

in my home state that have worked to combat methamphetamine production and trafficking throughout our communities—particularly in rural areas.

For more than a year, I have been working to address the rising methamphetamine drug epidemic in Minnesota by having Minnesota designated as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, HIDTA. This designation will provide additional anti-meth resources to Minnesota and ensure better coordination of federal-state-local efforts at defeating this threat to public safety. I am pleased that the Fiscal Year 2001 Treasury-Legislative Branch Appropriations bill includes funding for new HIDTA designations, and a directive to the Office of National Drug Control Policy that Minnesota must be among the first states considered for HIDTA designation in the upcoming fiscal year.

My rural crime prevention agenda has included strong support for S. 3009, the "Rural Law Enforcement Assistance Act of 2000." The value of this legislation was brought to my attention by St. Cloud State University Professor John Campbell and several Minnesota police chiefs and sheriffs. I greatly appreciate having the benefit of their expertise. The Rural Law Enforcement Assistance Act would provide funding to the National Center for Rural Law Enforcement to expand the technical assistance and training available to rural law enforcement personnel. As a cosponsor of this bill, I am hopeful that rural Minnesota will soon establish a regional center that will bring the benefits of these programs to our state.

During National Crime Prevention Month, it is also important to note the impact the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, has had upon the rate of domestic abuse, stalking, and sexual assault across the nation. Since its enactment, the VAWA has provided thousands of communities with assistance to develop innovative and effective programs that have contributed toward protecting individuals from sexual offenses and domestic abuse.

In Minnesota, domestic violence shelters and centers have improved their services to victims of sexual, emotional, and physical abuse through such important programs as the Rural Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Enforcement Grant program and funding to combat violence against women on university campuses. Additionally, many domestic abuse victims have benefited from the counseling and guidance provided through the National Domestic Violence Hotline established under the Violence Against Women Act. I am proud to be a cosponsor of legislation to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act and expect that this legislation will be passed before the 106th Congress adjourns.

Finally, I commend the dozens of Minnesota cities that are active participants in the "National Night Out" program. These neighborhood residents

have sent a strong message to criminals that our neighborhoods are organized and fighting back against the threat of crime. Similar to the TRIAD seniors crime prevention program, National Night Out encourages increased citizen interaction with law enforcement officers to prevent crime. I will continue to be a strong advocate in Congress for the National Night Out and TRIAD programs.

I am proud of the active involvement of our citizens in developing innovative crime prevention initiatives. Their commitment to ensuring safer streets and safer communities throughout our state has made Minnesota a better place to work and a better place to call home.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON THE FY 2001 ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. L. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I would like to share with my colleagues my views on several items contained within the energy and water conference report.

The FY 2001 Energy and Water Appropriations conference report includes \$24 billion in funding for the Department of Energy, civil projects of the Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, and a number of independent agencies. I understand the difficulty of reaching a consensus on such a comprehensive bill. I would like to thank the Managers of the legislation for all their hard work in reaching this consensus.

I am particularly pleased with the nearly \$4 million in funding included in the bill for a number of important Rhode Island coastal restoration and water development projects. The bill contains \$1.95 million in funding for authorized repairs to the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier. Since its construction in 1966, the barrier has provided critical flood protection to the City of Providence. The bill contains \$191,000 for Rhode Island Ecosystem Restoration to assist the Army Corps of Engineers and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to restore degraded salt marshes and freshwater wetlands, improve overall fish and wildlife habitats, and restore anadromous fisheries. The bill also contains \$54,000 for South Coast Erosion to complete feasibility study work on potential coastal protection projects along the southern coastline of Rhode Island.

Additionally, the bill contains \$584,000 in funding for the final Environmental Impact Statement and design work associated with maintenance dredging of the Providence River and Harbor federal navigation channel. The proposed maintenance dredging project involves the removal of approximately four million cubic yards of material from the Providence River and Harbor. The Environmental Impact Statement

process will allow for full and open debate on the placement of dredge spoils from the project. We certainly cannot overlook the importance of protecting and minimizing the impact on our environment, especially the impact on our fisheries.

As we move into the heating season, funding Environmental Impact Statements for Providence Harbor dredging projects cannot be overstated. Specifically, until dredging Providence Harbor is completed, deep draft vessels carrying precious heating oil to Rhode Island and other points in the Northeast will have to continue the dangerous and inefficient practice of off-loading their cargoes into small barges, in the middle of Narragansett Bay, for delivery to the pierside terminals in Providence Harbor. Anyone who has experienced the fury of winter wind, ice, and rough waters on the Narragansett recognizes this practice is an accident waiting to happen—one with disastrous consequences.

While I voted in support of the conference report last night, I was disappointed to find that the Missouri River provision I objected to during Senate consideration of the bill was not removed during conference. I firmly object to this provision which would block funding for consideration of one of the alternatives to the Missouri River Master Water Control Manual. The targeted alternative would require seasonal river flow changes along the Missouri River in order to recover three endangered species including the pallid sturgeon, interior least tern, and piping plover. During my past year in the Senate, I have voted to remove environmental riders such as this one from appropriations bills. In my view, the Missouri River provision inappropriately transfers the decision regarding endangered species protection along the Missouri River from the Army Corps of Engineers and the authorizing committees to the Senate and House Appropriations Committees.

I was one of two Republican Senators that voted in favor of an amendment offered by Senator DASCHLE and Senator BAUCUS to strike this provision during Senate consideration of the FY 2001 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill. When the vote failed, however, I voted in favor of the legislation because of its important funding for Rhode Island. The FY 2001 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill, and the Missouri River provision contained within, passed overwhelmingly in the Senate by a vote of 93 to 1.

The legislation still has a probable Presidential veto. I am hopeful we will be able to revisit the Missouri River provision before the end of this session, and ensure its elimination from the legislation.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday,

October 2, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,661,548,045,674.53, five trillion, six hundred sixty-one billion, five hundred forty-eight million, forty-five thousand, six hundred seventy-four dollars and fifty-three cents.

Five years ago, October 2, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,987,587,000,000, four trillion, nine hundred eighty-seven billion, five hundred eighty-seven million.

Ten years ago, October 2, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,261,514,000,000, three trillion, two hundred sixty-one billion, five hundred fourteen million.

Fifteen years ago, October 2, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,823,105,000,000, one trillion, eight hundred twenty-three billion, one hundred five million.

Twenty-five years ago, October 2, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$553,269,000,000, five hundred fifty-three billion, two hundred sixty-nine million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,108,279,045,674.53, five trillion, one hundred eight billion, two hundred seventy-nine million, forty-five thousand, six hundred seventy-four dollars and fifty-three cents during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO NATHANIEL COBB

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary contributions of Nathaniel T. Cobb of Waterville, Maine, to this great Nation.

Nate Cobb is a veteran of World War II, where he served as a combat engineer in the South Pacific and participated in the planning of six invasions during his tenure in the Army. Like so many brave Americans, he came home after the war and continued to contribute to his country and community.

Over the years, Nate has generously and selflessly reached out to fellow veterans and their families in need, working to ensure that veterans receive the benefits they have earned and so richly deserve. To this end, Nate often devoted his weekends and evenings to helping veterans, even as he worked full time for the Waterville Morning Sentinel newspaper in Waterville, Maine for almost 40 years.

In the 1960's Nathaniel Cobb demonstrated impressive foresight in proposing the idea of a veterans cemetery to former Senator Margaret Chase Smith, who worked with him to establish—in Maine—the first state veterans cemetery in the entire country.

As State Adjutant of the American legion at the time, he presented the resolution calling for a veterans cemetery to the State legislature, which approved it unanimously. Not only that, but he worked tirelessly to secure funding for the cemetery, which was dedicated in 1970, and later helped establish a chapel there as well.

Nate's achievements also extend into the realm of the written word, having

written two books about the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery in order to raise funds to preserve the ground for generations to come. To this day, the proceeds from the sale of this book are still generating support for the cemetery association. I am proud that a letter I wrote in support of his efforts appears in the second edition of his book.

Nathaniel Cobb also initiated the "Garden of Remembrance" at the cemetery to honor those Mainers whose remains were never found. He was Sate Adjutant for the American Legion twice, State Treasurer for 12 years, and State Chaplain for 6 years. He has served on the Maine Veterans Home Board and on the Veterans Loan Authority Board. It was an honor to work with him on the fight to preserve Maine's only veterans hospital—the Togus Veterans Administration Medical and Regional Office Center—as well as other fundamental needs of Maine's veterans.

I congratulate Nate today as well as express my profound appreciation as an American for the lifetime of service and sacrifice he has rendered. He is truly an effective and doggedly determined advocate for veterans.

I have nothing but the utmost respect for those, like Nathaniel Cobb, who have served with courage, honor and distinction when their country—and the world, no less—needed them so desperately. From World War II through Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Bosnia, Kosovo, and numerous other conflicts, freedom and democracy have survived because when the call to duty came, our veterans were there to answer.

It is because of them that we enjoy lives unfettered by oppression, in a democracy that stands as a blueprint—and a beacon—for people the world over. It is because of them that we stand at the vanguard of human rights, human dignity, and personal opportunity.

And as long as America remains a beacon of hope, we must never forget it is a beacon that shines with the bright light of all those, like Nathaniel Cobb, who sacrificed for the principles for which America stands. We may hardly know where to begin in reconciling a debt to them that can never be fully repaid, but we know we can do no less than to try our very best.

In that light, it is truly an honor to congratulate Nate Cobb on a life of accomplishments and contributions to this country of which he should be rightfully proud. He is a credit to Maine and the Nation and a true American hero in every possible sense of the word. Thank you, Mr. President. •

WATERBURY CENTER'S VILLA TRAGARA

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, one of the joys in living in a State as small as Vermont is that you get to know where all the treasures are. One such treasure

is Villa Tragara in Waterbury Center. My family and I have gone there for so many years and have become friends of Tish and Tony DiRuocco. When my mother was alive, she knew that she could call Tony when the Italians won soccer matches and have someone she could speak with in her native tongue, while they both toasted Italy's victory.

Recently Debbie Salomon, Vermont's foremost chronicler of epicurean delights, wrote about the DiRuocco's Restaurant and I ask that the article from the Free Press be printed in the RECORD at this point. •

The article follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, Sept. 12, 2000]

STRONG MARRIAGE IS SECRET INGREDIENT TO VILLA TRAGARA'S SUCCESS

(By Debbie Salomon)

Behind every great restaurant chef/owner stands a spouse. If the spouse is a woman, chances are she'll put on a nice outfit, slap on some makeup and stand in front taking reservations, dispatching servers, running credit cards, remembering names, smoothing ruffled feathers and smiling, smiling, smiling through aching feet, a throbbing head and sore back.

That's if the baby sitter shows up.

That's Tish DiRuocco. Tish and Tony DiRuocco, owners of Villa Tragara in Waterbury Center, are old-timers in an industry where almost 75 percent of newcomers fail the first year. Villa Tragara recently celebrated its 20th anniversary; in June, Tony was named Restaurateur of the Year by Vermont Lodging & Restaurant Association.

Should have been "Restaurateurs . . ."

"Did you see (the Stanley Tucci film) 'Big Night'?" Tish asks. "Tony's like the chef and the brother is me."

"They are a very strong family, a wonderful team," says Joan Simmons of Craftsbury, a 20-year devotee, who celebrates most family occasions at Villa Tragara, including her mother's 90th birthday.

Simmons describes their entrance: "You would have thought Queen Victoria was arriving."

I thought of Tish as I watched Hadassah Lieberman's rave at the Democratic National Convention. The motto of these strong-willed spouse-partners seems to be Stand By Your Man and Help!

Perhaps Tish and Tony cling so tenaciously to each other and their business because getting there wasn't half the fun.

They met when 19-year-old Tish, a Montrealer, lived with a family in Switzerland to improve her French. The small Swiss town had only one nightspot. Tony—born and educated in Capri, Italy—was the showy bartender.

"He threw bottles into the air and caught them," Tish recalls, still misty-eyed at 48. "I had no money but he made me the perfect drink at the perfect price."

They fell in love. Tony followed her back to Montreal. They married in 1976.

Tish's family had a ski house in Vermont. Her dream was to live here, despite Tony's growing success in cosmopolitan Montreal. They scouted out the Italian restaurant scene in the Stowe vicinity and decided a market existed for Tony's painstakingly elegant (pasta, bread, desserts made in-house) Northern Italian preparations. They found a charming 1820 farmhouse on Vermont 100 in Waterbury Center, which became the restaurant. Tish's parents helped financially, but the complications of non-citizens opening a business in the United States would fill the phone book.