

yet another step closer to the day when no child goes to bed feeling alone, unloved or unwanted.

LYME DISEASE

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleague, Senator CHRIS DODD of Connecticut, in lending support to the pressing cause of addressing the ruinous effects of America's most common tick-borne illness, Lyme disease.

I thank the senior Senator from Connecticut for his long involvement and leadership on this most important public health issue. With thousands of Americans contracting Lyme disease each year, it is critical that we work aggressively to wage a comprehensive fight against this devastating tick-borne illness, which costs our country dearly in the way of medical expenditures and human suffering. The current lack of physician knowledge about Lyme and the inadequacies of existing detection methods are particularly problematic, and only serve to compound this growing public health hazard.

Approximately one year ago, I joined with Senator DODD, and Representatives SMITH of New Jersey, PITTS and GOODE to request of the U.S. General Accounting Office a report on some of the current concerns surrounding public and private efforts dedicated to Lyme. We asked about the past and present funding trends within the NIH and CDC and to what projects these resources are being devoted, and we asked about possible conflicts of interest within government agencies related to decisions about the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of Lyme.

Although we have not yet received the official report of the GAO, we have received some preliminary findings that Senator DODD and I believed merited the development of new legislation that we are introducing today the Lyme and Infectious Disease Information and Fairness in testing "LIIFT" Act to build upon the solid foundation laid by the Lyme Disease Initiative of 1999.

The GAO's preliminary findings suggest that the CDC and NIH have lost sight of what ultimately matters to the people living with Lyme: Accurate diagnostic tools, access to effective treatment and ultimately a cure. Needless to say, the patient community is not well-served if these areas are not given proper priority at the CDC and NIH.

Between 1991 and 1999, the annual number of reported cases of Lyme disease increased by an astonishing 72 percent. Even as the dramatic increase took place, according to the GAO, funding for Lyme disease at the CDC has increased by only 7 percent over the past 10 years.

Whereas we applaud NIH for its work and we are pleased to see that Congress' efforts to double NIH funding have directly benefited Lyme research,

poor coordination and the lack of proper funding at the CDC has left too many questions unanswered. Senator DODD and I share the frustration of the patient community; why hasn't all of this research translated into better treatment? We similarly believe that the CDC's lack of proper funding and attention to tick-borne disease has stalled progress in the development of more accurate diagnostic tests for Lyme disease.

The LIIFT Act will seek to remedy these issues by ensuring that the proper collaboration is taking place on the Federal level the proper collaboration between the Federal Government and the people it serves. Our bill will also address the funding imbalances for Lyme disease activities at the CDC that has inhibited the development of accurate detection methods and treatment for Lyme.

With this new legislation we are calling for the formation of a Department of Health and Human Services Advisory Committee that will bring Federal agencies, such as the CDC and the NIH, to the table with patient organizations, clinicians, and members of the scientific community. This Committee will report its recommendations to the Secretary of HHS. It will ensure that all scientific viewpoints are given consideration at NIH and the CDC and will give a voice to the patient community which has often been left out of the dialogue.

The LIIFT Act will also provide an additional \$14 million over the next two years to the CDC to ensure that the Centers work with researchers around the country to develop better diagnostic tests and to increase its efforts to educate the public about Lyme disease. We also call upon the NIH to place an emphasis on funding the neurologic and vascular aspects of Lyme disease and to recruit a larger pool of researchers.

In addition, this legislation authorizes an additional \$7 million to fund the extraordinary research and eradication efforts already underway at the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine located in the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland.

I sincerely hope that our colleagues will join Senator DODD and me in this most worthy cause and cosponsor the LIIFT Act. Lyme disease patients and their families have waited too long for a responsive plan of action to address their suffering and needs.

The Tireless efforts of the Lyme patient and advocacy community have been instrumental in raising awareness and mobilizing support for this issue, and for this both Senator DODD and I thank them. I look forward to working with them, Senator DODD, and our colleagues to synthesize the best ideas from last session's Lyme Disease Initiative and the new LIIFT Act, and to enact into law strong legislation to help correct the mistakes of the past, and to give greater hope for the future

by ensuring patients that the Federal Government is doing everything in its power to provide better treatments and ultimately, a cure.

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

Ms. LINCOLN. Mr. President, in anticipation of Memorial Day, I rise to honor the 1.1 million Americans who have given their lives for this country. Their lasting legacy is freedom, both here and abroad.

I hope this Memorial Day will be a special one for the World War II generation. Earlier this week, the Senate cleared the way for the construction of the World War II Memorial on the National Mall. The brave men and women of this generation will finally receive the national recognition they deserve.

I want to take time today to acknowledge the contributions of the nearly four million veterans of the Korean War. This issue is a personal one for me. My father is a veteran of the Korean War and I know his generation made tremendous sacrifices. During the course of the war, over 36,000 Americans lost their lives and over 90,000 were wounded.

My father served in Korea as an enlisted man. He left for the 38th Parallel shortly after graduating from high school. When he returned, he married my mother and went to college at the University of Arkansas where he joined the ROTC. Upon graduation, his ROTC unit was activated and Dad left for the Azores for a 12 month assignment.

Like many members of the military, my father didn't endure the sacrifice of service alone. My mother boarded a military flight to the Azores when my sister Mary was only 6 months old to join my father. The military didn't provide housing for married service members on the island and so my father had to make alternative arrangements before my mother and sister could join him. Once reunited, they lived as normal a life as possible in a trailer on an island in the Atlantic thousands of miles from home.

Seldom do we properly recognize the contribution and sacrifice spouses and other family members make when a loved one joins the Armed Forces. So while we honor our nation's veterans on Memorial Day, let us also salute the spouses and other family members who share the sacrifice and burdens of military service.

To commemorate this Memorial Day, I urge my colleagues and all Americans to watch the PBS documentary Korean War Stories. It will air in the evening on Sunday May 27th. This documentary has been sponsored by the Disabled American Veterans as a tribute to those who served during the Korean War.

Our Korean War veterans served this nation with honor, dignity, and dedication, and, in the end, they preserved freedom on the Korean peninsula.

I have the highest respect for the men and women who have served our

nation in the Armed Forces, especially those who gave their lives to protect the freedoms we enjoy today. Their sacrifice on behalf of our country is commendable and I extend my sincere appreciation for the honorable service they have given.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, May 23, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,658,410,674,620.47, five trillion, six hundred fifty-eight billion, four hundred ten million, six hundred seventy-four thousand, six hundred twenty dollars and forty-seven cents.

One year ago, May 23, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,676,154,000,000, five trillion, six hundred seventy-six billion, one hundred fifty-four million.

Five years ago, May 23, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,120,584,000,000, five trillion, one hundred twenty billion, five hundred eighty-four million.

Ten years ago, May 23, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,463,998,000,000, three trillion, four hundred sixty-three billion, nine hundred ninety-eight million.

Fifteen years ago, May 23, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,030,039,000,000, two trillion, thirty billion, thirty-nine million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$3.5 trillion, \$3,628,371,674,620.47, three trillion, six hundred twenty-eight billion, three hundred seventy-one million, six hundred seventy-four thousand, six hundred twenty dollars and forty-seven cents during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR HARRY A. AMESBURY, JR.

• Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Major Harry A. Amesbury, Jr. who after 29 years is finally being returned home to his family. On April 26, 1972, Harry was the commander of a C-130E aircraft on a night emergency resupply mission to the besieged city of An Loc, Republic of Vietnam. He knew there was a concentration of enemy anti-aircraft defenses because he made the flight the night before. His aircraft was struck by the intense enemy fire and shot down. He has been missing in action since that date, but not forgotten. An Idaho resident and career Air Force officer with over sixteen years of service to his country, he was survived by his parents Dr. and Mrs. Harry A. Amesbury, Sr., who are now deceased, his wife Mary Amesbury Predoehl, and four sons: Harry Kurt Amesbury, David John Amesbury, Robert Stephen Amesbury, and Alan Keith Amesbury. He is also survived by David's wife Marjan, their son Brendan, and the twins Cameron and Shannon, as well as, Stephen's wife Mary and their sons Ryan and Connor. I know I speak for

all my colleagues in the Senate in expressing my profound sorrow to the Amesbury family for their loss.

In a letter to his parents on 15 April 1972, just eleven days before his death, Harry wrote: "I want you to know that if something should happen to me, that I am doing what needs to be done and I am doing what I think is right". He was a thorough professional who believed in his country and his duties as an Air Force Officer. He knew that his fellow service members needed his help, so he didn't hesitate when called on to make that final flight.

Harry received the Silver Star for his valor in attempting the mission to An Loc. He also received the Distinguished Flying Cross for a mission the previous day, when his aircraft was heavily damaged by enemy anti-aircraft fire. These final acts of courage, following days and years of courageous acts, demonstrate the commitment that Major Harry Amesbury had for military service, his dedication to our country, and the importance he placed on performing his duty. Unfortunately, this tragedy reminds us once again of the painful costs of answering the call of service to our country, and the sacrifices our military members make for others who need help. We will never know how many lives in An Loc were saved because of the valor of Major Harry Amesbury, but as we pay homage to his memory, let us rededicate ourselves in the days and months ahead to the ideals of our great nation, and keep faith with all brave Americans who choose to wear the uniform and ensure that their sacrifices were not made in vain.

I hope it is of some comfort to the family that Major Harry Amesbury, Jr. is finally returning home to Idaho. It was always his plan to return to the State after completing his Air Force career, and even bought land overlooking the Snake River, near Marsing, where he planned to build his retirement home.

On Memorial Day at Mountain Home AFB, there will be an official ceremony which will include the rendering of military honors and one final opportunity to express appreciation for his service and his sacrifice. His family will then travel into the mountains, to a place that he loved to go with his children, and say goodbye in their own way.

I am very proud to recognize Major Harry A. Amesbury, Jr. and tell him and his family, Thank You. •

TRIBUTE TO JANE ELLEN STRITZINGER

• Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to one of this country's great educators as she retires after over 30 years of teaching English in my home state of Alabama. This week marks the end of an outstanding career for Jane Ellen Stritzinger as she retires from Demopolis High School. Mrs. Stritzinger has taught thousands of

students to write well and motivated many to pursue higher education. I join her family, friends, fellow teachers and the students she has guided in congratulating and wishing her well in retirement. Her devoted service to the young people of Alabama has made both the state and the nation better places. Her leadership and teaching will be sorely missed.

Mrs. Stritzinger's awards, activities and leadership positions are far too numerous to list exhaustively, yet a few bear special mention. She was selected as the Alabama State Teacher of the Year, District V winner for 1999-2000. Mrs. Stritzinger has also received the University of West Alabama College of Liberal Arts Alumni Achievement Award, the Tombigbee Girl Scout Council Outstanding Educator Award and the Alabama Council of Teachers of English Distinguished Service Award. She has also been recognized three times by the National Endowment for the Humanities with Awards allowing her to attend special seminars. In addition to her support of educational efforts, Mrs. Stritzinger has played active roles in numerous community organizations including historical, alumni and religious organizations.

Mrs. Stritzinger spent most of her career teaching English and literature to twelfth grade students at Demopolis High School where she has been responsible for the Advanced Placement, Honors and College-bound English classes. In addition, she has served as the Chairperson of the English Department at Demopolis High School for twenty years and of both the English Curriculum Development and the English Textbook Committees. Early in her career, she taught English at Uniontown High School and remedial reading at Westside School and served as Assistant Director of the Alabama Consortium for the Development of Higher Education. She has helped mold the minds of students as they prepared for college and for life. Her focus on encouraging and recognizing academic excellence extended beyond her classroom to the numerous activities and organizations she helped coordinate including founding the local chapter of the National Honor Society.

Mrs. Stritzinger holds a strong belief in encouraging students to improve their reading abilities and develop strong writing skills. She championed using the Accelerated Reader Program and applied for her school to become an Alabama Reading Initiative Demonstration site. She devoted countless hours over the years to the Alabama Penman Creative Writing Contest, the Gulf Coast Writing Conference, the Program to Recognize Excellence in High School Literary Magazines, a tutorial program for high school students and the Beta Club. Mrs. Stritzinger participated in a program on writing instruction filmed by the State Department of Education for Alabama Public Television.