

tribute to thousands of courageous Hmong who selflessly fought alongside of and in support of the United States military during the Vietnam War. The efforts of the Hmong Special Guerrilla Units were unknown to the American public during the conflict in Vietnam, and the 6th Annual Commemoration of the U.S. Lao-Hmong Special Guerrilla Units Veterans Recognition Day is part of the important effort to acknowledge the role played by the Hmong people in this war.

Ms. STABENOW. My colleague from Michigan is correct in stating that Hmong Special Guerrilla Units played an important role in assisting US efforts in the Vietnam conflict, often times at great sacrifice to themselves. From 1961 to 1975 it is estimated that about 25,000 young Hmong men and boys were fighting the Communist Lao and North Vietnamese. The Hmong Special Guerrilla Units were known as the United States' Secret Army, and their valiant efforts ensured the safety and survival of countless U.S. soldiers.

Mr. LEVIN. The Senator is correct. Hmong Special Guerrilla Units actively supported the United States, and risked great loss of life to save downed United States pilots and protect our troops. While the Special Guerrilla Units may have operated in secret, their efforts, courage and sacrifices have been kept secret for far too long. The word Hmong means "free people," and celebrations such as this commemoration will raise awareness of the loyalty, bravery and independence exhibited by the Hmong people.

Ms. STABENOW. It is important that the sacrifices made by the Hmong people are honored by all Americans. These rugged people, from the hills of Laos, paid a great cost because of their love of freedom and their support of the United States. It is estimated that over 40,000 Hmong died during the Vietnam War. Thousands more were forced to flee to refugee camps, and approximately 60,000 Hmong immigrated to United States.

Mr. LEVIN. As the Senator from Michigan knows, thousands of Hmong immigrated to the United States after the Vietnam War. The transition to life in the United States has not always been easy, but the Hmong community has grown and is prospering. There are nearly 200,000 Hmong in the United States, and many of them live in our home State of Michigan. It is important that those who fought in the Special Guerrilla Units are honored for their actions. These units, like all those who served the cause of freedom, must know that we appreciate the great sacrifices made by the Special Guerrilla Units.

Ms. STABENOW. I would concur with my good friend that events such as the 6th Annual Commemoration of U.S. Lao-Hmong Special Guerrilla Units Veterans Recognition Day play an important role in honoring these courageous veterans. This celebration will also educate future generations of

Americans about the sacrifices made by this independent and freedom loving people. I know that my Senate colleagues will join me, and my colleague from the State of Michigan, in commending the Hmong Special Guerrilla Units for their bravery, sacrifice, and commitment to freedom.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, July 18, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,712,502,926,348.50, five trillion, seven hundred twelve billion, five hundred two million, nine hundred twenty-six thousand, three hundred forty-eight dollars and fifty cents.

One year ago, July 18, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,680,376,000,000, five trillion, six hundred eighty billion, three hundred seventy-six million.

Five years ago, July 18, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,168,794,000,000, five trillion, one hundred sixty-eight billion, seven hundred ninety-four million.

Ten years ago, July 18, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,546,904,000,000, three trillion, five hundred forty-six billion, nine hundred four million.

Fifteen years ago, July 18, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,070,143,000,000, two trillion, seventy billion, one hundred forty-three million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$3.5 trillion, \$3,642,359,926,348.50, three trillion, six hundred forty-two billion, three hundred fifty-nine million, nine hundred twenty-six thousand, three hundred forty-eight dollars and fifty cents during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DONNA CENTRELLA

• Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Donna Centrella, a very special woman whom I met 2 years ago during my campaign in New York. Donna died on Monday after a long, brave battle with ovarian cancer.

I first met Donna in September 1999, when I visited Massena Memorial Hospital in Massena, NY. Donna had been diagnosed with ovarian cancer in August, but did not have health insurance to cover her treatment. Miraculously, she found a doctor who would treat her without insurance and she was able to afford care through a variety of State programs.

Perhaps even more astounding was her doctor's statement that she was actually better off without managed care coverage because he could better treat her that way. Without HMO constraints, they were free to make the decisions about the best procedures to follow for her treatment and care—her doctor could keep her in the hospital as long as needed and he would not have to get preapproval for surgery.

I have retold Donna's unbelievable story many times since meeting this

extraordinary woman. Hers is a story that underscores the profound need in this country for immediate reform of the way we provide health coverage to our citizens. We owe it to patients like Donna to sign patients protections into law as soon as possible to ensure that we can provide the best medical treatment possible to everyone who needs it.

We have lost an ally, but I have faith that we will not lose the fight for greater patient protections. It saddens me greatly that Donna will not be here to see it happen. She was an amazing soul whose determination and strength will never forget.●

TRIBUTE TO LANCE CPL. SEAN M. HUGHES

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Lance Cpl. Sean Hughes of Milton, NH, who gave his life for our country on July 10, 2001, when a Marine Corps helicopter participating in a training exercise went down in Sneads Ferry, NC.

Sean was a graduate of Nute High School in Milton, NH. He joined the Marine Corps on July 14, 1999, following the military tradition of his father and grandfather who both served as members of the United States Air Force. An extremely talented and highly intelligent Crew Chief with Marine Helicopter Squadron 365, Sean will always be remembered as the little boy who enjoyed watching planes take off and land at the flight line with his father.

An artist, athlete, and committed Marine, friends each remember him as an exceptional person with a gentle heart. Those who knew him best described him as "irreplaceable," "a dear friend," and one that has "enriched their lives simply by having known him." His constant smile will be missed, as will his unwavering devotion to this country.

As a fellow veteran, I commend Sean for his service in the U.S. Marine Corps. Hundreds of Marines, friends, and family lost a devoted scholar, friend, brother, and son. The people of New Hampshire and the country lost an honorable soldier with a deeply held sense of patriotism. The determination and devotion he possessed as a Marine, and an individual, will not soon be forgotten.

I send my sincere sympathy and prayers to Sean's family and wish them Godspeed during this difficult time in their lives. It is truly an honor to have represented Lance Cpl. Hughes in the U.S. Senate.●

STRAND FAMILY FARM 100TH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE

• Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I pay tribute today to a North Dakota family that exemplifies the spirit of rural life and all that it contributes to our Nation. The Strand family, of Regan, ND, will this week celebrate 100 years on the family farm.

Andrew and Anna Strand arrived in North Dakota in 1901, brought by emigrant train to Wilton, ND. Then, with only a team of horses, a wagon, a walking breaking plow, a disc, and a drill, Andrew and Anna set about making a home in the small community of Regan.

From those meager beginnings, Anna and Andrew raised a family of six children and, just like thousands of other North Dakotans at that time, they built a successful family farm and did the hard work that eventually carved hardy communities from the prairie.

Today, the Strand family farm is still being farmed by Andrew and Anna's grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Four generations of Strands have lived and worked on the land over the past century. As anyone who knows will tell you, farming is hard work. And the Strand family has kept that farm going through everything from the Great Depression to droughts and floods. The family survived even the leanest years, times in the early part of the last century when there was only one good paying crop out of every 7 years.

While some have stayed to continue to work the land, others in the Strand family have built lives and careers that contribute to our State, regional, and national life in a variety of other ways. Andrew and Anna's descendants have worked in healthcare, education, music, public affairs, and agribusiness, to name only a few.

Anna and Andrew's children left their mark on our society in a profound way. Einar Strand helped build the United Nations building in New York. Norton was involved in the agriculture industry throughout North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Montana. Alice became the head administrator at Ballard Hospital in Seattle, WA. Both Arthur and Barney, worked the land as their father before them. Today, Barney, Jr., and his son Richard continue the tradition of farming on the original Strand homestead.

The Strand family also contributed to community life in many ways. In the early days, when help was needed in the fledgling community, the Strand family was there; helping the local doctor on his daily rounds during the influenza outbreak of 1918, helping to build the first local schoolhouse, building township roads and more.

Families like the Strand demonstrate the importance of preserving the family farm and our rural communities. They also remind us that family farms produce more than the food that feeds our Nation and the world. Family farms also produce hardy, enduring families that make our communities and our Nation strong.

I congratulate them as they celebrate this 100-year anniversary of life on the family farm, and extend the hope that the Strand family will continue the tradition that Andrew and Anna started a century ago.●

IN RECOGNITION OF CORNERSTONES COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS IN THE 2001 SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the skill and artistry of those involved in the 2001 Smithsonian Folklife Festival. Specifically, the festival focused on the Masters of Building Arts program featuring craftspeople skilled in the various styles of the building trades.

I am pleased to announce that Cornerstones Community Partnerships of Santa Fe, NM, participated in this annual celebration of folk art. Cornerstones Community Partnerships is a nonprofit organization serving to continue the unique culture and traditions of the southwest through preservation of traditional building techniques.

As part of the festival, Cornerstones presented two restoration projects, the San Esteban del Rey Church in Acoma Pueblo, NM, and the San Jose Mission in Upper Rociada, NM. Both presentations highlighted the rich cultural techniques used in New Mexican architecture.

I commend the skills of these artists and artisans that participated in the folklife festival. They truly preserve our link to the past.●

CLEVELAND INDIANS 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, today I am here on the Floor to recognize the Cleveland Indians because this year, the team is celebrating an incredible achievement, both for baseball and America. On April 24th, the Indians celebrated their 100th Anniversary. Over the last century, Indians fans have seen their team win two World Series and five American League Pennants. One of my most vivid baseball memories is the 1954 World Series, which I attended with my dad when I was seven years old.

I think the inaugural Indians manager, James McAleer, would have been proud to lead the Tribe teams of the past five years in their string of five Central Division Titles and two World Series appearances. The Indians claim 22 players in the Hall of Fame, including the following:

Nap Lajoie, Tris Speaker, Cy Young (1937); Jesse Burkett (1946); Bob Feller (1962); Elmer Flick, Sam Rice (1963); Stan Coveleski (1969); Lou Boudreau (1970); Satchel Paige (1971); Early Wynn (1972); Ralph Kiner (1975); Bob Lemon (1976); Joe Sewell, Al Lopez (1977); Addie Joss (1978); Frank Robinson (1982); Hoyt Wilhelm (1985); Gaylord Perry, Bill Veeck (1991); Phil Niekro (1997); Larry Doby (1998).

Additionally, the Indians have retired the numbers of six players, including:

Bob Lemon (21); Earl Averill (3); Lou Boudreau (5); Larry Doby (14); Mel Harder (18); Bob Feller (19).

Adding to these accomplishments, by the end of the 2000 season, the team had racked up 7,896 total wins. Also,

the Indians are just one of four American League teams to spend their entire history in one city. The Indians have been loyal to their fans, and the fans have, in turn, been loyal to their team. After Jacob's Field was built in 1994, fans responded by selling out 455 consecutive games. And, the Indians led Major League Baseball in attendance last year for the first time since 1948.

The Indians are a treasure for the City of Cleveland and the State of Ohio, but I also believe the Indians hold a larger significance for America. Walt Whitman once wrote that baseball was "America's game . . . it belongs as much to our institutions, fits into them as significantly as our Constitution's laws . . . and it is just as important in the sum total of our historic life." I think Whitman had it absolutely right. Baseball is a vital part of our American culture, and for 100 years, the Cleveland Indians have served as an outstanding ambassador for the sport of baseball.

I congratulate the Cleveland Indians on a century of rich history, loyal fans, and great success. I hope that my colleagues will join me in wishing the Indians the best of luck in the next 100 years.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in execution 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.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:17 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2500. An act making appropriations for the Department of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

At 5:52 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the senate:

H.R. 1. An act to provide incentives for charitable contributions by individuals and businesses, to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of government program delivery to individuals and families in need, and to