

the Survivor Benefit Plan advertises, that if the service member elects to join the plan, his survivor will receive 55 percent of the member's retirement pay. Unfortunately, that is not so. The reason that they do not receive the 55 percent of retired pay is that current law mandates that at age 62 this amount be reduced either by the amount of the survivor's Social Security benefit or to 35 percent of the SBP. This law is especially irksome to those retirees who joined the plan when it was first offered in 1972. These service members were never informed of the age-62 reduction until they had made an irrevocable decision to participate. Many retirees and their spouses, as our constituent mail attests, believed their premium payments would guarantee 55 percent of retired pay for the life of the survivor. It is not hard to imagine the shock and financial disadvantage these men and women who so loyally served the Nation for many years experience when they learn of the annuity reduction.

Uniformed services retirees pay too much for the available SBP benefit both, compared to what we promised and what we offer other Federal retirees. When the Survivor Benefit Plan was enacted in 1972, the Congress intended that the government would pay 40 percent of the cost to parallel the government subsidy of the Federal civilian survivor benefit plan. That was short-lived. Over time, the government's cost sharing has declined to about 26 percent. In other words, the retiree's premiums now cover 74 percent of expected long-term program costs versus the intended 60 percent. Contrast this with the Federal civilian SBP, which has a 42-percent subsidy for those personnel under the Federal Employees Retirement System and a 50-percent subsidy for those under the Civil Service Retirement System. Further, Federal civilian survivors receive 50 percent of retired pay with no offset at age 62. Although Federal civilian premiums are 10 percent retired pay compared to 6.5 percent for military retirees, the difference in the percent of contribution is offset by the fact that our service personnel retire at a much younger age than the civil servant and, therefore pay premiums much longer than the Federal civilian retiree.

Although the House conferees thwarted my previous efforts to enact this legislation into law, I am ever optimistic that this year we will prevail. I base my optimism on the fact that the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 included a sense of the Congress on increasing Survivor Benefit Plan annuities for surviving spouses age 62 or older. The sense of the Congress reflects the concern addressed by the legislation I am introducing again today.

Since I introduced S. 145, 32 of my colleagues joined as cosponsors to the bill. I hope my colleagues will speak in support of this important legislation and the Senate will adopt this amendment.

THE FIRST ENGINEER BATTALION

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of a military unit whose gallant service to our Nation extends over a century and a half.

The First Engineer Battalion, tracing its intrepid lineage to 1846, is the oldest Engineer Battalion in the United States Army. Having served in both the Mexican War and Civil War, they continued their valorous service to our great Nation through the Spanish American War, in Cuba, and in the Philippine Insurrection.

The First Engineer Battalion was reorganized and expanded in World War I to form the First Engineer Regiment, assigned to the First Division, fighting in every major engagement in France. They were cited by the French Government with the French Fourragere and two Croix De Guerres. Taking part in North African landings and invasions of Sicily and Normandy during World War II, they were awarded three Presidential Unit Citations, two additional Croix De Guerres with Palm, the Medaille Militaire, and the Belgian Fourragere. Earning eight campaign streamers, they distinguished themselves across two continents. They again were called to Southeast Asia in support of the "Big Red One" being awarded three Meritorious Unit Commendations, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, and Vietnamese Civil Action Honor Medal. Deploying to Germany as part of REFORGER exercises and to Southwest Asia as part of Desert Shield and Desert Storm they were again lauded for their actions and awarded the Valorous Unit Citation.

We cannot take lightly their dauntless and meritorious service to our Nation. Nor can we forget the valiant actions of those who served in building the necessary infrastructure for our troops under the most adverse and hazardous conditions. For over two-thirds of our Nation's history, their accomplishments, both individually and collectively, were pivotal not only to a successful combat effort, but to establishing and maintaining the legacy of which the Combat Engineers may be justifiably proud.

I join in expressing the respect, admiration, and grateful appreciation of our Nation as they gather for their annual reunion in Ashville, NC, later this month.

SBP ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES SERVING ON ACTIVE DUTY

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, on September 11, 2001, our lives were changed irrevocably. It is a day none of us will forget, a day where each of us will remember exactly where we were when we heard our nation had been attacked and our freedom had been assaulted.

We lost so many innocent civilians in New York and so many dedicated mili-

tary personnel in Washington, DC. The amendment I am introducing today deals with the military. Each of them has made a choice: to defend our Nation, its freedom, and its principles. On September 11, we were reminded of how real that sacrifice is, and how critical those contributions are.

We all witnessed the destruction of innocent people and American landmarks. These evil acts did not destroy our spirit, our faith, or our hope. And they will never destroy our freedom—because Americans are resilient, and our men and women in uniform brave.

It is why, in my career in public service, I have dedicated myself to supporting and defending these noble men and women and their families who serve our Nation in the Armed Forces. Their courage, their work, and their efforts are important, honorable, and inspiring.

We have only just started to deal with the greatest loss to our country since Pearl Harbor; only started to uncover the lasting effects of this heinous evil, and once again our military has been among those directly hit. In the months ahead we will respond and those who serve will put their lives on the line.

This is why I introduced legislation in June to ensure that all military personnel who die in the line of duty, like those who died serving their country at the Pentagon, are able to receive retirement benefits they have earned. In the military, personnel are not vested in retirement benefits unless they have served 20 years or more, or unless the services medically retire them before death. Clearly, someone who dies in the line of duty cannot fulfill either of these requirements, meaning their families do not receive their pro rata share of retirement pensions. It is horrible enough for a family to lose a loved one—it is an even greater hardship for them to not receive these earned benefits.

I think it is only right that those who die while defending our country and our principles can know that their families will be taken care of by their country. Therefore, today I am submitting an amendment to the Defense authorization bill that will ensure that the surviving spouse receives survivors' retirement benefits commensurate with the number of years their loved one has served—effective September 10, 2001.

This is the very least we can do for the families of our men and women in uniform, for the families who lost loved ones on September 11. They have made the ultimate sacrifice, and we must take care of them now. This is no different from a civilian worker's family receiving the retirement accumulated by a lost loved one.

Tragically, two of the very men who were working with me on this legislation were killed at the Pentagon on that fateful day. Gary F. Smith, the Chief of Army Retirement Services and a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel,

and Max Beilke, a member of his staff, a retired Army Master Sergeant, were impressive men who had provided invaluable assistance to me and my staff on this legislation. On June 15, Colonel Smith wrote my staff about this legislation saying, "Those of us who work on these issues daily know how important this will be. We'll keep our fingers crossed and hope it will get into law."

In memory of Colonel Smith and Master Sergeant Beilke, I ask that we pass this amendment for those who died September 11 and those who will die in the future in the service of our country.

As the true impact of September's horrifying events become even clearer, this legislation would offer a measure of support for families facing unbelievable tragedy. It is, again, the least we can do.

RECOGNITION TO ONE OF GEORGIA'S FINEST: COCA-COLA COMPANY

Mr. MILLER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the spirit of giving and compassion exhibited by one of the world's finest multi-national companies, the Coca-Cola Company. Coke's employees and bottlers have generously donated \$12 million to the relief efforts ongoing in New York and Washington. It is not surprising to see that Coca-Cola is continuing its long tradition of supporting people in need.

Approximately \$6 million will be used to support the efforts of the Red Cross, which has been tireless in its dedication to the victims of this attack. The remaining \$6 million will be channeled directly to local funds in New York and Washington to support humanitarian causes. It is fitting that a company so associated with America and the American spirit would come to the aid of our citizens in this difficult time.

It is for this reason that I rise to honor the Coca-Cola Company for its charitable support. Their efforts deserve our applause and recognition.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO EDWIN L. SULLIVAN

• Mr. REED. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to acknowledge a distinguished Rhode Islander and proven leader in my State's labor community, Mr. Eddie Sullivan, the President and Business Manager of the International Union of Operating Engineers, (IUOE), Local 57 in Providence.

Eddie Sullivan lives in Warwick with his wife Dolly and is a proud father of four wonderful daughters, Kim, Kimberly, Kristen, and Katherine. Mr. Sullivan was initiated into IUOE Local 57 in January of 1964, and has worked for various contractors in the State of Rhode Island as a crane operator over the years, taking part in the construc-

tion of some of Rhode Island's most significant structures. In 1976, Local 57 elected him as an Auditor, and due to his hard work appointed him as the Vice President in 1980. In just five short years, Eddie was appointed as the Business Manager and President of Local 57 in 1985 and continues to serve in this capacity today.

In addition to his various responsibilities within the labor movement, Mr. Sullivan has served as the President of the Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades Council and was elected as a Trustee of the International Union of Operating Engineers for the Northeastern States in 1991.

As Local 57 celebrates its centennial of fighting for the concerns and needs of hard working Rhode Islanders, it is only fitting to acknowledge Eddie for his decades of service to the IUOE. I would like to take this opportunity to personally extend my deep appreciation and gratitude to Eddie Sullivan for his continued hard work and leadership over the years to the labor movement, and his efforts to improving the lives of so many Rhode Islanders and their families.●

TRIBUTE TO ALEX EUCARE

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the efforts of a patriotic American. On September 14, 2001, Senator MITCH MCCONNELL and I introduced S. 1431, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to issue War Bonds in support of recovery and response efforts relating to the September 11, 2001 hijackings and attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center.

After the news media broadcast our efforts, Mr. Alex Eucare of Gaithersburg, MD heard about the bill and moved to reserve the Internet domain name "warbonds.com" and toll free telephone number "866-WAR-BOND" to ensure that others attempting to improperly profit or exploit Americans would not be able to do so.

This action by a concerned and caring citizen such as Alex Eucare makes me proud to call myself an American. His act was selfless and unsolicited. Patriotic efforts like this are taking place all over our great nation. There is no doubt in my mind, that with a collaboration of these efforts, we will prevail, both in solidifying our unity as a nation and in punishing those responsible for these acts of terror.

As my good friend Senator MCCONNELL noted, "Alex's foresight in reserving the domain name and toll free number is yet another example of the thoughtful and compassionate nature of Americans. It is those very qualities that Senator BURNS and I are confident will make War Bonds such a success."●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

REPORT ON RECOVERY AND RESPONSE TO TERRORIST ATTACKS ON WORLD TRADE CENTER AND PENTAGON—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 43

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States, transmitting a copy of the President's address concerning the terrorist attack on New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon, delivered to a joint session of Congress on September 20, 2001; which was ordered to lie on the table.

To the Congress of the United States:

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President pro tempore, Members of Congress, and fellow Americans:

In the normal course of events, Presidents come to this chamber to report on the state of the Union. Tonight, no such report is needed. It has already been delivered by the American people.

We have seen it in the courage of passengers, who rushed terrorists to save others on the ground—passengers like an exceptional man named Todd Beamer. Please help me to welcome his wife, Lisa Beamer, here tonight.

We have seen the state of our Union in the endurance of rescuers, working past exhaustion. We have seen the unfurling of flags, the lighting of candles, the giving of blood, the saying of prayers—in English, Hebrew, and Arabic. We have seen the decency of a loving and giving people, who have made the grief of strangers their own.

My fellow citizens, for the last nine days, the entire world has seen for itself the state of our Union—and it is strong.

Tonight we are a country awakened to danger and called to defend freedom. Our grief has turned to anger, and anger to resolution. Whether we bring our enemies to justice, or bring justice to our enemies, justice will be done.

I thank the Congress for its leadership at such an important time. All of America was touched on the evening of the tragedy to see Republicans and Democrats, joined together on the steps of this Capitol, singing "God Bless America." And you did more than sing, you acted, by delivering forty billion dollars to rebuild our communities and meet the needs of our military.

Speaker Hastert and Minority Leader Gephardt, Majority Leader Daschle, and Senator Lott, I thank you for your friendship and your leadership and your service to our country.

And on behalf of the American people, I thank the world for its outpouring of support. America will never forget the sounds of our National Anthem playing at Buckingham Palace, and on the streets of Paris, and at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate. We will not forget South Korean children gathering to pray outside our embassy in Seoul, or the prayers of sympathy offered at a mosque in Cairo. We will not forget