

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.

Strong schools foster strong students and Mrs. Stritzinger worked diligently to improve the quality of our Alabama schools. She was selected as Chairperson of the Ten Year Study for Demopolis High School for Southern Association accreditation and as Teachers' Representative to the Demopolis Educational Foundation. She served as chairperson of the Grants Committee for the Educational Foundation and coordinated a system-wide meeting for reading and language teachers on improving test scores. Mrs. Stritzinger represented Demopolis High School on the Mid-South Humanities Project, the University of Alabama Bio-Prep Workshops and a School Improvement Workshop. She also served on an Alabama State Department of Education Evaluation Team to accredit Judson College. Central to her effort to improve our schools was her twenty years as a Cooperating Teacher providing guidance to student teachers seeking classroom experience. She also played an active role in encouraging the use of technology in the classroom including through the use of the Internet.

Mrs. Stritzinger earned both Masters and Bachelors degrees in English and maintains affiliations with numerous education associations. She has been married to Pete Stritzinger for 36 years and while pursuing this busy career raised two daughters—Ann and Gloria. Mrs. Stritzinger's commitment to Demopolis Schools continues a tradition begun by her mother Lucille Lewis who was also a long serving public school teacher.

No one can begin to quantify the amazing impact that a teacher of Mrs. Stritzinger's ability has had on her students and on her community. The success stories are myriad and many of Mrs. Stritzinger's students have risen to become pillars of their communities. Often her students have been inspired by Mrs. Stritzinger's teaching to pursue careers as teachers or careers which depend upon the critical thinking and strong writing skills fostered by her classes.

As you can tell from my description of her career, Mrs. Stritzinger's involvement in the Demopolis City School System will be hard to replace. Although I am sure she will stay involved with the schools and the community after retirement, she has begun a legacy of success that is sure to be continued. I am confident that her former students and fellow teachers will continue to rise to the challenges that Mrs. Stritzinger posed to them.

Congratulations again Mrs. Stritzinger on such an outstanding career.●

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND MARK HURLEY

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Reverend Mark J. Hurley, the former bishop of the Catholic Diocese

of Santa Rosa, California. Bishop Hurley passed away on Monday, February 5, 2001, after undergoing surgery for an aneurysm. Mark Hurley was one of two priests born to a proud Irish Catholic family. His brother, Francis Hurley, is the Archbishop of Anchorage, Alaska.

I had the great fortune to make the acquaintance of Mark Hurley several years ago while traveling in California. He was a deeply religious man, as you would expect, and a very learned individual and the author of several books. He lectured about the tragedy of abortion and wrote extensively about medical and genetic research and individual privacy. But he will be remembered most of all for his extraordinary work as the bishop of the six-county North Coast diocese from 1969–1986.

Pope Paul VI appointed Mark Hurley second bishop of the Santa Rosa diocese in 1969. Prior to his appointment, he was a teacher and administrator for Catholic high schools in San Francisco, Marin and Oakland and served as vicar general of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. He would become Santa Rosa's longest-serving bishop since the diocese was created. Most importantly, Bishop Hurley was credited with saving the diocese from financial ruin. When he took office the diocese was over \$12 million in debt, including \$7 million owed to parishes and other organizations within the diocese. By imposing strict spending limits, a building moratorium and other cutbacks he was able to orchestrate the financial recovery that was so desperately needed.

After his tenure, Pope John Paul II rewarded Reverend Hurley's efforts by transferring him to the Vatican where he was consular to the Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education and a member of the Secretariat for Non-Believers. He returned to the United States and retired in San Francisco, the same city in which he was born on December 13, 1919.

He was acknowledged by many as an intellectual and a world leader on religious matters, but it was his successful tenure as bishop of Santa Rosa for which he will be remembered most. Santa Rosa's current bishop, Daniel Walsh, said of Mark Hurley, "I believe his most esteemed role and responsibility was that of Bishop of Santa Rosa. He labored here from November 1969 to April 1986. He made a great impact on the diocese and we are all beneficiaries of his ministry here."

With the death of bishop Hurley the Lord has lost a dutiful servant, the Catholic faith has lost a pillar of virtue and our nation has lost a loving soul that quietly touched and improved the lives of many. I know I speak for all my colleagues in extending our condolences to his brother, Bishop Francis Hurley, his sister Phyllis Porter of San Francisco and to the rest of his family and friends. May he rest in peace.●

MARY HARMON WEEKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise to make a few comments to congratulate the Mary Harmon Weeks Elementary School in Kansas City, Missouri, on receiving 3rd place in the 18th "Annual Set a Good Example School Competition."

The "Set a Good Example Campaign" is popular with students and teachers alike because it motivates, recognizes and awards student-designed and run projects. It has proven to be a very successful and inspirational method for pulling together business people, educators, youth counselors, parents and students behind the effort to eradicate illegal drugs, crime and violence from our nation's schools.

The students at Mary Harmon Weeks Elementary School successfully put to work 21 precepts from a common sense moral code booklet titled *The Way to Happiness* including, "Try to treat others as you would want them to treat you."

I would like to applaud the students of Mary Harmon Weeks Elementary School and their teacher Gilbert Lowe for the outstanding accomplishment. Sometimes it is very hard for young people to stand out from the crowd and not give in to peer pressure. The choices the students at Mary Harmon Weeks Elementary School have made to stay away from drugs and to promote a safe school environment is a mature and responsible decision. It will not only benefit them as individuals but will bring numerous benefits to the school and community as well.●

RECOGNITION OF MR. KENNETH HOOD

● Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, today Mr. Kenneth Hood of Gunnison, MS, will conclude his term as President of Delta Council.

Delta Council is an economic development organization representing eighteen counties of Northwest Mississippi. Organized in 1935, Delta Council brings together the agricultural, business, and professional leadership of the area to solve common problems and promote the economic development of the Mississippi Delta region.

As President of Delta Council, Mr. Hood has been an articulate spokesman and leader in the effort to define an effective agriculture policy, and to confront the needs for better schools, water resources, and transportation.

Kenneth Hood has been committed to Mississippi agriculture since he first began farming in 1960. He is president of Hood Gin Company and Chief Executive Officer of Perthshire Farms, a family farm operation. He is also president of Hood Equipment Company, an agricultural and construction equipment dealer located in Batesville and Bruce, MS.

Mr. Hood has served also as the President of the Mississippi and National Association of Farmer Elected