

freedom to so many deserving residents, and deny us the gifts they have imparted to our shores.

Contrary to what our critics say, supporting this bill does not condone illegal entry into this country. I am proud of our historic value of the rule of law and territorial integrity. At the same time, I am equally concerned that once certain people have resided in this country for years and contributed to our country's prosperity, some would have us uproot such valuable members of our society.

Let us not eject Honduran, Haitian, Guatemalan, and Salvadoran nationals, who have, for so long, woven into the American fabric, making American families, paying American taxes, building American homes and businesses, and working for American labor.

Let us not revoke the American promise of freedom, and help deport so many valuable members of our society. Let us vote for passage of this very American legislation, the Latino Immigration Fairness Act.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Friday, September 29, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,674,178,209,886.86, five trillion, six hundred seventy-four billion, one hundred seventy-eight million, two hundred nine thousand, eight hundred eighty-six dollars and eighty-six cents. One year ago, September 29, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,645,399,000,000, five trillion, six hundred forty-five billion, three hundred ninety-nine million.

Five years ago, September 29, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,973,983,000,000, four trillion, nine hundred seventy-three billion, nine hundred eighty-three million.

Twenty-five years ago, September 29, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$552,824,000,000, five hundred fifty-two billion, eight hundred twenty-four million which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,121,354,209,886.86, five trillion, one hundred twenty-one billion, three hundred fifty-four million, two hundred nine thousand, eight hundred eighty-six dollars and eighty-six cents during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NEVADA'S OLYMPIC ATHLETES

• Mr. REID. Mr. President, the 27th Olympiad is now finished, and the United States of America should be very proud of our participants. They showed the world that Americans put their hearts and souls into everything that they do. Part of the reason that I support the Olympic tradition is that these special games are a reflection of the diversity, brotherhood, and spirit that the United States celebrates everyday. I am especially proud of my state and the Olympic participants we sent to Sydney, Australia.

Lori Harrigan, Tasha Schwikert, and Charlene Tagaloa were three Nevadan athletes who gave wholly to the U.S. team in their respective sports.

Lori Harrigan, a pitcher for the champion U.S. softball team, helped her team bring home a second gold medal in as many Olympic Games. Lori has had an amazing softball career for many years now, and since she graduated from UNLV, Lori has won 13 international medals for the United States. Lori will be remembered in Olympic history as the first softball player to pitch a complete no-hitter game, which she accomplished this summer in the opening round game. This summer she lived up to the legacy that she blazed as a UNLV Runnin' Rebel, and her softball accomplishments are properly hallmarked by her retired jersey that UNLV has proudly displayed since 1998.

Las Vegas Tasha Schwikert has been the sweet surprise of the Olympic Games. She was not one of the original members of the U.S. gymnastics team. However, she was later chosen as a second alternate. An unfortunate injury to another gymnast gave Tasha the chance that she deserved for an Olympic appearance. Although Tasha didn't medal, she still showed the world a strong performance. And because of her youth and newly developed international experience, we can expect to see Tasha as a leader in future gymnastic competitions.

The United States women's volleyball team was the underdog of the Olympic indoor volleyball competition, and many did not even expect the team to contend for a medal in Sydney. With the help of Las Vegas, Charlene Tagaloa, the women's volleyball team played in the bronze medal math.

Nevada demonstrated its multiculturalism during the Olympic Games, because six other current or former UNLV Runnin' Rebels competed for their native countries. These unique individuals include four swimmers and two track runners. These athletes are as follows: swimmers Mike Mintenko of Canada, Jacint Simon of Hungary, Andrew Livingston of Puerto Rico, Lorena Diaconescu of Romania, and sprinters, Ayanna Hutchinson and Alicia Tyson, of Trinidad and Tobago.

Nevada's contribution to the Olympic Games does not end with the efforts of its athletes.

Karen Dennis is not only the head of the UNLV women's track team, but she was chosen to be the U.S. women's track coach. Her talent and expertise undoubtedly contributed to the multiple medals and stellar performances we saw from the U.S. track team this Olympics.

Las Vegas Jim Lykins was chosen to be one of the two umpires from the United States to referee women's softball. He gleefully did not umpire the championship game, because Olympic rules prevent umpires from working any games played by their home country. Not being able to umpire the championship match was a worthwhile

sacrifice for the gold medal that we won in the fast pitch softball competition.

We should all remember the character of the 2000 Olympic Games, both the smile evoking and heartbreaking moments, and continue to support the Nevadan and American athletes who have the integrity, dedication, and ability to represent our nation, now and in the future. Congratulations to all of our Olympic participants.●

HONORING THE KARNES ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, families are the cornerstone of America. Individuals from strong families contribute greatly to society. I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of "till death us do part" seriously, demonstrating successfully the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity. These characteristics make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor Dorothy and Eddie Karnes, who on October 7, 2000, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. My wife, Janet, and I look forward to the day we can celebrate a similar milestone. The Karnes' commitment to the principles and values of their marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized.●

PRIVATE RELIEF BILL FOR FRANCES SCHOCHENMAIER

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, on September 28, 2000, the United States Senate unanimously approved legislation to provide private relief for Frances Schochenmaier of Bonesteel, South Dakota. Frances' case clearly warrants action by the United States Congress to correct an injustice inflicted upon her family over 50 years ago. I am pleased that the Senate has taken this important step by passing the Private Relief Bill for Frances Schochenmaier, which I was proud to have introduced and was cosponsored by my friend and colleague from South Dakota Senator TOM DASCHLE. I will continue to work diligently with Members of the House of Representatives to ensure the legislation is passed before the end of this Congressional session and signed by the President.

Frances' husband, Hermann Schochenmaier, was one of the thousands of young men who valiantly answered his country's call to duty during World War II. While serving in Europe, Hermann was wounded—shot in the arm in what medical personnel referred to as a "through-and-through" wound. Upon returning home, the Department of Veterans Affairs awarded Hermann a 10 percent disability rating. For 50 years, Hermann received disability compensation for the injury he received during his service in the United States military. Then, in 1995,

the Department of Veterans Affairs acknowledged that it was "clearly and unmistakably erroneous" in rating Hermann's injury too low. Instead of a 10 percent rating, Hermann's injuries during World War II were consistent with a 30 percent disability rating.

Over these 50 years, Hermann received approximately \$10,000, when he should have actually received closer to \$70,000. Unfortunately, only one week prior to the Department of Veterans Affairs correcting this problem, Hermann Schochenmaier passed away. To further complicate matters, the Department of Veterans Affairs refused to give Hermann's family the disability benefits he rightfully earned.

For the past five years, I have worked with Frances to exhaust every avenue within the Department of Veterans Affairs. The answer was always the same: the law does not allow for veterans' widows to receive these lost benefits. So, I decided that it must take an act of Congress—literally—to ensure that a veteran's widow from Bonesteel received the benefits her husband earned, but was denied from receiving in his lifetime.

Thanks to the perseverance from members of my office, the continued faith of Frances and her family, and some bipartisanship among members of Congress, we were able to pass this important legislation in the Senate and put it on a track to be signed into law by the President before the end of this year.

My wife, Barbara, and I are parents of a son who serves our country in the Army, and we know the sacrifices families make when their loved-ones travel overseas in the military. I am sorry that fate denied Hermann the opportunity to see justice done with the correction of his disability rating. I am thankful that fate and old-fashioned elbow-grease over these past five years has given our country the opportunity to make things right with Frances and the Schochenmaier family.●

RECOGNITION OF THE WELLPINIT SCHOOL DISTRICT

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I take the floor of the Senate today to tell you about the hard working teachers, faculty and parents of the Wellpinit School District and their efforts to improve their children's education by bringing technology to the classroom. For their dedication, I am delighted to present the Wellpinit School District with one of my "Innovation in Education" Awards.

The Wellpinit School District is located on the Spokane Indian Reservation in Eastern Washington and educates 440 students of which 95 percent are of Native American descent. The K-12 school has already far exceeded any other rural school in Washington state with its efforts to boost the use of technology in the classroom. Under the direction of Wellpinit's Board of Directors and Superintendent Reid

Reidlinger, Wellpinit implemented an innovative program that includes increasing student access to computers and improving students' use of the internet and intranet.

Wellpinit reconfigured its curriculum, integrating it with a computer program that allows students from both elementary and secondary grades to access an individualized instructional program for any core subject. The computerized curriculum has been highly effective in increasing national test scores. In fact, Wellpinit was named the highest achieving Indian Reservation school based on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. Wellpinit has also been selected as one of America's Top 100 Wired Schools by the editors of Family PC Magazine.

Earlier this year, I awarded Quillayute Valley School District one of my "Innovation in Education" Awards for developing the Washington Virtual Classroom Consortium (WVCC), which links rural schools together via the Internet in order to pool resources and expand learning opportunities for students and staff. Wellpinit has joined the WVCC to further enhance the educational opportunities for all students.

Superintendent Reid Reidlinger told me, "Wellpinit has been a model for other schools. Federal grants have helped with bringing technology to our district, and as a result, we have very advanced students."

I commend all those who have contributed to Wellpinit's technology plan and ask that the Senate join me in recognizing the hard work and commitment of the students, teachers and faculty at the Wellpinit School District.●

IN RECOGNITION OF TOM WILKENS

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize one of the truly gifted athletes of the state of New Jersey. It gives me great pleasure to extend my congratulations to Tom Wilkens on winning the bronze medal in the men's 2000 meter individual medley event at the XXVIIth Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia.

Despite having asthma and a severe allergy to chlorine, Tom Wilkens has consistently performed as a champion. At the 1999 Pan Pacific Championships, he won a medal of each color, gold in the 200 meter individual medley, silver in the 200 meter breaststroke, and bronze in the 400 meter individual medley. To this impressive collection, he adds a bronze from the Games of the XXVIIth Olympiad.

Tom Wilkens represents the best of New Jersey's athletes. His outstanding representation of New Jersey and the United States at these Olympic Games is a testament to the dedication that has afforded him success in the face of diversity.

Through his efforts, Tom Wilkens has been able to achieve athletic greatness. His commitment to excellence serves as an inspiration and it is an honor for me to be able to recognize his accomplishments.●

TRIBUTE TO MRS. PATTY LEWIS

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the professional dedication, vision and public service of Mrs. Patty Lewis who will be leaving the staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee at the end of this year to return to the Department of Defense to serve in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. It has been a privilege for me to work with Mrs. Lewis and it is an honor to recognize her many outstanding accomplishments.

I asked Mrs. Lewis to join the staff of the Armed Services Committee last October to assist me and the other Members of the Committee deal with the complex issues of improving the Military Health Care System, TRICARE, and providing health care to Medicare-eligible retired military personnel and their families. She is superbly competent and demonstrated a level of professionalism which far exceeded that of many of her contemporaries. Mrs. Lewis is an expert at cutting through the red tape of the military health care bureaucracy and never losing sight of the fact that taking care of the individual is paramount. Her focus was always on doing the right thing for our service members and their families.

Mrs. Lewis has earned a reputation as someone on whom we could rely to provide fresh ideas, detailed research, and practical solutions to complex problems. Her professional abilities and expertise have earned her the respect and trust of her colleagues on both sides of the aisle and in both Houses of the Congress. Mrs. Lewis' ability to clearly see a viable alternative when others could only see the fog of confusion contributed to the success of the Committee on Armed Services in developing the legislation that will, for the first time in history, definitively entitle retired military personnel to the lifetime of health care that they were promised when they were recruited and reenlisted. With Mrs. Lewis' help, we are finally able to fulfill that commitment.

Mr. President, initiative, caring service and professionalism are the terms used to describe Mrs. Lewis. Patty Lewis is a great credit to the Senate and the Nation. As she now departs to share her experience and expertise with the Department of Defense I call upon my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to recognize her service to the Senate and wish her well in her new assignment.●

HONORING INDUCTEES INTO THE HALL OF VALOR

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the veterans who will be inducted into the Hall of Valor at Soldiers' & Sailors' Memorial Hall. On October 14, 2000, 15 veterans, all of whom served in World War II, will be inducted in the Hall of Valor. All the