

Aviation Administration. He is superbly qualified and I have every confidence he will make an excellent addition to the Eastern District Court.

ARMED FORCES APPRECIATION DAY STATEMENT

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, each year, on the third Saturday in May, the nation expresses appreciation and gratitude to our military. In Louisiana, we are proud of our men and women in uniform and have a long-standing tradition of honoring them every year. We are proud of the military in times of war, and we are proud of the military in times of peace. We know that without our fighting men and women "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" would be just hollow words. Since the birth of our Nation, America's Armed Forces has served the United States with honor, courage, and distinction, both at home and abroad. America's patriots have assumed a sacred duty, understanding that our history, our heritage, and our honor, require us to bear the burdens of sacrifice. We acknowledge and applaud their selfless service, courage, and dedication to duty.

Today, thousands of troops are deployed throughout the world, operating in every time zone, and in every climate defending our freedom. Our sailors and Marines are aboard ships and submarines in the Adriatic. Our Air Force and Navy pilots fly the perilous skies over Iraq. Our soldiers keep the vigil and preserve the peace in the former Yugoslavia. They do it to promote American values: democracy and freedom from the oppression of demagogues, tyrants and totalitarian governments. The peace and freedom so longed for by people throughout the world often starts over here, on American soil. When our Armed Forces go overseas, they take with them our national values: a tradition of democracy and a love of individual liberty. Our service members are truly freedom's ambassadors.

So on behalf of the state of Louisiana and a grateful nation, we thank you. We thank you for all that you give to us every day of your lives. We thank those serving on active duty, those standing by in the Reserves and National Guard, and we thank all family members for their patience and their sacrifices. Thank you for your devotion to duty, for your loyalty, for your courage and for your patriotic and profound love of country.

NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN DAY

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to promote awareness of missing children and honor those who work to search and rescue the thousands of children who disappear each year. As my colleagues may know, today is recognized as National Missing Children Day.

In proclaiming the first National Missing Children Day in 1983, President Ronald Reagan noted, "Our children are the Nation's most valuable and most vulnerable asset. They are our link to the future, our hope for a better life. Their protection and safety must be one of our highest priorities." Since that time, National Missing Children Day has been a reminder that we must strengthen our resolve to keep children safe.

I believe that the Federal Government can help state and local law enforcement agencies reunite missing and runaway children with their families. In particular, the Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act enacted by Congress last year is an example of an effective federal and state partnership that reduces crime and prevents missing children cases. This law reauthorized the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program through fiscal year 2003 and provides local communities with the resources to find missing children and prevent child victimization.

In my home state, the Jacob Wetterling Foundation and Missing Children Minnesota have worked effectively to locate missing children and raise public awareness about ways to prevent child abduction and sexual exploitation. Additionally, the Minnesota Association of Runaway Youth Services, comprising eighteen nonprofit agencies in Minnesota, has been instrumental in providing services to runaway and homeless youth and their families. Their efforts have been guided by the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program, which provides resources to community-based organizations to provide outreach, temporary shelter, and counseling each year to thousands of Minnesota's homeless young people.

I am also working to secure federal funding to support the State of Minnesota's development of a statewide criminal justice information sharing system that would allow police, judges, and other criminal justice professionals to communicate quickly about the criminal histories of violent offenders. My proposal will help to provide local communities with the technology to identify criminals and protect our communities from sexual predators and violent offenders.

As chairman of the Minnesota House Crime Prevention Committee, Representative Rich Stanek recently led the effort to pass "Katie's Law"—legislation that will provide state funding for an integrated criminal justice system. I greatly appreciate Representative Stanek's dedication to improving the Minnesota criminal justice system and the opportunity to work with him on this very important public safety initiative.

Mr. President, I again commend the numerous volunteers, organizations, businesses, state legislators, and government agencies who all work on a daily basis to find missing children. I

look forward to our continued work together.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise to commemorate this very special day, National Missing Children's Day. Proclaimed by President Ronald Reagan in 1983 and honored by every administration since, May 25th is the day 6 year old Ethan Patz disappeared from a New York City street corner on his way to school in 1979. His case remains unsolved and is an annual reminder to the nation to renew efforts to reunite missing children with their families and make child protection a national priority. As a mother of two beautiful children, I cannot imagine what I would do if my children were missing. All of us with children know that this is a parent's greatest nightmare. Yet every 18 seconds a child disappears, and so each day over three thousand parents go through the terror of losing their child.

The Theme of this year's National Missing Children's Day is "Picture them Home." This national public awareness campaign is aimed at encouraging the public at large to be aware of their important role in the recovery of these children. One in six children featured in the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's photo-distribution program is recovered as a direct result of someone in the public recognizing the child in the picture and notifying the authorities. Unlike so many of our national tragedies, we can do something to help return a missing child to their families. I urge the American public to really look closely at pictures of missing children they see. The small gesture can be the key to reuniting a mother or father with their missing child.

In closing, I would like to commend those individuals who were honored this morning by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), the Fraternal Order of Police and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention at the U.S. Department of Justice Fifth Annual National Missing and Exploited Children's Awards Ceremony.

Sergeant Investigator Awilda Cartagena, Texas Dept. of Public Safety—For the recovery of Johnny Tello, a family abduction victim from Dallas, Texas, after a six-year search. Special Agent K. Jill Hill, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Little Rock, Arkansas—For the location and recovery of non-family abduction victim, three-year-old Destiny Leann Richards, who was kidnapped from her home in Mabelvale, Arkansas, on June 11, 1999, and located in a wooded area the next evening following extensive ground searches. Detective Captain David W. Bailey, accepting for the Lancaster (Ohio) Police Department—for the successful local location and recovery of three-year-old Ashley Taggart, abducted in April 1999 and found three days later in the home of a twice-convicted sexual predator. Senior Resident Agent Scott Wilson, Federal Bureau of Investigation,

Painesville, Ohio, Township Division—for the recovery of Nicole Nsour, an international child abduction victim, whose non-custodial father abducted her and held her in Jordan for over two months. Postal Inspector Paul Groza, Jr., U.S. Postal Inspection Service—Northwest Portland, Oregon—for the investigation resulting in the conviction of Jonathon and Sarah Aragorn for their construction of a Web Site to procure children for sexual relations with themselves and their children. Officer James E. Lee, Lake Bluff, Illinois, Police Department—for the investigation and arrest of Donald C. Moore, a local child mentor who was victimizing area youth entrusted to his care. Detective Michael Schirling, Burlington, Vermont, Police Department—for the investigation and apprehension of a 19-year-old fraternity president, summer camp counselor and student at the University of Vermont at Burlington, for possession of child pornography and child sexual abuse.

RUSSIA AS A RESPONSIBLE PARTNER

• Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, one of the myths dear to President Clinton's heart these days is that the government of Russia has been "a supportive and reliable partner in the effort to bring peace and stability to the Balkans." That myth was shattered once again earlier this month when a war criminal indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, ICTY, was hosted in Moscow—not by Russia's criminal underworld—but by the Kremlin itself.

General Dragolub Ojdanic, Minister of Defense of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, visited Moscow for nearly a week earlier this month—from May 7–12, 2000. He was there as a guest of the government of the Russian Federation and enjoyed the privilege of attending President Vladimir Putin's inauguration ceremonies.

As Slobodan Milosevic's military Chief of Staff during the Kosovo war, General Ojdanic was directly responsible for the Serbian military's ethnic cleansing campaign in Kosovo. For this, the General was indicted by the ICTY for crimes against humanity and violations of the laws and customs of war for alleged atrocities against Albanians in Kosovo.

Mr. President, the ICTY has issued international warrants for General Ojdanic's arrest and extradition to The Hague. The Russian Federation, a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council which established the ICTY, has an obligation to arrest General Ojdanic and extradite him to The Hague if and when they have the opportunity.

But what did President Putin and his regime do when Ojdanic was in Moscow? Instead of arresting and sending him to The Hague, they provided a week of fine food and camaraderie and a privileged seat at the Putin inauguration!

What truly disturbs me, Mr. President, is that General Ojdanic's visit was not just for fun. He was there to work—to reestablish the links between the Milosevic regime and the Kremlin. While in Moscow, he held official talks with Defense Minister Sergeyev, Army Chief of Staff Anatoly Kvashnin, and Foreign Minister Ivanov.

On May 16, four days after General Ojdanic's visit to Moscow, Russia announced that it has provided the Serbian regime of Slobodan Milosevic with \$102 million of a \$150 million loan. The Russian government also announced that it will facilitate the sale to Serbia of \$32 million worth of oil, despite the fact that the international community has imposed economic sanctions against the Milosevic regime.

I confess that I am impressed by the audacity of Russian President Putin. Here he is, providing the Milosevic regime with over \$150 million in economic support while seeking debt relief from the international community and loans from the International Monetary Fund. He is doing this while his country seeks and receives food aid from the United States.

What should we conclude from all this?

First, President Putin seems comfortable ignoring the requirement to arrest and transfer indicted war criminals to The Hague. I suppose we can just add this to the long list of international obligations Mr. Putin sees fit to disregard.

Second, Russia does not share NATO's goals and objectives in bringing peace and stability to the Balkans. If it did, its leaders would not be so brazenly and warmly supporting senior officials of the Milosevic regime.

Third, the Kremlin must regard Western, and particularly, U.S. economic assistance and aid to be unconditional. He has evidently concluded that he can conduct his foreign policy with impunity and still count on the West's economic largesse. The fact that the hospitality and support provided to these Serbian war criminals occurs just one month before President Clinton's visit to Moscow shows how little respect Putin has for the policies of the United States.

Mr. President, what concerns me most about the relationship between the Kremlin and the Milosevic regime is the threat it poses to our men and women in uniform serving in the Balkans—and those of our allies. The political support the Kremlin provides Slobodan Milosevic directly jeopardizes the safety and security of American and allied forces deployed in the Balkans. This outreach by Putin to the Milosevic regime only encourages that brutal dictator to continue his policies of destruction in the Balkans.

While we are trying to force the Milosevic regime to step down and to turn power over to Serbia's democratic opposition, Russia is signaling to Milosevic that he can survive and even outlast the Alliance—and that Russia will help him prevail.

It is for these reasons, that I plan to introduce an amendment to the foreign operations appropriations bill that will restrict material and economic assistance the United States provides to the Russian Federation. There is no reason why the United States should be providing Russia loan forgiveness and economic assistance when the Kremlin continues to support a regime in Serbia whose forces directly threaten our troops and those of our allies trying to bring peace to the Balkans.

This amendment does four things:

First, it reduces assistance obligated to the Russian Federation by an amount equal in value to the loans, financial assistance, and energy sales the Government of the Russian Federation has provided and intends to provide to the Milosevic regime.

Second, it ensures U.S. opposition to the extension of financial assistance to Russia from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other international financial institutions.

Third, it suspends existing programs to Russia provided by the Export-Import Bank and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

Fourth, it ensures the United States will oppose proposals to provide Russia further forgiveness, restructuring, and rescheduling of its international debt.

Mr. President, I sincerely believe that a partnership with Russia is possible and indeed, would serve the interests of both countries. A strategy of engagement, however, cannot and must not ignore reality. Partnership cannot occur when Russia blatantly supports a regime that continues to threaten stability in the Balkans, whose calling cards are ethnic cleansing and political repression, and that continues to threaten U.S. soldiers in the field.

I will be pleased to treat Russia as a responsible partner when it behaves as one.●

BIRTHDAY OF KATHERINE "KITTY" WILKA

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, "Mother's Day"—that special day when children the world over celebrate and honor their mothers—falls during the month of May. Appropriately, the month of May is also the month when one of the most selfless and dedicated mothers I know celebrates her birthday. Today, I would like to share the story of that remarkable woman from my home state of South Dakota.

I have known and admired Katherine "Kitty" Wilka for more than two decades. Today, as she celebrates her 70th birthday, she will be surrounded by numerous family members and friends. Kitty Wilka is the mother of 12, the grandmother of 29 and, as of last week, the great-grandmother of 3. But it is not just the size of the Wilka family that is noteworthy. It is also the quality of their character and the diversity of their accomplishments.

Kitty Wilka and her late husband, Bill, led by example and instilled admirable values in all their children. Widowed for over a decade, Kitty is the