

of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

EXCELLENCE IN NORTH CAROLINA'S MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, from time to time historians like to engage in a sort of parlor game in speculating whether circumstances create great leaders or whether leaders serve as the catalyst for great change.

In my view, there's no doubt that greatness springs from the character of individuals. President Reagan understood this fundamental truth. He also understood that the American people, particularly the men and women in our armed services, will meet any challenge with proper encouragement to strive for excellence.

Ronald Reagan's faith in the American people enabled him to inspire our citizens and to restore our collective confidence at a critical time in America's history. Inheriting a military in decline and a nation said to be in a "malaise" by his immediate predecessor, President Reagan chose not to shrink from the enormous challenges facing our Nation.

Instead, he stood firm in his resolve. Overcoming the predictable partisan criticism, he successfully rebuilt our national defense and restored United States power and prestige throughout the world.

In 1984, in rebuilding our military, President Reagan established the Commander-in-Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence. In doing so, he issued an open challenge to the men and women responsible for defending the United States of America: That they do the "best job with their resources to support our mission," and that "they seek out the most imaginative and innovative solutions to the many complex problems [they] face."

Mr. President, ever since Ronald Reagan's first presentation in 1985, the Commander-in-Chief's Award has served as the highest commendation for a military installation. It is a tangible recognition of the hard work, dedication, innovation, and professionalism of the service-members and civilians who serve in our armed forces. (In each year since, only five awards have been presented only to the most outstanding installation of the four service branches and the Defense Logistics Agency.)

This year, for only the second time in history, three installations in a single state rose to President Reagan's challenge and were presented during the same year with the Commander-in-Chief's Award.

In ceremonies at the Pentagon last week, Mr. President, representatives of Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Fort Bragg, and Camp Lejeune—all three in

North Carolina—were present to receive this well-deserved recognition on behalf of their respective services.

Though this is just the second time a state has accomplished this remarkable feat, North Carolina installations have been honored frequently in previous Commander-in-Chief Award ceremonies. In fact, North Carolina installations have won a total of 13 awards, more than any other state.

By the way, Mr. President, North Carolina also has the distinction of having been home to the base that has won the award more often than any other in the country. While not selected this year, the Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station has won its services' award on six occasions overall, four times in the past six years.

In fact, North Carolina's two Marine Corps bases have so dominated the award that they have won it a total of ten times and kept it in our state for the past six years.

Mr. President, I submit that it is no accident that North Carolina's military installations fare so well in this annual competition. The communities which embrace our bases—Goldboro, Fayetteville, Jacksonville and Havelock—are filled with patriots who do everything possible to support the young men and women who put their lives on the line to protect our great nation. These North Carolina communities work closely with our installation commanders to support their efforts to make certain that our servicemen and women have everything they need to safely and successfully accomplish their missions and to improve the quality of their lives.

In 1984, President Reagan appealed to the best instincts of the men and women in our military when he established this annual award. In so doing, he has helped highlight a legacy of excellence among the installations in my home state.

Mr. President, needless to say, I'm extremely proud of our bases and communities and their achievements.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Friday, May 4, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,641,702,535,760.39, five trillion, six hundred forty-one billion, seven hundred two million, five hundred thirty-five thousand, seven hundred sixty dollars and thirty-nine cents.

One year ago, May 4, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,661,533,000,000, five trillion, six hundred sixty-one billion, five hundred thirty-three million.

Twenty-five years ago, May 4, 1976, the Federal debt stood at \$595,840,000,000, five hundred ninety-five billion, eight hundred forty million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion, \$5,045,862,535,760.39, five trillion, forty-five billion, eight hundred sixty-two million, five hundred thirty-five thousand, seven hundred sixty dollars and thirty-nine cents during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF AUSTIN GUNDER, "F1J" WORLD CHAMPION

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of Austin Gunder, a 15-year-old freshman at Red Lion High School in York County, PA. Austin recently competed with the U.S. Junior Aeronautic International Free Flight Model Aircraft Team in the Junior World Championship Contest held in Seaimovo Usti, Czech Republic.

A member of a six-person team selected by the Academy of Model Aeronautics, AMA, Austin achieved the World Champion Ranking in what is known as the "F1J" or the powered event. This event involves taking a model airplane designed and constructed by the contestant, putting a very small engine and propeller on it, launching it vertically for an exact period of no more than seven seconds to the highest obtainable altitude, and then having the engine shut off with the airplane going horizontal at exactly the right time to start its timed free flight glide. This is all done by adjusting the small airplane to obtain peak performance, and by testing and practicing to assure that every operation is perfect. The contestant must calculate the most favorable temperature and winds for the 10-minute window in which to fly. Austin was the only U.S. competitor, and he achieved World Champion Ranking 9 minutes into his flight beating out 13 other contestants from all over the world who competed in the event.

Austin Gunder was featured on the cover of the February 2001 issue of Model Aviation, the official publication of the Academy of Model Aeronautics, and will be honored at his high school by the Federal Aviation Administration. Austin's World Champion status in the "F1J" competition is the highest honor of the model airplane organization.

Austin Gunder is an outstanding young man and a great example for youth in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and across the country. I personally commend him for his accomplishments in the field of aeronautics and wish him the very best as he prepares himself for the future challenges that lie ahead. •

RECOGNITION OF HEATHER EAGLESTON

• Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Miss Heather Eagleston of Mountain Home, AR. Heather recently won the Arkansas 2001 "RespecTeen Speak for Yourself" Contest. In her entry letter, Heather passionately described her personal experience with her brother's tragic accident and resulting paralysis and the problems he now faces everyday with disabilities discrimination. It was for families like this one that we passed

the Americans with Disabilities Act just over 10 years ago and, during the 106th Congress, the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999. However, as President Roosevelt once said, "the credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena . . . who does actually strive to do the deeds." In this case, that credit belongs to a thirteen-year-old girl, who has pledged herself in an effort to combat discrimination against the disabled, and who has already taken a notable step in that direction. I salute Heather for her dedication and congratulate her on this achievement.

Mr. President, I ask that Heather Eagleston's letter and a short biography be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

MOUNTAIN HOME, AR,
January 16, 2001.

Hon. ASA HUTCHINSON,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE ASA HUTCHINSON: Eliminating discrimination against disabled people should be a national priority. Even though legislation has been passed addressing their problems, enforcement of existing laws still leaves the disabled individual without even the most basic resources necessary to pursue a normal life.

Access into public buildings, and equal employment opportunities are essential to every citizen of our country. More than half of the population believes that the disabled are being discriminated against in the workforce.

The Rehabilitation Act, of 1973, requires all federal agencies to take an affirmative action in hiring qualified employees with disabilities. Currently, federal government hires only 209,284 people with disabilities. That is only seven percent of the entire work force.

In 1993 my brother was paralyzed in a car accident. His medical bills were about one million dollars, and at that time we had no insurance. My mother had to go to the hospital administrative board and beg them to give my brother the spinal surgery he needed to function. Fortunately, after a long tedious process he did qualify for government assistance.

We have come a long way. The government is making progress but only in small parts. Since 1973 we have had about 20 laws passed on disability rights. The current laws are not being enforced. In 1990 the Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into a law. This included provisions to access all public accommodations. However in 1994, when my brother went to get his senior portrait taken there was no wheelchair access ramp for him to get in, nor in the school sanction. This is only one example of a minor problem that illustrates a major issue.

Initiate stricter penalties for those who will not abide by the laws. Inform the public concerning the law the consequences of ignoring the law.

I will set a standard in my life that focuses on the fact that no United States citizen, despite whatever limitation they might have, feels that their rights are limited due to public ignorance or support from our government. I will speak out for the right of all individuals.

Sincerely,

HEATHER EAGLESTON.

RESPECTTEEN SPEAK FOR YOURSELF ENTRY
FORM

Judging criteria: Letters will be judged on quality and clarity of thought, quality of ar-

gument, effectiveness of supporting data, quality of expression, sincerity and originality, as well as adherence to rules regarding form and length. Entries must address a national issue that a member of a Congress can take action on. At least one sentence in the letter must describe action the writer can take, has taken, or plans to take to help address the issue on the local level. Please keep in mind that if your letter is a state or district winner, your letter will be released to the media.

You must complete all information below for entry into the contest. Please staple this entry form securely to a copy of the letter that you mailed to your U.S. representative.

Please type clearly or print in black ink:

Today's Date: January 30, 2001

First Name: Heather

Last Name: Eagleston

Sex: Female

Date of Birth: August 8, 1987

Age: 13

Grade: Eighth

Email Address: hmeagleston@yahoo.com

First and Last Name(s) of Parent(s) or

Guardian(s) and Daytime Phone Num-

bers: John Eagleston and Amanda Tait

Daytime Phone: (870) 425-9686

Home Street Address: 500 N. Church St. A-7

City: Mountain Home

State: Arkansas

ZIP: 72653

Home Phone: [REDACTED]

Teacher's Name: Mrs. Helen Gammill

Full School Name: Mountain Home Junior
High

School Street Address: 2301 Rodeo Drive

City: Mountain Home

State: Arkansas

ZIP: 72653

School Phone: (870) 425-1231

U.S. Representative (For Your Home Ad-
dress): Asa Hutchinson

Congressional District (For Your Home Ad-
dress): #3

Issue discussed in your letter: Discrimina-
tion against disabled

Please sign to the right, verifying that the
letter is entirely your own work:

Heather Eagleston

Is the number of words in the body of your
letter between 150 and 350?: Yes.

Does your letter have the six standard let-
ter parts (heading, inside address, greeting,
body, closing, and signature)? Yes.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Mr. DORGAN, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 836. A bill to amend part C of title XI of the Social Security Act to provide for coordination of implementation of administrative simplification standard for health care information; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOND:

S. 837. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a safe harbor for determining that certain individuals are not employees; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. DEWINE):

S. 838. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to improve the safety and efficacy of pharmaceuticals for children; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself, Mr. BAYH, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. BURNS,

Mr. KERRY, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HELMS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. BIDEN):

S. 839. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase the amount of payment for inpatient hospital services under the medicare program and to freeze the reduction in payments to hospitals for indirect costs of medical education; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 145

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 145, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to increase to parity with other surviving spouses the basic annuity that is provided under the uniformed services Survivor Benefit Plan for surviving spouses who are at least 62 years of age, and for other purposes.

S. 247

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 247, a bill to provide for the protection of children from tobacco.

S. 281

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) were added as cosponsors of S. 281, a bill to authorize the design and construction of a temporary education center at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

S. 312

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. FITZGERALD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 312, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for farmers and fishermen, and for other purposes.

S. 503

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 503, a bill to amend the Safe Water Act to provide grants to small public drinking water system.

S. 548

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) and the Senator from