, many cultures, cities and rural communities, and our rich history. The Colorado tree will be shining through early January 2001. The Millennium Holiday Tree is a native Colorado Blue Spruce which stands 65' tall and was projected to be 77 years old at the time of cutting. It was grown on the Pike National Forest near the community of Woodland Park. The tree was selected from this area because it is in the shadow of Pikes Peak, often referred to as "America's Mountain".

The Colorado State Forest Service is growing seedlings from the "grandma" tree. Seedlings from the Millennium Holiday Tree will be replanted at the cutting site. The Governor and Francis Owens were among the first to receive a Holiday Tree seedling for their support of this project. Hundreds of seedlings will also be planted in memorial forests around the state as part of Holiday Tree celebrations.

Colorado school children made over 4,000 ornaments for the tree. They each depict the theme: "Valuing the Past—Looking to the Future". Each county had the opportunity to supply 100 ornaments for the Millennium Holiday Tree and the companion trees.

Through the many community events, we celebrated the richness of Colorado. Each reflected the wide range of cultural and historical influences present in our communities—Native American, Hispanics, pioneers, and others. Local celebrations were encouraged in each of Colorado's 64 counties and at each of the 10 stops along the Tree route. Santa Fe Trail communities in Kansas and Missouri joined the celebrations too, including one in St. Louis at a National Park Service historic site. After the cutting ceremony on November 20th, the tree was