

opportunity to celebrate the many contributions of women that have shaped our history as well as the powerful influence that women continue to exert not only as business leaders and politicians, but also as mothers, teachers, neighbors and vital members of the community. But as we "Celebrate Women of Courage and Vision," let us not forget the battles that lie ahead for women as they continue to struggle for full equality. As Alice Paul, a female attorney in the early 1900s, eloquently noted: "Most reforms, most problems are complicated. But to me there is nothing complicated about ordinary equality." Let us allow the simple principle of equality to guide us, as we strive to make history in further advancing the rights of women.

SMALL BUSINESS ENERGY EMERGENCY RELIEF ACT

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate approved S. 295, the Small Business Energy Emergency Relief Act of 2001. This bill will provide needed assistance to small businesses and farmers that have suffered direct and substantial economic injury caused by significant increases in the prices of heating oil, propane, kerosene, or natural gas.

Specifically, I would like to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Small Business Committee, Senator KIT BOND and Senator JOHN KERRY, for their willingness to include an amendment sponsored by Senator HARKIN and me. This amendment will help farmers offset the surging costs of fuel. Farmers in my state and throughout the country have been negatively impacted as a result of high energy prices on farm income, due not only to the costs for fuel farmers need to run their equipment but also the increases in costs for fertilizer, which is made from natural gas.

Earlier this year, the spot price for natural gas had increased 400 percent from the year before. The Department of Energy is predicting that natural gas rates this winter will be at least double last year's levels. The most recognizable impact of this price spike has been on heating costs. However, many in the agriculture community are concerned with the impact of these spiraling costs on agricultural producers, since natural gas is the major component of nitrogen.

I am pleased that the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Small Business Committee agreed to include the Farm Energy Relief Act to allow the Secretary of Agriculture to declare a disaster area in counties where a sharp and significant increase in the price of fuel and fertilizer has caused farmers economic injury and created the need for financial assistance. That determination would allow farmers to be eligible for USDA's emergency disaster loans for losses arising from energy price spikes. I believe this amendment will provide much-needed relief to

many of our producers who are also facing depressed prices for their commodities.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, March 26, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,733,895,076,837.79. Five trillion, seven hundred thirty-three billion, eight hundred ninety-five million, seventy-six thousand, eight hundred thirty-seven dollars and seventy-nine cents.

Five years ago, March 26, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,066,588,000,000. Five trillion, sixty-six billion, five hundred eighty-eight million.

Ten years ago, March 26, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,452,738,000,000. Three trillion, four hundred fifty-two billion, seven hundred thirty-eight million.

Fifteen years ago, March 26, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$1,982,440,000,000. One trillion, nine hundred eighty-two billion, four hundred forty million.

Twenty-five years ago, March 26, 1976, the Federal debt stood at \$600,274,000,000. Six hundred billion, two hundred seventy-four million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion, \$5,133,621,076,837.79. Five trillion, one hundred thirty-three billion, six hundred twenty-one million, seventy-six thousand, eight hundred thirty-seven dollars and seventy-nine cents, during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

LIEUTENANT COLONEL MICHAEL DAVID

• Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, it is my great privilege to pay tribute to a Rhode Islander, Lieutenant Colonel Michael David, who will soon complete 23 years of distinguished service to our Nation.

As friends and colleagues gather to honor Lieutenant Colonel David's retirement from the U.S. Air Force, I would also like to extend to him my heartiest congratulations. Indeed, the State of Rhode Island is very proud and fortunate to have had a native of Warwick, RI represent us so well. I join with all Rhode Islanders in expressing thanks to Lieutenant Colonel David for the wonderful job he has done.

A graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Lieutenant Colonel David has shared his expertise as he trained service men and women to fly the T-38 and C-141 aircraft at Air Force bases across our land; he has served as a T-38 Instructor Pilot, a C-141 Instructor and Evaluator Pilot. In addition, he has flown and led many world-wide airlift and formation airdrop missions. At present, he is charged with aiding the Pentagon's top brass in leading the Armed Forces into the 21st century, equipping our military to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Along the way, Lieutenant Colonel David has been awarded numerous decorations including: Meritorious Service Medal, 2nd OLC, Aerial Achievement Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Combat Readiness Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Small Arms Expert Pistol Ribbon, Air Force Legacy Service Award, Air Force Training Ribbon, Joint Meritorious Unit Award and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. Lieutenant Colonel David currently has the Defense Superior Service Medal pending approval by the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

That is an impressive list! Out hats are off to Lieutenant Colonel David for these tremendous accomplishments.

Yet, we all know it is the military family that also deserves the recognition and congratulations for the years of travel, leaving family and friends, and for their tireless energy and support of the United States Armed Forces. For their outstanding dedication, I wish to commend and congratulate Lieutenant Colonel David's wife, the former Bernadette Louise Brennan, of Providence, and his two daughters, Ashley Nicole David and Stephanie Michelle David.

In closing, I am pleased to offer my very best wishes to Lieutenant Colonel David for happiness and fulfillment in his new endeavors. His contributions certainly will be remembered for generations to come. •

IN HONOR OF COMMUNITY FOOD RESOURCE CENTER

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is my honor and pleasure to inform my fellow Senators that this year marks the 21st anniversary of Community Food Resource Center, a New York City organization that has been a leader in the fight for improved nutrition and economic well-being for all Americans.

CFRC's first project in 1980 was a school breakfast campaign. Since then, CFRC has been instrumental in shaping and promoting child nutrition programs. Because of CFRC's efforts, for example, New York City became the first major city to implement universal school meals on a large scale.

I became familiar with CFRC because of my work on the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee. I have come to admire and respect the organization and its dedicated staff, and I feel honored to have had the chance to work with them. Whatever the issue, I can always count on CFRC to focus on the needs of those whose voices are rarely heard in the Capitol.

I would like to highlight just a few of CFRC's many innovative programs. Its Community Kitchen of West Harlem provides meals to more than 600 people nightly. Its CookShop program encourages schoolchildren to eat more fruits and vegetables. Its senior dinner programs use school cafeterias after hours

to provide nutritious meals, social activities and an intergenerational program.

CFRC is also a leading advocate for government policies assisting low-income individuals and families. At a time when Food Stamp participation is declining nationwide, CFRC's Food Force project sends outreach workers with laptop computers to community-based sites to pre-screen thousands of needy New Yorkers. With TANF reauthorization approaching, CFRC's Welfare Made A Difference National Campaign is challenging the stereotypes that led to passage of the 1996 welfare law.

CFRC is not only committed to making a difference, it is also effective. Each year, tens of thousands of New Yorkers benefit from CFRC's programs, and its advocacy has made a difference to millions of Americans. I hope that 21 years from now, this country no longer needs groups like CFRC. But if there are still those among us who are poor or hungry, I hope that CFRC is still here keeping their needs in the national conscience.●

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the annual celebration of Greek Independence Day that took place on Sunday, March 25 commemorated the independence of Greece after 400 years of oppression under the Ottoman Empire. The pages of our history books are filled with contributions that the Greeks have made to society. Our system of government, our literature, philosophy, religion, and mathematics all have their roots in Greek tradition. With the founding of the Olympic Games, the Greek people taught us that there is more to be gained through peaceful competition than armed conflict.

Perhaps the greatest contribution that the Greek people have made is a simple yet powerful idea that first conceived over 2,000 years ago. It is the idea that citizens possessed the power to determine the course of a nation. The Athenian republic was the world's first democratic state, a fact respected by all free states today.

The bonds that join the United States and Greece extend back to the founding of our country. When drafting our Constitution, our forefathers recognized the idealism and spirit of ancient Greece. Inspired by our own struggle for independence, Greece followed forty-five years later with its own struggle for independence. By celebrating this day, we pay tribute to those Greek men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of the common cause of freedom. The United States has been able to proudly call Greece an ally in every major international conflict of the last century.

Those Americans that claim Greek heritage can be proud of the contributions made by their ancestors. The many Greek sons and daughters who

have come to the United States have served honorably in all walks of American life. Greek culture continues to flourish in American cities, thus contributing to the rich ethnic diversity of our country. It is with great honor that I commemorate the celebration of Greek independence. I look forward to the continuing cooperation and lasting friendship between the United States and Greece.●

DR. JOHN R. ARMSTRONG AND THE JOHN R. ARMSTRONG PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools and their Superintendent, Dr. John R. Armstrong, for the opening and dedication of their beautiful new 999 seat auditorium. The L'Anse Creuse Public Schools have appropriately chosen to name this state of the art facility the John R. Armstrong Performing Arts Center in recognition for all Dr. Armstrong has done to support the arts, not only as the current Superintendent of the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools in Harrison Township, Michigan, but also as a teacher and principal.

Dr. John R. Armstrong has served his community, state, and country in countless ways. Since graduating from Bowling Green University thirty-four years ago, he has been a dedicated teacher and administrator in the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools. However, Doctor Armstrong's passion for education and youth has led him to take an active role not just in the school system, but in his community. He has held leadership positions in many civic organizations and institutions that seek to advance educational causes such as Director of the Kellogg Math/Science Grant Program at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. In addition, Dr. Armstrong has been a board member of the Mt. Clemens YMCA, the Mt. Clemens Art Center, the Macomb Literacy Project and the Traffic Safety Association of Macomb County.

Dr. Armstrong has worked extensively to increase funding for his school district. He has presided over several capital campaigns and bond proposals that have allowed this growing school district to provide an environment in which learning can flourish. While Dr. Armstrong has been superintendent, student achievement has soared, as evidenced by the fact that student's in his school district have improved their test scores on the Michigan Education Assessment Program, the PSAT, SAT and ACT at a rate that has exceeded the county, state and national averages.

Just as importantly, Dr. Armstrong has worked to promote life-long learning opportunities that realize that education should not be confined within classroom walls. To that end, he has fostered cross-cultural exchanges, a cooperative art and design program with

General Motors and a dialogue on issues between students and senior citizens. In addition to supporting life-long learning for others, Dr. Armstrong has led by example. Since coming to the L'Anse Creuse School District, he has earned several teacher certificates, a master's degree and a doctorate in education.

The L'Anse Creuse School District can take pride in the opening of their new auditorium, and Dr. Armstrong can take pride in his long and honorable service to the students of not only the school district but of all Michigan. I hope my colleagues will join me in saluting both the L'Anse Creuse School District and Dr. John R. Armstrong for their contributions to their community and the State of Michigan.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING COVERING CALENDAR YEAR 2000 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 14

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 19(3) of the Public Telecommunications Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-356), I transmit herewith the report of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting covering calendar year 2000.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 27, 2001.

REPORT ON THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE NATIONAL UNION FOR THE TOTAL INDEPENDENCE OF ANGOLA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 15

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.