

admired and respected for simply being a kind, decent human being who never let rising through the ranks cloud his eyes from seeing things from the grass-roots perspective as well as from the bird's eye view. His associates know him as a seasoned professional and his subordinates know him as a mentor; but, his neighbors know him simply as a trusted friend, and his wife Beverly, son Robert and daughter Kellie know him as a caring husband and faithful father. All who know Bob Langston know him as an upstanding Christian man of sterling integrity who is a role model in all that he does.

I know his colleagues, friends and family join me today when we say to Chief Robert Langston, thank you for staying the course and thank you for helping mold and maintain the Park Police into one of the truly great police forces of our Nation. In an unpredictable world, Chief Langston and the men and women of the Park Police do their duty with a diligence that is dependable, supporting us and keeping us safe to enjoy sacred symbols of freedom that the Department of the Interior, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Park Police both protect and in fact embody for the people of America and for the future of our Nation.

THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF CONGRESS'S CREATION OF AMTRAK

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, Yesterday marked the thirtieth anniversary of Congress's creation of Amtrak. Congress acted then because we realized that along with cars and planes, passenger rail was a vital part of America's transportation future. Today the need for passenger rail is greater than ever. All across this great land, travelers are facing gridlock not only on our highways but we are quickly approaching it in our skies too.

I believe many Americans are growing tired of spending so many hours stuck in traffic, or hanging around airport terminals. They want an alternative, now.

Fortunately, there is an alternative to growing gridlock and "winglock." It is called high-speed passenger rail, and it is a way of traveling that is pleasant and easy, and allows travelers to make the most of their valuable time.

So far, high-speed rail exists only in the Northeast. But Amtrak's vision is to build a national passenger railroad system consisting of many regional high-speed corridors linked by long-distance service. This plan will bring another option to the American business traveler, commuter and tourist no matter where they live.

That is why I strongly support the High Speed Rail Investment Act of 2001. It will provide Amtrak with what our highways and airports already have: a source of long-term capital with which to build the high-speed rail corridors of the future.

With high-speed rail, we can give travelers the choices they deserve, and

improve our over burdened transportation system. Passage of the High Speed Rail Act of 2001 isn't just in Amtrak's interest; it is in America's interest.

THE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY CARE ACT

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join the distinguished Senators from Minnesota and Maine, Mr. WELLSTONE and Ms. COLLINS, in the introduction of the Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance, Research, and Education Act.

I have worked with them over the past several months to develop this legislation.

The Muscular Dystrophy CARE Act will help ensure that federal agencies are coordinating muscular dystrophy initiatives. The bill will create three Centers of Excellence under the National Institutes of Health. These centers will conduct basic and clinical research that will help move scientific discoveries from the laboratory to the bedside. The act also ensures that the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention will conduct basic epidemiological research and data analysis of the impact this disease has on our country.

The passage of this legislation will help improve the quality and length of life for tens of thousands who suffer from muscular dystrophy. I encourage all Senators to support this effort.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY last month. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

Today I would like to detail a heinous crime that occurred June 1, 2000, in Baltimore, MD. Gary William Mick, 25, pleaded guilty to first-degree murder, attempted murder, and armed robbery after admitting that he murdered a gay man and tried to kill another because, he told police, he thought gay men were "evil." In the first attack, a New Jersey man was bludgeoned to death with a claw hammer at the Admiral Fell Inn in Fells Point. Mick met his second victim, a dentist, at a bar, had dinner with him and went home with him. He later attacked him with a knife. The men struggled and the victim escaped. The perpetrator told police that a childhood incident caused him to hate homosexuals.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, May 1, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,651,070,445,048.89. Five trillion, six hundred fifty-one billion, seventy million, four hundred forty-five thousand, forty-eight dollars and eighty-nine cents.

One year ago, May 1, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,660,726,000,000. Five trillion, six hundred sixty billion, seven hundred twenty-six million.

Five years ago, May 1, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,096,321,000,000. Five trillion, ninety-six billion, three hundred twenty-one million.

Ten years ago, May 1, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,438,851,000,000. Three trillion, four hundred thirty-eight billion, eight hundred fifty-one million.

Fifteen years ago, May 1, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,020,548,000,000. Two trillion, twenty billion, five hundred forty-eight million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$3.5 trillion, \$3,630,522,445,048.89. Three trillion, six hundred thirty billion, five hundred twenty-two million, four hundred forty-five thousand, forty-eight dollars and eighty-nine cents during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

A PASSOVER MESSAGE FROM RABBI ISRAEL ZOBERMAN

• Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I ask that a "Passover Message from Rabbi Israel Zoberman" be printed in the RECORD.

The message is as follows:

The Biblical account of the Exodus from Egypt became the Leitmotif of Rabbinic theology, perceiving in the Israelites' redemption from a House of Bondage God's guidance and goodness. Thus the three Pilgrim Festivals of Pesach, Shavuot and Sukkot, revolving around the common theme of the Exodus, point at the divine gifts of both freedom and responsibility as essential requirements for fulfilling the human potential.

The awesome and complex journey—physically, spiritually and psychologically—from servitude to liberation of the people of Israel was to be a model for the entire human family, culminating the Messianic vision of a world redeemed in the prophetic promise. We have chosen to transform the bitter herbs of our exile into the sweet charoset of homecoming in all. It is the symbolic hovering presence at the Seder table of the prophet Elijah for whom we open the door and set aside a special cup of wine, which provides the eternal hope for universal shalom. It is the peace we have kept alive as a flickering light in the darkness of a trying and challenging history.

Our Passover joy is diminished through by the continued detention in China of the twenty-four-member crew of the U.S. Navy plane as we pray and call for their release, as well as the release of Dr. Gao Zhan, who has been separated for too long from her husband and child in Virginia. The festival's promise by a compassionately passionate heritage is ultimately rooted in its revolutionary view of the infinite worth of each of the Creator's children, recalling that God silenced the angels on high when jubilant at the drowning

of the Pharaoh's troops. When we particularly preserve our adversary's humanity, difficult as it is, we maintain our own essential human stature.

We rejoice in the presence of our special guest, Adam Nguyen, who escaped from Vietnam in 1971 and is president of the Zen Buddhism Association of Hampton Roads and whose first Seder it is. As we share our celebration with him, we protest the destruction and desecration of the irreplaceable, precious and priceless two giant Buddha statues from the third and fifth centuries respectively, by the oppressive and repressive Taliban regime in Afghanistan. Pleas from the world at large, including Muslim countries along with its ally Pakistan, to desist from such an unwarranted act fell on deaf ears. An assault on one religion is an assault on all religions and on civilization itself. We congratulate neighboring Tajikistan for restoring another historic Buddha relic.

We suffer the ongoing lethal violence substituting for life-enhancing vision in our American society sacrificing its precious youth, tomorrow's promise, on the alien altars of the false gods of wanton conduct and perverted values. The plight of the three kidnapped Israeli soldiers and their agonizing families, including Benny Avraham from our sister city of Pardes Katz, remains of grave concern to us. We are in pain given the deadly deadlocked scenario in our beloved Land of Israel, ancient source of shalom's holy wellspring of blessings, still so tragically eluding it and the vastness of a wondrous universe designed to reflect the Divine's loving embrace.

Rabbi Israel Zoberman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, is President of the Hampton Roads Board of Rabbis and Chairman of the Community Relations Council of the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater. He was born in Kazakhstan in 1945 to Polish Holocaust Survivors.●

RETIREMENT OF LILLIE PETIT GALLAGHER

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment out of this morning's business to commemorate a very special occasion in the life of a dear friend and a valued advisor, Lillie Petit Gallagher. This Friday, May 4, 2001, marks the last day of a long and distinguished career in public service for Lillie. As the Executive Director of St. Elizabeth Foundation in Baton Rouge, she has not only counseled hundreds of birth mothers but also helped in placing their children with loving families. In the thirteen years she has served as executive director of this fine organization, she has been a trusted friend, a surrogate mother, a guardian angel and a wise counsel to hundreds of parents and families.

The US Census Bureau estimates that in one year 500,000 teenagers will choose to parent their babies; 450,000 will have abortions. Because of people like Lillie, these young adults have the confidence and support they need to choose adoption for their child. To demonstrate for you the kind of impact Lillie has had in shaping St. Elizabeth's, let me read an excerpt from a letter from one of her birth mothers, "I was eighteen and fresh out of a bad relationship when I found out I was preg-

nant. I can remember not knowing what I was going to do. I guess in a lot of ways I just acted as if there was nothing wrong. For about three months no one knew of my pregnancy but me and a friend. Then we just really started talking about what to do one day and that's when it happened, just like a sign from God, a billboard sign saying: "Pregnant and alone call . . ." so we rode back to her house and called. A soft sweet voice answered the phone, "St. Elizabeth Foundation." That is how I started my friendship and love for the people at St. Elizabeth's." This is just one of many examples of the special interventions that bring strength, hope and comfort to hundreds of families.

A native of Cut Off, LA, Lillie's work on behalf of the children of Louisiana is not limited to her outstanding work at St. Elizabeth's. After graduating from St. Mary's Dominican College in New Orleans, she returned to LSU to obtain a graduate degree in child development and social services. She used those skills to teach early childhood at the college level, found a Montessori pre-school and served as the founding director of the statewide Gifted/Talented Program in the Louisiana State Department of Education. As if that is not enough, she also spent several years as host of a popular TV education program.

Anyone who meets Lillie knows they have met someone very special. Her loving heart and determined spirit make her a tenacious advocate for children and their families and Louisiana and the Nation have been the great beneficiary. Her 36 year marriage to her husband, George, serves as a loving example, not only to her four beautiful children and precious grandchild, but to the young people she serves. My best wishes to you, Lillie, your husband, George, and your beautiful family.●

TIMEOUT FOR THE UNINSURED

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask consent that the following article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Washington Post, May 2, 2001]

TIMEOUT FOR THE UNINSURED

House Conferees have been fighting with their Senate counterparts to reduce the spending levels in the congressional budget resolution. No doubt some cuts can be made in the Senate totals without the country's suffering harm. But at least one relatively minor Senate proposal deserves to remain.

Oregon Sens. Gordon Smith and Ron Wyden won inclusion in the budget of an additional \$28 billion over three years to reduce the number of Americans without health insurance. The money would mainly be spent on lower-income people. Exactly how would be up to the authorizing committees, but an add-on of some kind to Medicaid and/or the children's health insurance program that Congress enacted several years ago seems most likely. The modest expansion would hardly solve the un-insurance problem, but it would push in the right direction.

About a seventh of the population remains uninsured. Most are poor or near poor. They

lack insurance mainly because they can't afford it. The administration has proposed a tax credit to help those whose employers don't offer insurance. But the credit would cover only part of the cost of an average policy, and most uninsured families still would find such a policy beyond their means. Some people think the industry might respond by offering only partial policies, but it's not clear that would be a good result, either.

The administration proposal has some interesting features and would do limited good, but limited is the operative word. The spending programs for the lower-income uninsured have shown themselves to be efficient ways of increasing coverage. Whatever the fate of the tax credit, they should be expanded. Much attention has lately been paid to the health care problems of the already insured. The elderly lack a drug benefit; people enrolled in managed care complain that care is sometimes sacrificed to cost. But at least these people have insurance. More than 40 million don't. The budget argument this year has been mainly about how large a tax cut to give the better-off. What about a timeout to pay a little heed to those who can't afford to get sick?●

DR. NAN S. HUTCHISON BROWARD SENIOR HALL OF FAME

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, today I am delighted to recognize an outstanding group of men and women from Broward County. The dedication and compassion demonstrated by these 10 inspiring senior citizens who have been nominated to the Dr. Nan S. Hutchison Broward Senior Hall of Fame is truly exceptional. The selfless efforts of these nominees to address the needs of individuals in all walks of life serve as an example for others throughout our Nation to emulate.

This year's honorees are Ilo Cox, Sydney Dworkin, Flora Fasciani, Ena Henry, Edward Levy, Johnnie McCray, Elizabeth Phillips Scheuerman, Bert Soft, Lotte Stein, and Ralph Weinstein.

Ilo Cox has endeavored to improve the quality of life for Floridians by promoting such diverse initiatives as crime prevention, community development, advancement of the arts and funding research to find a cure for cystic fibrosis. In addition, she has held positions of leadership with the Fort Lauderdale Woman's Club.

Sydney Dworkin has given generously of his time to the Florida Lakes Alzheimer Care Center since its inception in 1993. At the center he brings warmth and light into the lives of all those whom he assists. He has recognized the importance of a friendship in the life of someone afflicted by a mentally debilitating disease.

Flora Fasciani has been a steadfast supporter of children's programs and charities, coordinating and supervising several fundraising Salvation Army balls in Broward. She also acts as a spokesperson for the University of Miami Organ Donor Program and organizes the biannual Red Cross blood drive.

Ena Henry has been an active member of her church community; volunteering her time in programs aimed at educating the youth and fostering a