

the past and build an independent nation based on democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

NURSE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION ACT OF 2001

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I want to commend Senator ROCKEFELLER, Chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, VA, for his leadership on the measure we are introducing today, the Nurse Recruitment and Retention Act of 2001.

I also want to commend Senator ROCKEFELLER for conducting his first hearing as newly appointed Chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the looming nursing shortage. The Federal health sector, employing approximately 45,000 nurses and the VA as the single largest employer of nurses may be the hardest hit in the near future with an estimated 47 percent of its nursing workforce eligible for retirement in the year 2004. Current and anticipated nursing vacancies in Federal health care agencies are particularly alarming with the increased nursing care needs of an aging America. The Journal of the American Medical Association published a study last year which found the average age of the nursing workforce rose by 4.5 years between 1983 and 1998, mostly because fewer younger people are joining the profession.

It is imperative that the VA have the ability to recruit and retain nurses. Expert witnesses, like Nurses' Organization of Veterans Affairs, NOVA, President Sarah Meyers R.N., Ph.D. of Atlanta, GA, testified at the June 14 hearing. These witnesses identified critical issues ranging from those impacting VA nurses' ability to continue to safely care for veterans to nursing burn-out. Senator ROCKEFELLER and I have developed a comprehensive proposal to address both recruitment and retention of VA nurses.

The Nurse Recruitment and Retention Act of 2001 includes provisions for the nurse scholarship program and education debt reduction. The bill's other needed measures to enhance retention of nurses are: Saturday premium pay for nurses and other identified health professionals, inclusion of unused sick leave in retirement computation for nurses enrolled in the Federal Employees Retirement System, FERS, and full-time service credit in annuity computation for part-time service prior to April 7, 1986. Also proposed are reports to Congress on: (1) the use of mandatory overtime with recommendations for alternative staffing strategies and (2) the encouraged use of waivers of pay reduction for reemployed annuitants to fill needed nurse positions to enhance recruitment.

The Nurse Recruitment and Retention Act of 2001 is needed now in order for VA nurses to continue to care for this country's veterans.

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 in March of this year. 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.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred in 1998 in Boston, MA. A 27-year old gay man was allegedly attacked and beaten when he was walking home from work by assailants who shouted anti-gay epithets. One of the attackers carved the letter "F," presumably for "faggot," on the victim's shoulder.

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 that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

COSPONSORSHIP OF S. 1188

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, because of a clerical mistake, Senator SPECTER was not listed as an original cosponsor to S. 1188, the Department of Veterans Affairs Nurse Recruitment and Retention Enhancement Act of 2001. This bill was introduced yesterday.

Although Senator SPECTER has now been added as a cosponsor and my introductory statement on the bill referred to him as an original cosponsor, I want the RECORD to reflect his early support of the legislation. I look forward to working with him to enact the VA Nurse Recruitment and Retention Act of 2001.

SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT COMPANY AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2001

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague, Senator BOND, in introducing the Small Business Investment Company, SBIC, Amendments Act of 2001. I am a strong supporter of this program, and am mystified and frustrated by efforts to eliminate funding for and restrict the investment capacity of a program that does so much good for the economy.

Last year, the Agency financed 4,600 venture capital deals, which invested \$5.6 billion in our fastest-growing small businesses. In spite of this impressive track record, the President's budget, and the House appropriators, have eliminated funding for the SBIC participating securities program and reduced the program level for the debenture program, which requires no appropriations. Why eliminate funding and restrict activity for the SBIC programs when venture capital has all but dried up? As I have said so many times, the

programs at SBA are a bargain. For very little, taxpayers leverage their money to help thousands of small businesses every year and fuel the economy.

In the SBIC participating securities program last year, taxpayers spent \$1.31 for every \$100 leveraged for investment in our fastest growing companies—companies like Staples, Callaway Golf, Federal Express, and Apple computers.

The main purpose of this Act is to adjust the fees charged to Participating Security SBICs from one percent to 1.28 percent. The change is necessary because the demand for the SBIC program is growing beyond what is possible to fund solely through appropriations.

The National Association of Small Business Investment Companies, NASBIC, testified before both the Senate and House Committees on Small Business in favor of increasing the program level from \$2 billion to \$3.5 billion.

This legislation raises fees just enough to make up the difference between appropriations of \$26.2 million, which is level funding, and the \$65.4 million that would be needed to provide a \$3.5 billion program level. This approach is consistent with the Kerry/Bond amendment to the Budget Resolution that was agreed to in the Senate by voice vote in April, and retained in the final budget resolution.

The other changes strengthen the oversight and authority of SBA to take action against bad actors and protect the integrity of the program.

THE LOSS OF KATHARINE GRAHAM

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, yesterday Washington D.C. and the Nation lost a great friend. A first-rate role model and deft businesswoman, Katharine Graham was a believer in the first amendment who printed the stories that defined our Nation and impacted our lives. As one of the first female executives to run a major newspaper, Katharine Graham opened the doors of power for women here in the Nation's capital and around the country. When Katharine Graham assumed the reigns at The Washington Post, two women served in the U.S. Senate, and none served as Governors of States. Today, in large part because of the path that she and other women of her generation have blazed, there are more women serving as Members of Congress, as Governors, and as corporate executives than ever before. Among all her accomplishments, it is this inspiration for which I am most grateful. Katharine Graham will be surely remembered by her family, friends and her many admirers around the world.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday,

July 17, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,714,215,489,048.80, five trillion, seven hundred fourteen billion, two hundred fifteen million, four hundred eighty-nine thousand, forty-eight dollars and eighty cents.

One year ago, July 17, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,671,573,000,000, five trillion, six hundred seventy-one billion, five hundred seventy-three million.

Five years ago, July 17, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,162,070,000,000, five trillion, one hundred sixty-two billion, seventy million.

Ten years ago, July 17, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,541,621,000,000, three trillion, five hundred forty-one billion, six hundred twenty-one million.

Fifteen years ago, July 17, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,070,188,000,000, two trillion, seventy billion, one hundred eighty-eight million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$3.5 trillion, \$3,644,027,489,048.80, three trillion, six hundred forty-four billion, twenty-seven million, four hundred eighty-nine thousand, forty-eight dollars and eighty cents during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING COLONEL HAROLD DEAN WEEKLEY

• Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, in a couple of days, July 27th to be exact, I will be going to Oshkosh, WI, to attend "2001 Air Venture" or the Oshkosh Fly-In for those of us who are involved in general aviation. This will be the 23rd consecutive year that I have gone and it is an event that I look forward to each July.

As in years past, I will use the opportunity to catch up with old friends, watch a couple of air shows, and look over hundreds of planes. In addition, this year I will have the opportunity to meet a true American hero, Colonel Harold Dean Weekley, retired, who will be honored by the WAR BIRDS for his 30 years of service in the Army Air Corp and then the United States Air Force. During World War II, Colonel Weekley flew B17's where he had a great many close calls but in each instance heroically finished his mission and on several occasions put his own life on the line to protect his crew.

I know all my colleagues will agree with me that we owe the men and women of the Armed Forces a tremendous debt of gratitude because they are the ones on the front lines protecting our liberty. Colonel Weekley and his generation went above and beyond the call of duty when they put their lives and careers on hold to fight in a conflict a half a world away which many at the time did not believe should involve the United States. Certainly in hindsight, American involvement in World War II was not only the right thing to do but critical to our own se-

curity. It was courageous individuals like Colonel Weekley that won the war. Therefore, I think it very fitting that the WAR BIRDS honor Colonel Weekley for his service and urge my colleagues to join me in thanking the Colonel for the sacrifices he has made for us.●

HONORING CENTENNIAL OF BROWNE'S MARKET AND DELI

• Mrs. CARNAHAN. Mr. President, it is the 100th anniversary of a business in Kansas City, MO that represents the entrepreneurial spirit that has made America great. In 1901, two Irish immigrants, Edward and Mary Flavin, in search of the American dream, designed and constructed a building that would serve as a grocery store and meat market. The couple wished to develop a successful business, catering to the needs of the residents in their neighborhood. The Flavins recognized the opportunity offered in the United States and took advantage of it, building a strong business that still exists today.

The store continued to flourish, proving to be a profitable investment. But as the couple grew older, the Flavin Grocery store was eventually passed on to their daughter, Margaret Flavin-Browne, and her husband James Browne. They continued to operate and develop the store, changing the name to J.R. Browne Grocery.

The grocery and building complex is now operated by Kerry Browne, fourth generation, and is known to Kansas Citians as Browne's Market & Deli. The building was designated a historic landmark in 1983, symbolizing the certainty of the American dream and the opportunity which embodies it.

Today we celebrate the contributions of the Flavin-Browne family and this building complex to the cultural, aesthetic and architectural heritage of Kansas City and Jackson County. The great State of Missouri is very proud to honor this significant landmark on the centennial of its founding.●

TRIBUTE TO LARRY HORNSBY

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an outstanding representative of Alabama State, Larry G. Hornsby, CRNA, BSN. Mr. Hornsby will soon complete his year as national president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, AANA. I am very pleased that one of Alabama's own was tapped as the 2000-2001 president of this prestigious national organization.

The AANA is the professional organization that represents more than 28,000 practicing Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, CRNAs. Founded in 1931, the AANA is the professional association representing CRNAs nationwide. As you may know, CRNAs administer more than 65 percent of the anesthetics given to patients each year in the United States. CRNAs provide anesthesia for all types of surgical cases

and are the sole anesthesia provider in 2/3 of all rural hospitals, affording these medical facilities obstetrical, surgical and trauma stabilization capabilities. They work in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered including hospital surgical suites and obstetrical delivery rooms, ambulatory surgical centers, and the offices of dentists, podiatrists, and the plastic surgeons.

Larry received his nurse anesthesia education at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, where he also earned his bachelor's of science and nursing degrees. He is currently president of Anesthesia Professionals, Inc., in Montgomery, AL, and Anesthesia Resources Management, Inc., in Birmingham, AL. Mr. Hornsby has held various leadership positions in the AANA as regional director, vice president, and president-elect before becoming the national president of AANA in 2000. Also, Larry has served terms as president and vice president for the Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists, and has chaired the Government Relations and the Educational District Six committees.

In addition to his service to the AANA, Mr. Hornsby sits on the Alabama Board of Nursing Advisory Council to the Nursing Practice/Discipline Committee and was a representative to the State of Alabama Commission on Nursing. Adding to his professional accomplishments, Mr. Hornsby has become a nationally recognized speaker on anesthesia-related topics over the years.

Even with his time commitments to the AANA and in his profession as a CRNA, Larry still manages time for his second passion, to fish for bass in the rivers of Alabama. As a bassmaster, Mr. Hornsby was president of the Capital City Bassmasters in Montgomery, AL between 1987-1997.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Mr. Larry G. Hornsby, CRNA, BSN, for his notable career and outstanding achievements.●

IN MEMORY OF ALDERMAN LORRAINE L. DIXON

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would like to take this moment to commemorate the life of Lorraine L. Dixon, Alderman from the 8th Ward in the City of Chicago.

Born on Father's Day, June 18, 1950, in the south side neighborhood of Bronzeville, she was the youngest of five children born to Edwin and Edra Godwin. Alderman Dixon grew up surrounded by friends and family including her four brothers Edward Jr., Eddie, Andrew and John. She was particularly close to her brothers Eddie and John who would do anything to protect and please their little sister including taking the blame for accidents. After attending Fuller Elementary School and South Shore High School, she graduated from Chicago State University in 1972 with a Bachelor of