

poverty and pursue American interests across the globe. After 40 years, it's an idea whose time has come.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. KENNEDY. 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 some of the names of those who 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.

July 13, 1999: Debbie Ahl, 39, Nashville, TN; Desiree Battle, Detroit, MI; Antonio Darias, 49, Miami-Dade County, FL; Leonardo Duran, 18, Houston, TX; Doug Harris, 31, Cincinnati, OH; Stefanie Harris, 29, Cincinnati, OH; Romero Jones, 19, St. Louis, MO; Sigmund Linberger, 34, Akron, OH; Michael McKinnon, 18, Nashville, TN; Rodolfo Recendez, 32, Fort Worth, TX; Dylan Sertich, 22, Toledo, OH; Unidentified male, 16, Long Beach, CA; Unidentified male, 35, Nashville, TN.

One of the victims of gun violence I mentioned, 19-year-old Romero Jones from Missouri, grew up in tough circumstances and turned his life around after a troublesome childhood. Romero worked with his city's "Cease Fire Program" to reach out to young people to encourage them to give up their involvement with gangs and pursue job training and careers. Romero sat on the stage with President Clinton during the President's 1995 visit to St. Louis to discuss the city's successes in addressing crime.

Romero was shot and killed in what police say was a case of mistaken identity—no drugs or money were found in Romero's home following his tragic death.

We cannot sit back and allow such senseless gun violence to continue. The time has come to enact sensible gun legislation. Our country cannot afford to lose more of its promising young leaders like Romero Jones. His death is a reminder to all of us that we need to act now.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, July 12, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,664,141,886,637.91 (Five trillion, six hundred sixty-four billion, one hundred forty-one million, eight hundred eighty-six thousand, six hundred thirty-seven dollars and ninety-one cents).

One year ago, July 12, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,621,471,000,000 (Five trillion, six hundred twenty-one

billion, four hundred seventy-one million).

Five years ago, July 12, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,927,811,000,000 (Four trillion, nine hundred twenty-seven billion, eight hundred eleven million).

Ten years ago, July 12, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,152,770,000,000 (Three trillion, one hundred fifty-two billion, seven hundred seventy million).

Fifteen years ago, July 12, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,792,949,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred ninety-two billion, nine hundred forty-nine million) which reflects a debt increase of almost \$4 trillion—\$3,871,192,886,637.91 (Three trillion, eight hundred seventy-one billion, one hundred ninety-two million, eight hundred eighty-six thousand, six hundred thirty-seven dollars and ninety-one cents) during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

WILLIAM J. BECKHAM, JR. MEMORIAL TRIBUTE

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to the life of one of Michigan's great civic leaders, William J. Beckham, Jr. After living a remarkably accomplished life, sadly, Bill passed away April 27 while on vacation with his beloved wife, Mattie Maynard Beckham. This week, Bill's friends and colleagues and members of the Senate and the House will come together in our Nation's capital to celebrate his memory and his legacy.

Bill loved life and all the important things in it—his family, his friends, school kids, and his African American heritage. Bill loved the difference that he was making in Michigan through his work on school reform—enhancing and expanding the quality of education for all students in the Detroit public school system. Behind Bill's dignified, gentle yet deliberate manner was a fierce determination to help improve the everyday lives of families. Multitudes were beneficiaries of his visionary efforts. He showed that character and the principles of hard work, integrity and perseverance can transform one's dreams into reality. He has left a mark of great achievement in civil rights, education, economic and political reform.

Bill had a distinguished career of public service in Michigan, which included positions as Vice Chair of the School Board for the Detroit Public Schools, Chairman of the Schools of the 21st Century Corporation, President and Trustee of The Skillman Foundation, the first Deputy Mayor of Detroit, and President of New Detroit, Inc. His successful career in the private sector included key leadership positions at Burroughs/Unisys Corporation, Envirotest Systems Corporation in Phoenix and the Ford Motor Company.

Bill also enjoyed a long and noteworthy career in federal service from

1967 through the early 1980s. Over a period of eight years, he served Senator Phil Hart in several capacities including Policy Adviser in his Washington office for four years, Chief of Staff of the Senator's office in Detroit for three years, and Campaign Assistant for one year. Bill subsequently served as Staff Director to the House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Equal Opportunity, chaired by Representative Gus Hawkins. Sought out by President Jimmy Carter, Bill was nominated and confirmed first as Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Treasury and later as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

During his tenure on Capitol Hill, Bill joined with several of his staff colleagues to establish the first minority congressional staff group to study and act on the political and legislative demands of minority communities nationwide. The group's pioneering efforts in Quitman and Cohoma Counties in Mississippi, along with civil rights leader JOHN LEWIS and, my brother, SANDER LEVIN (both of whom now serve in the House) helped to mark a new and powerful political and participatory direction for the people of the Mississippi Delta. Wise and loyal colleagues—Gordon Alexander, Jackie Parker, Judy Jackson, Willa Rawls Dumas, Alan Boyd, Dora Jean Malachi, Mattie Barrow and Bob Parker—declared Bill their leader. The group moved ahead and soon designed the legendary mission to the Mississippi Delta; and, under the direction of Julian Bond of the then-Southern Elections Fund, pursued other worthy political initiatives, during a time when there was only a handful of minority elected officials nationwide.

Mr. President, I include for the RECORD the names of the members of the William J. Beckham, Jr. Memorial Committee, all of whom were former staff colleagues of Bill's during his tenure of federal service, including my current Deputy Legislative Director Jackie Parker. These devoted friends and former colleagues organized this week's great tribute to Bill and will be attesting, along with others, to the truly incredible life that Bill led and the impact he had on their lives. They are as follows:

WILLIAM J. BECKHAM, JR. MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Gordon Alexander, Legislative Assistant, former Senator Birch Bayh

*President, 40+ Parenting, Inc.

Robert Bates, former Special Assistant, Senator Edward Kennedy

Alan Boyd, Senior Aide, former Senator Clifford Case

*Charitable Games Control Board

George Dalley, former Chief of Staff, Rep. Charles Rangel

Winifred Donaldson, Chief of Staff, former Rep. Andy Jacobs

Willa Rawls Dumas, Office Manager, former Rep. Silvio Conti

*Vice President for Administration, Directions Data, Inc.

Ernestine Hunter, Senior Aide, former Senator John Glenn

Judy Jackson, Senior Aide, former Rep. Bob Eckhardt and Ex Assistant,

Senate Finance Committee

*Executive Assistant, TRESP Associates
Carolyn Jordan, Legislative Assistant,
former Senator Alan Cranston and Counsel,
Senate Banking Committee

*Executive Director, National Credit Union
Administration

Dora Jean Malachi, Senior Aide to former
Senator Walter Huddleston and Senate Budg-
et Committee

Mary Maynard, Clerk, House Sub-
committee on Equal Opportunity

*AFL-CIO Legislative Division
Jackie B. Parker, Legislative Assistant,
former Rep. James A. Burke

*Deputy Legislative Director, Senator Carl
Levin

Annette C. Wilson, *U.S. Department of
Transportation

*Currently

Mr. President, Bill leaves his beloved mother, Gertrude; his wife Mattie, their two children, Monica and Jeffrey; Bill's three older sons, William, III, Jonathan, and Reverend Eric Beckham; his two sisters Connie Evans and Elaine Beckham of Florida; his brother Charles of Detroit; seven grandchildren, and enumerable friends. Together we will celebrate his life and cherish his memory.●

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL JAY L. JOHNSON

• Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor Admiral Jay L. Johnson, United States Navy, our 26th Chief of Naval Operations, as he prepares to turn over the helm of the United States Navy to his successor.

As former Secretary of the Navy and a member of the Armed Services Committee for 22 years, I have worked closely with every Chief of Naval Operations since 1969. Admiral Johnson, in my view, ranks with the finest of this long line of great Chiefs.

Thirty-six years ago, on the 30th of June, 1964, a young Midshipmen Johnson raised his hand on Tecumseh Court at the United States Naval Academy and took his oath of office to support and defend the Constitution. In the years since that day he has devoted indeed all of his great energy and talent to that task. Oceans of water have passed beneath the keels of the ships he has commanded and many men and women have stood proudly on their decks. He has been steadfast in his covenant to this nation and his devotion to those with whom he has served. An illustrious career gives eloquent testimony to his service to our country and his leadership of its Navy.

He was commissioned an Ensign upon his graduation in 1968 and, demonstrating exceptional tactical and technical acumen, he soloed in both propeller and jet aircraft within six months, setting the pace for a most impressive future.

His first sea duty tour was aboard U.S.S. *Oriskany* (CVA 34), where he made two combat cruises flying and fighting the F-8J Crusader over Vietnam with the Hellcats of VF-191. He flew the F-14 Tomcat as a Ghostrider

of VF-142, a Grim Reaper of VF-101, and as Commanding Officer of the Jolly Rogers of VF-84.

Admiral Johnson's follow-on sea tours demonstrated the tactical brilliance and the consensus-building skills that would characterize his tenure as CNO. As Commander, Carrier Air Wing ONE, he planned and coordinated the joint Navy and Air Force air strikes against Libya in response to terrorist acts in Europe. In this same carrier airwing, he successfully integrated the F/A-18C with the F-14, providing a superior day-night combat capability to our forward-deployed carrier battle groups.

Admiral Johnson's early shore assignments reinforced his commitment to our Sailors as he served in the Bureau of Naval Personnel, detailing junior aviation officers. His selection to the prestigious Chief of Naval Operations' Strategic Studies Group further cemented his reputation as a Naval Warfare visionary, and marked him as a future leader of our nation's Navy.

As a new Flag Officer, Admiral Johnson went back to the Bureau of Naval Personnel, where his profound concern for the well being of our Sailors resulted in dramatic improvements in retention and support of our Fleet Sailors. It is particularly noteworthy that these institutional changes were orchestrated at the same time he was coordinating the Navy's activation and call-up of Reserve Sailors in support of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Back to sea in command of U.S.S. *Theodore Roosevelt* Battle Group, his tactical acumen and diplomatic skills proved key to a more efficient and combat-ready coalition of forces in Bosnian Theater operations.

But nowhere was Admiral Johnson's leadership, focus on mission execution, and consensus-building skill more brilliantly demonstrated than in his next assignment as Commander, Second Fleet: Striking Fleet Atlantic and Joint Task Force 120. He simultaneously guided the *Eisenhower* Battle Group through preparations for its deployment to the Sixth Fleet while serving as the Deputy Commander for Operation Uphold Democracy, which restored the democratically elected government to Haiti.

After serving as the Vice-Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Johnson took the helm of our Navy as its 26th Chief. He has exemplified the quiet dignity and honor of that office, ably and wisely counseling leaders at the highest echelons of our Government. His leadership, integrity and foresight have set a true and steady course for the Navy as it transitions into the 21st century. It has been written in ancient annals that "anyone can hold the helm when the sea is calm." This man took the helm of our Navy in heavy seas. Steering by a constellation of four guide stars—Operational Primacy, Leadership, Teamwork, and Pride—Admiral Johnson guided the Navy

through the shoals of four tempestuous years, balancing mandated reductions in forces with dramatically increased operational tasking. The Fleet's mission accomplishment in our forward operating areas overseas—at the tip of the spear—was never placed in doubt. And never for a moment did he lose sight of the interests of the men and women of our Navy.

Admiral Johnson empowered the Navy's commanding officers by removing unnecessary inspections and burdensome paperwork, and gave these skippers the opportunity to lead and truly command their ships, submarines, squadrons, and SEAL teams. He also led the Joint Chiefs of Staff in calling for much-needed increases in the Navy's budget: Pay Table Reform and the reform of the Retirement Program are resulting in dramatic increases in retention of the Navy's most valuable asset—our Sailors.

Admiral Johnson's legacy for the future of Naval Warfare is embodied in his vision of the Navy at sea and ashore. At sea, he has boldly committed his service to build upon the Navy's strategy laid down in "Forward From the Sea" and the Marine Corps' "Operational Maneuver From the Sea." He has championed the creation of a Navy and Marine Corps team that will directly and decisively influence events ashore—anytime, anywhere. He has focused the Navy's research, development and investment capital upon improving the Fleet's ability to conduct Land Attack Warfare, Theater Air and Missile Defense, and Organic Mine Warfare. Admiral Johnson has prepared the Sailors and the Fleet to defeat future threats and he has created an information technology revolution at sea, which is dramatically and irreversibly changing the way we employ our Navy in peacetime, crisis, and war.

Ashore, Admiral Johnson has re-invigorated the Naval War College, reminding us of the years prior to World War II, when the Navy's war games anticipated nearly every enemy operation. He has conducted Battle Experiments with cutting-edge technology and brought together the best minds of government, academia, business, and the military to create new rule sets for an international security environment characterized by an Internet-driven, global economy.

Standing beside this officer throughout his superb career has been his wife Garland, a lady to whom he owes much. She has been his key supporter, devoting her life to her husband, to her family and to the men and women of the Navy family. She has traveled by his side for these many years visiting the Fleet. Her sacrifice and devotion have served as an example and inspiration for others. This team has served our Navy well and we will miss them both.

With these words before the Senate, I seek to recognize Admiral Johnson for his unwavering loyalty to the Navy and the Nation. From the beginning, he has