

status as the world's lone superpower. Our willingness to work together with our friends in the Arab world set a new tone in the region and ushered in a new era of respect for international cooperation.

The Gulf War coalition also laid a foundation for a remarkable United Nations operation that for the first time, aggressively sought to identify and destroy any potential capability for development of weapons of mass destruction or manufacture of chemical or biological agents. While UNSCOM had a very difficult time carrying out its mission and was eventually forced to leave Iraq, the world community learned a great deal from the experience, and set any potential future proliferations on notice that these types of actions will not be tolerated.

While peace process in the Middle East is at a low ebb right now, it is also appropriate that we remember how the Gulf War was a critical catalyst for the Oslo Peace Agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, the cornerstone for the wave of peace that swept the region during the 1990s. While subsequent agreements have been shattered by the recent violence, all sides still stand by Oslo, as do the moderate Arab nations who continue to insist that the risks they have taken for peace are worth it. Had it not been for US leadership and the success of the Gulf War, this would not be the case.

As a senior member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, I take very seriously my obligation to address the needs of all our Veterans. Although it has been 10 years since this decisive victory in the Persian Gulf, servicemen and women continue to step forward with symptoms of illnesses and disease likely attributable to serving in Southwest Asia during the war. This was brought home to me by the death of a friend of my son Leonard, John Clark, Jr. A Gulf War veteran, John was stricken with colon cancer at age 31, two short years after his return home from the Gulf. John's case is similar to other service members coming back from the Gulf War. John passed away in 1996. For John and his family, as for many veterans, the war continues well after they have taken off their uniforms and returned to life as civilians. I will continue to work to insure that Gulf War veterans obtain access to VA health benefits and that meaningful research continues to determine treatment for these troubling medical problems. Our Gulf War veterans, having served in Active, Reserve and National Guard units, must know that we here in Washington will continue to fight for them as they fought for us.

Once again, I remember, commemorate and congratulate the members of our Armed Forces who served with distinction during the Gulf War. I sincerely thank them for their service to our country on this, the tenth anniversary of this victory.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, March 20, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,732,596,852,845.50, five trillion, seven hundred thirty-two billion, five hundred ninety-six million, eight hundred forty-five thousand, eight hundred forty-five dollars and fifty cents.

One year ago, March 20, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,728,254,000,000, five trillion, seven hundred twenty-eight billion, two hundred fifty-four million.

Five years ago, March 20, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,059,798,000,000, five trillion, fifty-nine billion, seven hundred ninety-eight million.

Ten years ago, March 20, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,448,161,000,000, three trillion, four hundred forty-eight billion, one hundred sixty-one million.

Fifteen years ago, March 20, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$1,982,276,000,000, one trillion, nine hundred eighty-two billion, two hundred seventy-six million, which reflects a debt increase of almost \$4 trillion—\$3,940,320,852,845.50, three trillion, nine hundred forty billion, three hundred twenty million, eight hundred fifty-two thousand, eight hundred forty-five dollars and fifty cents, during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN HONOR OF GARY P. PLUNDO, D.O.

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I stand before you today to recognize Gary P. Plundo, D.O., M.P.M. from Greensburg, PA who will be installed as the 87th president of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association, POMA during their 93rd Clinical Assembly in Philadelphia this May.

Dr. Plundo has been an outstanding member of the medical profession through his many years of service to the people of Greensburg, PA. He has served in many capacities throughout his tenure to improve the health of the people of this community. Both professionally and as a volunteer, Dr. Plundo has used his expertise to help the lives of others. As he becomes the next president of POMA, I am confident that his leadership will take the organization to new heights.

In recognition of his accomplishments and installation as president of POMA, I would like to submit the following proclamation in his honor:

Whereas, Gary P. Plundo, D.O., M.P.M., will be installed on May 4, 2001, as president of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association, the state organization that represents over 3,500 licensed osteopathic physicians, over 440 interns, residents and fellows, and 1,000 osteopathic medical students at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and 550 at the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine; and

Whereas, Dr. Plundo is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and the

Des Moines University Osteopathic Medical Center College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery; and

Whereas, Dr. Plundo has been an officer and trustee of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association, a delegate to the American Osteopathic Association and a community leader in the field of family medicine; and

Whereas, he has distinguished himself as a dedicated physician who continues the osteopathic tradition of assuring exemplary family medicine;

Now, therefore, I congratulate Gary P. Plundo, D.O., M.P.M., on his installation as the 87th President of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association, and wish him the best for a successful and rewarding tenure. ●

RECOGNIZING AIR FORCE CAPTAIN GLEN CHRISTENSEN

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the achievements of Air Force Captain Glen Christensen.

Captain Glen Christensen was named 21st Air Force Company Grade Officer for 2000. In the selection for this award, Glen was in competition with Wing Company Grade Officers from seven other Air Force Bases including Robbus AFB, GA, MacDill AFB, FL, Pope AFB, NC, Charleston AFB, SC, Little Rock AFB, AK, McGuire AFB, NJ, and Dover AFB, DE. Candidates for the awards were evaluated in five categories which include: duty achievement; self improvement; off-duty accomplishments; other leadership accomplishments, and positive representation of the U.S. Air Force.

Three weeks prior, Captain Christensen had been selected Company Grade Officer of the Year for the 89th Security Forces Squadron at Andrews Air Force Base, MD, and then for the 89th Support Group, and finally for the 89th Airlift Wing at Andrews. He won the squadron and group competition for the second consecutive year. At the group level, he represented Security Forces and competed with selectees from Mission Support, Services and Civil Engineering squadrons. At the Wing level, Christensen competed with five other group winners from among 454 company grade officers in all groups. In addition to Security Forces, which Glen represented, group winners came from Logistics, Medical, Operations, and Communications groups and from the Wing Commander's staff.

While second in command of the third largest Security Forces unit in the Air Force, Captain Christensen organized and directed security at Andrews AFB for the NATO 50th Anniversary Summit, two Joint Services Open House Air Shows, and the recent Presidential Inauguration, in addition to everyday base law enforcement and security for the "President's base" and "Air Force One."

Glen graduated in 1993 from the United States Air Force Academy with

Military Distinction. He is the son of Everett and Sybil Christensen of Madelia, MN.

Mr. President, I offer my congratulations to Captain Christensen and his family on this award.●

RETIREMENT OF STEPHAN LEONOUDAKIS

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, it is a pleasure to take this opportunity to draw the Senate's attention to the career of Stephen C. Leonoudakis.

Stephan was Director of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District from 1962 until his retirement this past January. Even by the standards set by some members of this chamber, this is a long time. He served continuously in the same position for 38 years. Over the course of this time, he became nearly as integral to the Bridge District as the famous span for which it was named. There are few who remember a time when he was not Director. The question is not whether he will be missed, but what will we do without him?

Stretching from San Francisco to Marin County across the opening to San Francisco Bay, the Golden Gate Bridge is one of the most identifiable landmarks in the world. People flock to the bridge from around the globe, often braving the chilly mid-summer fog to catch a breathtaking glimpse of the city to the east, the seemingly endless Pacific Ocean to the west, the Bay directly below and the graceful structure itself above and around. It is a truly enchanted place.

But, as the name implies, the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District is more than just a bridge with a million dollar view. It is a full-service transportation district complete with buses, ferries, bicycles, pedestrians, staffers and all the maintenance and other administrative challenges that come with them. This is where Stephan really shined. Over his tenure, he participated in transforming the Bridge District from an agency that essentially looked after a beautiful landmark into an organization which operates a world-class transit agency serving millions of commuters and visitors annually. This is a tremendous achievement that Stephan shares.

There were times, I imagine, when people thought that Stephan might just outlast the bridge he loved and looked after all these years. But thanks to solid construction, regular maintenance and a vigorous seismic program he began, it looks like Stephan is going to beat the bridge into retirement by many years. We can all be grateful for that even as we bid a friend a fond, happy and healthy retirement. No one deserves it more.●

THE LA SALLE ACADEMY FOOTBALL TEAM

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the achievement of

La Salle Academy of Providence, RI whose football team became State Champions for the year 2000.

In 1871, the de La Salle Christian Brothers came to Rhode Island to teach at the "Brothers" school. In 1876, that school became an academy and was named La Salle, after the Christian Brothers founder, Saint John Baptiste de La Salle. Since its opening 125 years ago, La Salle has offered its students a rigorous, value-based education. The Brothers' approach to comprehensive student development has been evident not only in their academic excellence, but in the successes of their clubs and athletic teams as well.

The athletic department at La Salle has a strong commitment to instilling leadership, sportsmanship, and a healthy approach to athletic competition. Since its founding in 1908, the La Salle football program has been one of the most successful in the state. Legendary Coach Jack Cronin guided the Rams to 274 wins during his 44 years tenure from 1928 to 1972. In the 1940's and 1950's, La Salle played before some of the largest crowds ever to see a game in Rhode Island, including 25,000 in 1945, 40,000 in 1947, and 10,000 in 1955. In the 1970's and 1980's, the La Salle football team won ten Division A titles.

La Salle also participates in the oldest sports rivalry in the state. For seventy-one years, La Salle and East Providence High School have met traditionally on Thanksgiving Day. Up until this past year, the series had been tied, but with La Salle's victory they now proudly lead that series 35-34, with two ties.

Through the leadership of Tim Coen, first year Coach of the La Salle Rams, and Team Captains Toyin Barnisile, Joe Ben, Howie Brown, David Regus, and Jon-Erik Schneiderhan, La Salle can boast its first Super Bowl Division Championship. After winning only four of nine league games in the previous year, the Rams completed the regular season with an impressive 9-0 record, including a win over Thanksgiving rival and two-time defending state champions East Providence.

The last time La Salle played in a championship game was nearly a decade ago in 1992, when they lost to Portsmouth High School. The year 2000 finally brought a re-match as this year's Super Bowl game pitted the Portsmouth Patriots against the La Salle Rams. The Rams were victorious in a very close game, thanks to the exceptional effort put forth by the La Salle team supported by their fellow students and alumni.

As a proud graduate and former member of the La Salle Academy football team, I know the skills, training, and strength of character that are necessary to achieve what this program has achieved. I would ask that my colleagues join me in applauding La Salle Academy for its remarkable accomplishments this year and throughout its long tradition of excellence.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 41. Concurrent resolution expressing sympathy for the victims of the devastating earthquakes that struck El Salvador on January 13, 2001, and February 13, 2001, and supporting ongoing aid efforts.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106-292 (36 U.S.C. 2301), the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council: Mr. GILMAN, Mr. LATOURETTE, and Mr. CANNON.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 5(b) of Public Law 93-642 (20 U.S.C. 2004(b)), the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation: Mrs. EMERSON of Missouri and Mr. SKELTON of Missouri.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. HOUGHTON of New York, Chairman.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 5(a) of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Act (36 U.S.C. 101 note), the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission: Mr. LAHOOD of Illinois.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 5(a) of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Act (Public Law 106-173), the Minority Leader appoints the following individual to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission: Mr. PHELPS of Illinois.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 41. Concurrent resolution expressing sympathy for the victims of the devastating earthquakes that struck El Salvador on January 13, 2001, and February 13, 2001, and supporting ongoing aid efforts: to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-1094. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children