

## THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, September 18, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,651,871,016,617.17, five trillion, six hundred fifty-one billion, eight hundred seventy-one million, sixteen thousand, six hundred seventeen dollars and seventeen cents.

Five years ago, September 18, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,963,469,000,000, four trillion, nine hundred sixty-three billion, four hundred sixty-nine million.

Ten years ago, September 18, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,232,530,000,000, three trillion, two hundred thirty-two billion, five hundred thirty million.

Fifteen years ago, September 18, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,823,102,000,000, one trillion, eight hundred twenty-three billion, one hundred two million.

Twenty-five years ago, September 18, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$550,627,000,000, five hundred fifty billion, six hundred twenty-seven million which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,101,244,016,617.17, five trillion, one hundred one billion, two hundred forty-four million, sixteen thousand, six hundred seventeen dollars and seventeen cents during the past 25 years.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## RECOGNITION OF MEGAN QUANN, GOLD MEDAL SWIMMER FROM PUYALLUP, WA

• Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate a remarkable young woman who hails from the great state of Washington and just recently struck gold at the Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

On Monday, Megan Quann, a junior at Emerald Ridge High School in Puyallup, won the gold medal in the 100-meter breaststroke. Megan rallied from third place to win in a time of 1:07.05, setting a new American record.

Practicing every morning at 4:30 a.m. and swimming over 11 miles a day in preparation for the Olympics, Megan is a truly dedicated and inspiring athlete. I have learned that the City of Puyallup is already in the planning stages of welcoming their Olympic champion home with keys to the city and a plan to set aside a day on the calendar as "Megan Quann Day."

Later this week, Megan will compete again as part of the women's medley relay and will have another shot at bringing home the gold. I wish Megan luck in her next race and ask that the Senate join me in congratulating her for what she has achieved. •

## THE NATIONAL HISTORY DAY PROGRAM

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on and give my support

to a worthy program called National History Day. National History Day is a year-long, nonprofit program in which children in grades 6–12 research and create historical projects related to a broad annual theme. This year's theme was "Turning points in History: People, Ideas, Events." Using this theme, students research their area of interest and create a project, which is then entered in an annual contest. The primary goal of the National History Day program is to revolutionize the techniques implemented in teaching and training our youth.

What I want to emphasize today is the tremendous impact this unique and valuable program has had in my home state of New Mexico. New Mexico's involvement with National History Day began three years ago, and has continued to grow and enrich the lives of New Mexico's youth. The participants in the first year were few, but to date we have had more than one thousand young New Mexicans participate in the state competition.

New Mexico students that participate in this program are given the opportunity to expand upon critical thinking and research skills, which in turn help them in all subject areas. The projects they work on give them a greater appreciation of historical events that have helped shape their own hometowns as well as their nation. This hands on approach to history is an innovative way to get students excited and genuinely interested in our great nation's history.

I know that with our support, the National History Day program will continue to grow, and I believe that this growth is essential for today's students. When students do not have an opportunity to participate in this program, they miss out on a chance to grow and to better themselves. As Pulitzer Prize winner David McCullough states:

Knowledge of history is the precondition of political intelligence. Without history, a society shares no common memory of where it has been, of what its core values are, or what decisions in the past account for the present circumstance.

National History Day gives students an opportunity to learn of our history and its importance in their daily lives.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this program. •

## NATIONAL LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH

• Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize September as National Library Card Sign-up Month and pay tribute to those dedicated individuals who, through their passion for books and learning, make our libraries places of great discovery.

As school begins for millions of children this month, parents and mentors are coming together to promote one of the most important school supplies, one available free to every child: a library card. With the support of the

American Library Association, National Library Card Sign-up Month spotlights the wealth of resources found at our local public libraries. Libraries not only offer books, magazines, and reference materials, but many also provide CDs, videos, and Internet connections to assist children and adults meet their educational goals.

There is no better place than our libraries for bringing the world and the events that shape it—past and present—to life. Fortunately, a child doesn't need any special gadgets to experience all the library has to offer; they just need their library card. A library card can open the doors to space exploration, put a reader in the front seat with a storm chaser, transport anyone with a good imagination back thousands of years in time, and offer every imaginable point of view on every topic of interest.

Mr. President, during National Library Card Sign-up Month, I commend America's schools and libraries for providing and promoting an environment that sparks a passion in people of all ages for books and learning. And I urge parents and teachers alike to share their knowledge and passion for learning with our children by signing them up for library cards at the local public library. •

FORMER SAN FRANCISCO MAYOR  
GEORGE CHRISTOPHER

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, it is with sadness that I rise to inform my colleagues of the death of former San Francisco Mayor George Christopher, who passed away on September 14th at the age of 92. I express my deepest condolences to Mayor Christopher's family and to his countless friends.

The city has lost an extraordinary civic leader—one whose grand vision and passion for helping people are vividly remembered by all who knew him.

Although many residents were not yet born during George Christopher's two terms as mayor from 1956 to 1964, the citizens of San Francisco still benefit today from his dynamic and no nonsense leadership. People like to say that San Francisco grew up during his tenure, that he made it a big league city. Indeed, it was George Christopher who brought the then New York Giants to town.

Mayor Christopher changed the way San Francisco looked and the way its citizens looked at themselves. He transformed the City's skyline, built the Japan Center and Candlestick Park, and he modernized downtown. He built San Francisco into a cosmopolitan, world-class city.

The child of Greek immigrants, as mayor he ushered in an era of stronger civil rights consciousness and was a particular hero to San Francisco's Greek community. He was a man of international stature who never lost his close connection to everyday people. Mayor Christopher's life was dedicated to public service, and the San

Francisco of today is in many ways a living testament to his achievements both in and out of office.

George Christopher was an exceptional leader who will be greatly missed.●

#### BYRON CENTER HIGH SCHOOL NAMED 1999-2000 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, in 1982, the United States Department of Education initiated its Blue Ribbon Schools Program. In each year since, the Department has recognized schools throughout the country which excel in all areas of academic leadership, teaching and teacher development, and school curriculum. In other words, Blue Ribbon Schools are recognized because they are the finest public and private secondary schools our Nation has to offer. They are the schools that set the standard for which others strive. I am very proud to report that nine of the 198 Blue Ribbon Schools named by Secretary Richard W. Riley for 1999-2000 are located in the State of Michigan, and I rise today to recognize Byron Center High School in Byron Center, Michigan, one of these nine schools.

Over the past eight years, Byron Center High School has transformed itself from a school rooted in the curriculum of the 1950's to one prepared for the constantly changing information age of the 21st Century. A graduate of Byron Center is now technologically, academically, and culturally literate. The key to this transformation has been a shift of focus, as administrators stopped tinkering with curriculum and teaching strategies and rather developed a comprehensive restructuring model, which enabled them to more effectively address the entire educational process that Byron Center students are put through.

With the new restructuring model, Byron Center faculty and administrators have focused their efforts on four areas: providing effective guidance to all students by improving and promoting career awareness programs; forming strong partnerships and effective working relationships with local business and community leaders; hiring quality teachers and allowing them to be the leaders in the effort to improve; and constantly monitoring student performance, not only on state and national tests, but also by conducting one year and five year follow up surveys of Byron Center graduates, and collectively employing this information to determine where improvements could occur within Byron Center High School to better prepare students find success in a rapidly changing world.

The success of the transformation can clearly be seen in the new Byron Center High School facility, which students and staff moved into the fall of 1998. Dr. Robert Burt, who visited Byron Center to make the assessment

for the Blue Ribbon Award, said that administrators "built the school around a structure of technology," which provided him a "dramatic opportunity to learn about the new age of high schools." Indeed, the facility was designed to support the curriculum, teaching strategies and information technology systems that have played such a vital role in the overwhelmingly successful development of Byron Center High School.

Mr. President, I applaud the students, parents, faculty and administration of Byron Center High School, for I believe this is an award which speaks more to the effort of a united community than it does to the work of a few individuals. With that having been said, I would like to recognize Dr. William Skilling, the Principal of Byron Center High School, whose dedication to making his school one of the finest in our Nation has been instrumental in creating this community. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I congratulate Byron Center High School on being named a Blue Ribbon School for 1999-2000, and wish the school continued success in the future.●

#### IN HONOR OF WILLIAM F. ASKEW

● Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I rise today to give honor to and remember the life of William F. Aske. Bill devoted his life to his nation, his family and to delivering the comfort of the Lord's word to the hearts of all those he touched.

Bill enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1942 and served in the Pacific Theater of Operations during World War II. He also served in the Florida National Guard during the Korean Conflict. Bill married Doris Dillman in June, 1946, and together they had 9 children. Bill was the founding pastor of Arlington Heights Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Florida, for 15 years, before moving to Springfield's Noble Hill Baptist Church where he pastored for the next 26 years. In 1995, Bill retired from the pastorate, but continued to touch the lives of young people with the love of God by serving as the foundations class teacher at New Life Baptist Church.

Bill understood that preaching God's word meant more than speaking from the pulpit on Sunday; it meant action as well. Bill participated in Springfield and area community activities. He served as a longtime member of the Springfield Northside Betterment Association and the Breakfast Club of the Ozarks. He served as General Manager of a 100,000 watt Christian Radio Station, KWFC, in Springfield since it first opened in 1968. And with all these activities, he still found time to be a member of the teaching faculty at Baptist Bible College.

Bill's devotion to the Savior was his most prominent feature and shapes the legacy that he leaves with his 9 children, 34 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.●

#### THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE AIR FORCE

● Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to the United States Air Force as it celebrates its 53rd anniversary. For more than half a century, the men and women of the Air Force, through their dedicated service and sacrifice, have helped to ensure the freedom and security of America and the world.

Although military aviation in this country had its beginnings in the Army, less than four years after the Wright brothers made their historic first flight, it was not until 1947 that the Air Force was established as a separate branch of the armed services.

The birth of the Air Force itself can be traced to 1907, when the Aeronautical Division of the U.S. Army Signal Corps was organized. In 1935, the General Headquarters was established, and the Air Corps gained control of tactical units under General Frank Andrews, after whom Andrews Air Force Base was named. Between the years of 1939 and 1945, this organization was known as the Army Air Force and was led by the legendary General Henry "Hap" Arnold. In March 1942, the Army Air Force became coequal with the Army ground forces, a major step in the evolution of the Air Force.

Chief Army officers such as Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower witnessed firsthand the vital role played by air power in World War II, and foresaw the increasing importance of air power in future conflicts. Military leaders recognized that the growing strategic significance of aircraft made necessary the creation of an additional military branch, alongside the Army, Navy, and Marines, and in 1947 the National Security Act made the Air Force an autonomous military power.

Over the course of its illustrious history, the Air Force has taken on additional responsibilities, extending its reach beyond the atmosphere into space. In 1956, it was put in charge of all land-based ballistic missile systems. The first missile under the control of the Air Force—the Atlas ballistic missile—was made operational in September 1959. By 1965, the Air Force was responsible for the development of satellites, boosters, space probes, and other systems used by NASA. According to former Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman, America is safer in a dangerous world because of what the Air Force brings to our nation's defense: "long range lethal combat power . . . strategic mobility . . . global awareness that comes from space assets, and . . . theater air dominance." This has been made possible through a combination of highly trained service members and highly sophisticated technology.

Thanks to the Air Force, the lives of American servicemen and women in all military branches are safer than ever before during times of conflict. Military aircraft are now able to achieve many military objectives that once required ground troops, and American