

Identification Laboratory have undertaken the most challenging assignments to locate and identify former American prisoners of war or servicemen missing in action. Some excavations have consumed months of painstaking labor under very difficult conditions to retrieve the smallest items of evidence to help identify American casualties. Much of the work is done by hand in order not to disturb potential evidence. Our service personnel such as those who lost their lives last month have routinely exposed themselves to significant dangers in the quest for honoring our former POW-MIAs. Sadly, they lost their lives in their deeply patriotic quest.

I call on all Americans to pause and remember Major Lewis and the brave men and women of the Joint Task Force and Central Identification Laboratory who have given their lives in such a noble cause.

DEDICATION OF THE PAUL G. ROGERS PLAZA AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize the achievements of a distinguished Floridian and former congressman, the Honorable Paul Rogers. The National Institutes of Health is dedicating the Paul Rogers Plaza at Bethesda, MD on June 12, 2001 in recognition of his phenomenal efforts and ardent advocacy for public health and medical research.

Paul Rogers represented Florida's 11th District in the House of Representatives from 1956 to 1979, where he earned the distinguished and fitting title, "Mr. Health." During his twenty-four years of service in Congress and eight years as the Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Health and Environment, he consistently demonstrated his heartfelt commitment to improving medical care and technology and preserving our fragile environment. His extensive list of legislative accomplishments and contributions is too great to fully recount, but there are several legislative achievements that are particularly noteworthy. The National Cancer Act, the Clean Air Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and the Medicare-Medicaid Anti Fraud and Abuse Act are just a few of Paul Rogers' endeavors that continue to impact our nation today.

It is fitting that the National Institutes of Health has chosen to honor him with a permanent plaque at the Paul Rogers Plaza, as I am certain that the beneficial effect of his public service on the health of American people will continue to be felt for many years to come. Paul Rogers' foresight in the areas of medical research and environmental regulation brought about cutting edge policies that continue to protect Americans everyday. His prolific efforts helped bring these critical issues to the forefront of our nation's agenda.

As we continue to debate and develop new legislation aimed at improving the health of Americans and our environment, we should take a moment to consider and thank the men and women, like "Mr. Health," who initiated this crusade. I am extremely pleased that Paul Rogers' tireless efforts are being duly recognized by the National Institutes of Health.

U.S. POLICY TO CHINA AND TAIWAN

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, these past few weeks have been eventful ones in our relationship with China.

President Bush announced a robust arms sale package for Taiwan. It included several major weapons systems and, of greater long-term significance, it provides for increased cooperation and coordination between our two military forces. He also announced the end of the annual review of arms needs, putting our support for Taiwan's defense on a more regular and less political setting.

We secured the release of our reconnaissance plan's crew that was being held on Hainan Island. Subsequently, there were several important, albeit inconclusive, meetings with Chinese representatives about the return of the plane and about establishing future rules of engagement to ensure that there will not be a repeat of this irresponsible Chinese action.

President Bush made a potentially dangerous gaffe in an interview where he seemed to reverse precipitously a two decade old policy that has resulted in relative stability across the Taiwan Strait. I believe that the trilateral relationship among the PRC, Taiwan, and the United States, and the "One China" policy must adapt and evolve. But change must be made with extreme care.

The United States approved a visa for former Taiwan president Lee Teng-hui to visit for a month, and we have agreed to issue a transit visa for current Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian, although the conditions set on President Chen's visit are still under negotiations.

China continues to hold as a prisoner Gao Zhan, an innocent scholar who is a permanent resident of our country with a U.S. citizen husband and son. They also hold several other American citizens of Chinese origin.

Some of these developments are infuriating and frustrating. After our plane was downed, some in Congress called for revenge, retaliation, and retribution. Proposals include that congress reverse its approval of PNTR, Permanent Normal Trade Relations, for China; that the United States oppose holding the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing; and that we reduce or cease military-to-military relations with China.

Our long-term interests with China require a carefully measured course of action. We cannot allow emotion to ob-

scure our policy objectives. And we cannot determine China policy based on vague ideological images.

Like all Americans, I am outraged by the behavior of the Chinese Government in holding the crew of our reconnaissance plane and demanding an American apology, when the blame was so clearly with a reckless Chinese pilot following reckless orders.

I congratulate President Bush on his handling of the first foreign policy crisis of this administration. He kept emotions in check. He rejected the advice of those who wanted to take precipitous action. He secured the safe release of our crew without giving China the kowtowing apology they demanded.

President Bush's decision last week on which defense items to transfer to Taiwan was also responsible and correct. It will provide Taiwan with the hardware and the "humanware" it needs to defend itself, while avoiding actions that would have been unnecessarily provocative vis-a-vis China. Unfortunately, he followed this measured decision with a "shoot from the hip" comment on a possible U.S. response to Chinese military action against Taiwan. That remark has created unnecessary confusion uncertainty, and potential instability across the Taiwan Strait.

We need to look at what is good for U.S. interests, not what is bad for China. There is no room for emotion as we defined the relationship we want with China and determine how to move them in the right direction.

Last year Congress approved, by a wide margin, legislation granting Permanent Normal Trade Relations status to China once they join the World Trade Organization. The benefits of incorporating China into the world trade community were clear.

American farmers, businesses, and workers would be well served by a growing and liberalized economy in China. Economic growth in China would, over the long term, lead to a larger middle class making its own demands on the government for greater accountability and personal choice, just as happened in South Korea and Taiwan. Membership in the WTO would bring international disciplines to the Chinese economy. And the reformers, led by Premier Zhu Rongji, would be strengthened.

The events of the last few weeks have not changed this calculation. If anything, nurturing growth in our economic and trade relationship with China is more important than ever.

Let's be clear about what happened in China while our crew was detained on Hainan Island.

The delay in releasing our crew members was a reflection of a monumental struggle for China's future between reformers led by Premier Zhu Rongji and President Jian Zemin, on one side, and the old guard, including the People's Liberation Army, the managers of most state-owned enterprises, and many entrenched politicians, on the

other side. That is, a battle between those who we hope will be China's future and those who should be made part of China's past.

One manifestation of this struggle is political and perhaps increasing military friction with the United States. Taiwan remains the No. 1 flashpoint. Add disputes over human rights, political prisoners, arrest of American citizens and permanent residents of Chinese origin, Tibet, regional policies, weapons transfer. These issues will remain with us for years, if not decades.

Our decisions must be measured through one optic: What are the core American strategic and economic interests vis-a-vis China?

First, we want stability in the Asian region. We must ensure that China does not threaten this stability. That means committing the United States to being a full participant in Asia—economically, politically, and militarily. This includes ensuring peace across the Taiwan Strait, and that means providing Taiwan with the tools necessary for its defense and assisting with the peaceful resolution of the China-Taiwan issue.

Second, we want to help in the transformation of China from a totalitarian state with a nonmarket economy toward a more liberalized political and economic regime. That means incorporating China into the world trade community while insisting on respect for basic human rights.

Third, we want full access for American goods and services to the largest country in the world with the fastest growing economy. That means completing China's accession to the WTO, granting them PNTR, and supporting our businesses' efforts to penetrate the Chinese economy. It does not mean revoking China's established normal trade status.

To isolate China and to seek retribution might feel good, but it would not do good. Even worse, it threatens our core long-term interests. We should responsibly protect our interests and confront China when situations warrant. But reason, not emotion, must guide our decisions.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, April 30, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,661,347,798,002.65. Five trillion, six hundred sixty-one billion, three hundred forty-seven million, seven hundred ninety-eight thousand, two dollars and sixty-five cents.

Five years ago, April 30, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,102,049,000,000. Five trillion, one hundred two billion, forty-nine million.

Ten years ago, April 30, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,445,059,000,000. Three trillion, four hundred forty-five billion, fifty-nine million.

Fifteen years ago, April 30, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,008,271,000,000. Two trillion, eight billion, two hundred seventy-one million.

Twenty-five years ago, April 30, 1976, the Federal debt stood at \$601,974,000,000. Six hundred one billion, nine hundred seventy-four million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion, \$5,059,373,798,002.65. Five trillion, fifty-nine billion, three hundred seventy-three million, seven hundred ninety-eight thousand, two dollars and sixty-five cents during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF AMTRAK

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today marks an important day in the history of national passenger rail transportation. Today is the thirtieth anniversary of the American National Passenger Rail Corporation, Amtrak. As we mark Amtrak's birthday, we need to understand that the demands on our national passenger rail system are changing. Amtrak can no longer be solely a link to a bygone era, when a long train ride was the only way to get from one city to another. The Amtrak of the next 30 years must be a faster, more competitive transportation option for the American traveler. A population that is more mobile than ever before but faces gridlock on our highways and capacity limitations in our skies demands this of Amtrak. Our Nation's passenger rail system has already begun to change in the Northeast Corridor, where in just four months, Amtrak has shuttled over 55,000 people between Washington and New York on four daily high-speed trains. This unexpectedly high ridership has helped Amtrak beat revenue estimates for the Northeast Corridor by four percent. Overall, ridership in the Northeast is up eight percent over last year.

It is my hope that the Congress commemorates Amtrak's thirtieth birthday by passing legislation this year that allows Amtrak to continue to improve high-speed rail service in the Northeast Corridor and replicate that success in the Northeast. The High Speed Rail Investment Act is Amtrak's future. This legislation would allow Amtrak to sell \$12 billion in tax-exempt bonds to finance the development of high-speed rail corridors throughout the country, and would allow for continued track improvements in the Northeast Corridor. Though Amtrak will raise \$12 billion, the High Speed Rail Investment Act will cost taxpayers only about one-third of that amount. I am proud to be working closely with my colleagues Senators BIDEN and HUTCHINSON, as well our leaders, Senator LOTT and Senator DASCHLE, to enact this legislation this year, and I am excited to see that the bill has 55 cosponsors and wide bipartisan support.

On Amtrak's birthday, I hope each one of us will take a serious look at the importance of inter-city passenger rail

to our Nation. Inter-city passenger rail is a critical link to our Nation's history, reminding us of how we used to travel this glorious country. And that's a link which many members of Congress have taken great pains to maintain in their states and districts. At the same time, in many places, such as the northeast, a modern inter-city passenger rail network is not a luxury, it is a necessity. Amtrak's challenge of late has been to satisfy both of these roles while trying to act like a profit-making company. This task has not been easy for a quasi-independent government agency that, for its whole life, has operated under many Congressionally-imposed burdens but has received sporadic and insufficient financial support from the federal government.

I think we are all aware that Amtrak is subject to unique political pressures that private companies do not face. And I think we all know that those pressures, which often require the company to operate unprofitable routes, influence the company's bottom line in a negative way. But high speed rail has proven to be a financial success in the Northeast, and is projected to add \$180 million annually to Amtrak's bottom line when all 20 Acela Express trainsets are in operation. High speed rail is a good investment for Amtrak, and it's a great investment for our nation's transportation infrastructure.

It is time to bring Amtrak into the 21st century by creating an effective, truly inter-modal transportation network. Let's make high speed rail service an indispensable element of our transportation infrastructure—our overburdened highways and skyways require it and the traveling public demands it.●

TRIBUTE TO SUE HENSLEY

• Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I rise today to say thank you to Sue Hensley for all of her efforts on my behalf to serve the people and the State of Arkansas during the past six years. In those six years, I found her counsel to be invaluable and of great aid, and I am proud to say that she is not only a former employee but also a good friend. She worked long hours and did whatever was required to competently fulfill her duties as my Communications Director. I am indebted to Sue for her service and I wish her the best of luck in her new position as Director of Communications of the Department of Labor and continued success in her career.●

TRIBUTE TO THE ROTC PROGRAM AT PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

• Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the achievements of the ROTC Program at Providence College on the occasion of their 50th Anniversary.

ROTC dates back to 8 January 1951, when the Very Reverend Robert J. Slavin, O.P., President of the College,