

to open in 1998—now it might open in 2010 if it progresses at the most optimistic rate.

But in New Mexico, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in the city of Carlsbad opened for disposal operations in March of 1999. WIPP is the nation's first repository for the permanent disposal of defense-generated radioactive waste left from the research and production of nuclear weapons.

WIPP represents the single most dramatic advance this Nation has made in disposal of radioactive waste. In fact, WIPP is a showcase facility for the entire world for demonstrating that mankind can safely remove complex wastes from any impact on our environment.

WIPP accepts a particular kind of waste, transuranic or TRU waste, that is contaminated with certain elements, especially plutonium. This type of waste must be handled with great care to ensure safety of the public and workers. WIPP represents a cornerstone of DOE's national cleanup effort dealing with the nation's nuclear weapons complex. Today, I want to announce that WIPP has filled their first underground room to full capacity.

This is no small achievement. That room now holds over 10,000 drums of TRU waste. The waste arrived in 352 shipments from five DOE sites—Los Alamos, Rocky Flats, Idaho, Hanford, and Savannah River. That required lots of transportation, in fact about one-third of a million miles. And even with so many miles, equivalent to 13 trips around the earth, there were no accidents or even serious incidents. For those who doubt that radioactive cargoes can be shipped safely, WIPP is proof that a well-engineered transportation system can be operated to the highest standards.

The team at WIPP isn't stopping to celebrate this milestone. As I speak, they're busily accepting more waste. Earlier this week, the shipment number was up to 373 and more than 11,000 drums had moved into the facility.

In closing, I personally commend the Department of Energy, especially the Carlsbad Field Office, for their careful attention to safe operations. The community of Carlsbad deserves tremendous praise for their consistent support of WIPP and its critical national mission. And both the Environmental Protection Agency and the New Mexico Environment Department deserve compliments for their roles in oversight of this facility.

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 July 31, 1991 in

Coronado, CA. A gay man was choked and beaten by three men. Three Marines, David William Bell and Jeffrey Martin Davis, both 20, and Steven Louis Fair, 26, were charged with attempted murder, assault, robbery and a hate crime.

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.

GENERAL HENRY H. SHELTON 14TH CHAIRMAN OF JOINT CHIEFS AND A GREAT NORTH CAROLINIAN

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, North Carolina, down through history has been blessed with countless remarkable sons and daughters, and in my judgment, one of the truly great has been General Hugh H. Shelton, the 14th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who was confirmed by the Senate on October 1, 1997, and reconfirmed by the Senate for a second 2-year term in 1999.

In this capacity, this great son of Eastern North Carolina served as the principal military advisor to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Defense, and the National Security Council.

Prior to becoming Chairman, General Shelton served as Commander in Chief of the U.S. Special Operations Command.

The General was born in Tarboro, NC, in January 1942. He earned a bachelor of science degree from North Carolina State University and a master of science from Auburn University. His military education includes attendance at the Air Command and Staff College in Montgomery, AL, and at the National War College at Fort McNair, Washington, DC.

He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the infantry in 1963 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps, and spent the next 24 years in a variety of command and staff positions in the continental United States, Hawaii, and Vietnam. He served two tours in Vietnam—the first with the 5th Special Forces Group, the second with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. He also commanded the 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry in the 9th Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, WA; he served as the 9th Infantry Division's assistant chief of staff for operation.

He then returned to North Carolina where he commanded the 1st Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg; and then served as the Chief of Staff of the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, NY.

Following his selection as brigadier general in 1987, General Shelton served 2 years in the Operations Directorate of the Joint Staff. In 1989, he began a 2-year assignment as Assistant Division Commander for Operations of the 101st

Airborne Division (Air Assault), a tour that included the Division's 7-month deployment to Saudi Arabia for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Upon returning from the Gulf War, General Shelton was promoted to major general and again assigned to Fort Bragg where this time he commanded the 82nd Airborne Division. In 1993, he was again promoted—to lieutenant general—and assumed command of the XVIII Airborne Corps.

In 1994, while serving as corps commander, General Shelton commanded the Joint Task Force that conducted Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti. In March 1996, he was promoted to general and became Commander in Chief of the U.S. Special Operations Command.

In his 4 years as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Shelton worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for military members and their families. He championed numerous initiatives including the largest across-the-board pay raise for the military in 18 years—helping to narrow the civilian-military "pay gaps."

His push for pay table reform targeted greater increases for mid-grade noncommissioned officers, and his retirement reform package reinstated benefits for those entering service after 1986, and, thanks to his dedication and support, an enhanced housing allowance was implemented gradually to eliminate out of pocket expenses for service members living off post.

Chairman Shelton was a strong advocate of the effort to reform medical health care, to make medical care more responsive—to include military retirees over 65. He made great strides to improve the readiness of the U.S. military by articulating a regiment for increased defense spending. As a result, the Department of Defense realized a \$112 billion increase in defense spending over the 5-year defense plan to arrest declining readiness rates. He additionally implemented new processes to carefully manage high demand/low density resources in support of the National Security Strategy.

Chairman Shelton and his staff published Joint Vision 2020 to establish goals and the metrics for the future joint force; he established the U.S. Joint Forces Command as the proponent for Joint Experimentation and Joint Force readiness. He established Joint Task Force-Civil Support to increase the military's ability to respond to crises in the U.S. homeland and established Joint Task Force-Computer Network Operations to enhance protection of U.S. information networks.

The General directed numerous initiative designed to improve the interoperability of the four Services including a Joint Airfighting Logistics Initiative, development of a Global Information Grid, revision of all Joint Professional Military Education programs and an enhancement on the joint warfighting focus of the Joint Requirements Oversight Council.

General Shelton's awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal (with two oak leaf clusters), Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit (with oak leaf cluster), Bronze Star Medal with V device (with three oak leaf clusters), and the Purple Heart.

He has also been awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Air Assault Badge, Military Freefall Badge, and Special Forces and Ranger Tabs and numerous foreign awards and badges.

Mrs. Shelton is the former Carolyn L. Johnson of Speed, NC, who was young Hugh Shelton's high school sweetheart. As Mrs. Hugh H. Shelton, she has been actively involved with service issues and support to military families throughout General Shelton's career. The General and Mrs. Shelton have three sons: Jonathan, a special agent in the U.S. Secret Service; Jeffrey, a U.S. Army Special Operations soldier, and Mark, their youngest son.

Mr. President, Dot Helms and I are proud to have General Shelton and Carolyn as our very special friends—and to be theirs. The General has represented the U.S. military with great distinction for the past four years as its senior military officer.

This splendid North Carolinian has participated in policy-making at the highest levels of Government but he never lost the common touch with our men and women in uniform. He will be remembered as a soldier's soldier and a quiet professional, along with his lovely wife and three sons.

RETIREMENT OF GENERAL MICHAEL E. RYAN

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor General Michael E. Ryan, the Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force. General Ryan is a great American and, more important, and I'm sure no surprise to my colleagues, he is a fellow Texan. General Ryan has long been a tribute to Texas, the Nation, and especially to the Air Force.

General Ryan graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1965, and during his 36 years of service he commanded at the squadron, wing, numbered air force and major command levels, and accumulated more than 4,100 flying hours in seven different aircraft with 153 combat missions. He flew combat in Southeast Asia, including 100 missions over North Vietnam, and he served in key staff assignments at the major command level, at Headquarters U.S. Air Force and the Joint Staff. As commander of 16th Air Force and Allied Air Forces Southern Europe in Italy, he directed the NATO air combat operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We owe him a huge debt of thanks for just this duty alone as his leadership directly contributed to the Dayton Peace Accords.

General Ryan is, fortunately, not an unsung hero as he has received many decorations and medals including: the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal with 11 oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters and the Vietnam Service Medal with three service stars.

After serving as the commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe and commander, Allied Air Forces Central Europe, General Ryan "took the stick" of the Air Force as its 16th Chief of Staff. During his tenure, he has exemplified the quiet dignity and honor of that office through his leadership, integrity and foresight. A true leader who understood that his role was to set the course for our 21st Century Air Force and then clear the path to allow his commanders to truly lead their units, General Ryan personifies once said: "I don't think leadership should be personalized. Good ideas are best when they don't have a single identity. Leadership is a team effort."

This is a lesson those of us here in Congress would be wise to learn!

Meanwhile, General Ryan's accomplishments are critical and easily quantifiable. He and his leadership team successfully arrested the Air Force's readiness decline of the last decade, and built stability into the expeditionary operations our nation demands by reorganizing the service. At the same time though, General Ryan ensured that despite the Air Force being an all-volunteer force competing in a strong job market, its retention and recruiting efforts never sacrificed quality for quantity. He also led the effort to provide lifetime health care to our men and women who willingly put their lives at risk, as well as a retirement system that properly compensates their service to country.

In a period of leadership challenges and chaos, General Ryan led our Air Force, balancing reductions in forces with dramatically increased operational tasking. Without question, the U.S. Air Force is the world's premier force and our country owes a debt of gratitude to Mike Ryan.

At the same time, we owe a debt of gratitude to the person General Ryan owes much of his success—his wife, Jane Ryan. With dignity and grace she selflessly gave her time and attention to the men and women of the Air Force family. Her sacrifice and devotion have served as an example and inspiration for others. The Air Force will lose not one, but two very exceptional people.

In fact, General Ryan's departure from active duty will signal an historic occurrence for the first time in 63 years, there will no longer be a Ryan in the ranks of the United States Air Force. While General Ryan distinguished himself as an airmen, leader,

and trusted advisor to both the President and the U.S. Congress, his father, General John Ryan, also served as the senior uniformed Air Force officer.

The Air Force is a better institution today than it was four years ago. General Ryan's distinguished and faithful service provided a significant and lasting contribution to our Air Force and to our Nation's security. He has served our Nation with honor and distinction. I know the Members of the Senate will join me in paying tribute to this outstanding American patriot upon his retirement from the Air Force. We thank him and wish him and his family much health, happiness and Godspeed.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, September 5, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,769,122,055,290.29, five trillion, seven hundred sixty-nine billion, one hundred twenty-two million, fifty-five thousand, two hundred ninety dollars and twenty-nine cents.

One year ago, September 5, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,678,475,470,839.16, five trillion, six hundred seventy-eight billion, four hundred seventy-five million, four hundred seventy thousand, eight hundred thirty-nine dollars and sixteen cents.

Five years ago, September 5, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,225,564,391,083.90, five trillion, two hundred twenty-five billion, five hundred sixty-four million, three hundred ninety-one thousand, eight-three dollars and ninety cents.

Ten years ago, September 5, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,623,548,000,000, three trillion, six hundred twenty-three billion, five hundred forty-eight million.

Fifteen years ago, September 5, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,112,803,000,000, two trillion, one hundred twelve billion, eight hundred three million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$3 trillion, \$3,656,319,055,290.29. Three trillion, six hundred fifty-six billion, three hundred nineteen million, fifty-five thousand, two hundred ninety dollars and twenty-nine cents during the past 15 years.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll. The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SECTION 245(i) EXTENSION ACT OF 2001

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now turn to the consideration of calendar No. 73, H.R. 1885, the 245(i) family unification bill; that the bill be amended