

I also continue to believe we should take the steps to stimulate the economy that the administration failed to take earlier this year. To encourage businesses to invest, we should raise the bonus for investing in new equipment from 30 percent to 45 percent—a 50 percent increase—but do it through June 30 of next year only. This will do what the administration's stimulus has failed to do so far: persuade businesses to get off the fence and put their money to work in our economy.

We also should act to prevent painful property tax increases and education cuts at the State level, giving States relief to deal with what the Wall Street Journal this week said is a \$58 billion budget gap. The Senate has already acted to provide relief in the quickest possible way—through the Medicaid program—and there is no excuse for further delay.

Last but not least, we have to change a terrible reality: At a time when the index of Help Wanted listings is at historic lows, we are set to cut off unemployment benefits for nearly a million out-of-work Americans just three days after Christmas. These are good people who want nothing more than to get back to work. Last September, 800,000 Americans had been out of work for 6 months or more. By December, that total will have climbed to over 2 million. We have to do what is right for the workers who have done the worst in this economy and extend their benefits. They are sure to pump the money right back into our economy.

I call on the President and my colleagues in both parties to put politics aside and come together immediately to take these urgent steps to get our economy going again. Americans deserve nothing less from us.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, as the ranking member of the Special Committee on Aging, and in honor of this year's Hispanic Heritage Month, I rise today to give special recognition to 104-year-old Jose Rodriguez, who recently has been determined to be the Oldest Hispanic American now living in my State of Idaho. In honoring one man, Jose Rodriguez, this Nation honors all Americans of Hispanic descent.

Hispanic Heritage Month began on September 15 a day which marks the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico achieved its independence on September 16, and Chile on September 18.

This being a Nation of immigrants, it is only fitting that Jose Rodriguez is himself an immigrant from Mexico. Some of us have been blessed by being born in Idaho. Others, like Jose, have been wise and bold enough to journey, sometimes great distances, to claim these blessings. He chose Idaho because Idaho was in his heart a place where family, faith, and freedom flourish.

Jose was born in Doctor Arrollo, in the State of Nuevo Leon, Mexico, on March 19, 1898. In 1913, at the tender age of 15, he joined in the Mexican revolution led by Pancho Villa. He arrived in the United States in 1922 and settled in Eagle Pass, TX. He married his wife Guadalupe, who he knew from childhood, in 1929. They had seven children together: Five sons and two daughters. While his wife passed away a few years ago and he misses her, Mr. Rodriguez enjoys his more than 80 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren, who carry on his legacy.

In the 1950s, Mr. Rodriguez moved his family to Idaho where he worked as a farm worker and crew leader for most of his life. According to one of his sons, the hallmark of Jose's life has been his generosity. He is a man known to help others, especially those in need.

Still living independently today, Mr. Rodriguez spends summers in Idaho with his son Meliton and winters in Arizona with his daughter Marina. Jose still cares for himself, takes daily walks, and credits his long life to, in his words, "God's good will and living a healthy life." That is what aging should be.

That type of wonderfully positive outlook have no doubt contributed to his longevity.

When Jose Rodriguez was born, Idaho had only been a State for 7 years and 8 months. That year, the first photographs taken with a flashbulb were produced and 1,000 automobiles were manufactured, up from a total of 100 the year before. Around that time, a child born in the United States was expected to live less than fifty years. Jose, a child born in Mexico, has more than doubled that expectation.

Jose is part of a large and growing population of Hispanic Americans throughout the nation and especially in Idaho. Within the past decade, the Hispanic population in Idaho has doubled from approximately 50,000 in 1990 to more than 100,000 today. Nationwide, there are now some 26 million people of Hispanic origin in the United States approximately ten percent of the American population. We honor their contributions during Hispanic Heritage Month, which have maintained America's tradition as a rich, cultural melting pot and strengthened our shared national values.

Jose is a trendsetter in another way. Following his example, the number of centenarians those 100 years old or older has grown to 50,000 Americans today. In the next 50 years, according to Census Bureau estimates, there will be between 800,000 and one million people 100 years or older living in the United States.

Jose Rodriguez is a man of honor. It is with great pride that I rise today to recognize him, and I thank him for allowing me this privilege.

LOW-FAT, LOW-CALORIE CUISINE

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, today at the weekly Thursday Republican

Lunch group, Lifestyle Advantage from Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield, in collaboration with Dr. Dean Ornish, served a gourmet, low-calorie, virtually no-fat, lunch with the following menu: Tuscan Vegetable Minestrone, Roasted Vegetable Lasagne, Caesar Salad, Apple-Raisin Strudel, Vanilla ala mode with caramel sauce.

As explained by Ms. Anna Silberman and Ms. Marlene Janco, Executives of Lifestyle Advantage/Highmark, the lunch contained approximately 450 calories compared to about 850 calories with regular ingredients.

There was real enthusiasm among the 27 Republican Senators who were very complimentary about the taste, elegance, and healthy content of the cuisine.

When one senator was being served the apple-raisin strudel with vanilla ice cream—actually ice milk—topped by caramel sauce and was told it was fat-free and low-calorie, he replied:

"Next they'll want to sell me the Brooklyn Bridge."

When assured that it was fat-free and low-calorie, he was very much impressed. Other senators marveled at the tastiness of the caesar salad, especially contrasted to its ordinarily high-caloric content. The Tuscan vegetable minestrone had a special quality with roasted vegetables. Again, the roasted vegetables in the lasagne made it especially tasty.

The Capitol dining service is now considering adding to the regular menu on both the House and Senate sides low-fat, low-calorie tasty cuisine as demonstrated by today's lunch.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH TORREZ

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, today I honor the accomplishments of Principal Joseph Torrez of Tucumcari, NM, who is in the Nation's capital today to be recognized as the 2002 New Mexico National Distinguished Principal of the Year. He was one of 63 principals from across the country who will be honored by the United States Department of Education and the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

Joseph is a product of the New Mexico higher education system, having received both his undergraduate degree and Master's degree from New Mexico Highlands University. Since completing his master's degree, he has dedicated his life to educating New Mexico's children. As a language arts teacher at Taos High School, Thoreau High School and Memorial Middle School in Las Vegas, NM, he has touched the hearts and minds of his students, while generating interest and enthusiasm in learning.

Three years ago Joseph agreed to move from the classroom to the principal's office. In this role he has shown leadership skills that have earned him the respect of parents and teachers alike.

One of his many accomplishments is the development of a program that targets at-risk kids by providing them with after-school activities. These include recreation, assistance with school work, and instruction on ways to become involved as volunteers in the community.

This program is not limited simply to the children in these families, however. He has used money from a state grant to assist parents of his students obtain the skills needed to succeed in the workforce.

Joseph's contributions to the community are not limited simply to his work in the Tucumcari schools. He has also encouraged his students to aid the local homeless shelter, collect food, and visit senior citizens.

I commend Joseph for his hard work and dedication to help students, their parents and the community of Tucumcari. Joseph has set the bar for excellence through his exemplary efforts. He has used creative and innovative means to improve the lives of his students and beyond, through reaching out to the community.

I am proud to honor Principal Joseph Torrez, our 2002 New Mexico National Distinguished Principal. On behalf of the Senate and New Mexico, I thank this fellow New Mexican for making a difference in our children's lives.●

NORTH DAKOTA'S 164TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

● Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, it was 60 years ago that 2,000 men from North Dakota's 164th Infantry Regiment performed heroically in a savage battle in the South Pacific. It marked the first time the U.S. Army launched an offensive operation in that war and stands today as a critical juncture in World War II.

Coming from almost every city and village in North Dakota, the members of the 164th Infantry were North Dakota's National Guard and traced their unit's heritage to the Indian wars on the American frontier. Its history was one of distinction, most notably marked by a spectacular ten Medals of Honor its men won in the Philippines in 1899.

Called to active duty early in 1941, the North Dakotans were ordered to the West Coast the day after Pearl Harbor, and landed in the South Pacific in the spring of 1942.

Meanwhile, on the island of Guadalcanal, U.S. Marines had begun America's first offensive action against Japan. By autumn, it was a precarious deadlock and the 164th Infantry was sent in October 13. By noon it had its first casualty. Corporal Kenneth Foubert of Company M of Grand Forks, North Dakota, was killed in a bombing run by Japanese planes. As Japanese ground patrols tested U.S. positions, the 164th Infantry advanced, the first unit of the Army to go on the offensive in WWII.

An intense Japanese attack, the largest battle fought on Guadalcanal, oc-

curred October 24-25. In "Citizens as Soldiers," a history of the North Dakota National Guard, authors Jerry Cooper and Glenn Smith tell how a battalion of the 164th Infantry was sent to reinforce the Marines. Despite the blackness of night, made darker by a heavy tropical rain, the 164th Infantry, over narrow trails slippery with mud, followed its Marine escorts to the front line, holding on to the backpacks of the man in front of them to avoid being lost.

Fighting side by side with the Marines, the 164th Infantry poured relentless fire through the night into continuous waves of oncoming Japanese. At dusk of the next day, the Japanese attacked again. The situation was precarious and cooks, messengers, and clerks manned positions and waited for the worst. Even the musicians of the North Dakota band were pressed into service as litter bearers. Every member of the 164th had a role in that battle, the fiercest of the campaign.

At one outpost, 18 Marines, many seriously wounded, were surrounded. The 164th Infantry's Sgt. Kevin McCarthy of Jamestown, ND, used a small, lightly armored, open topped vehicle to make repeated trips to the desperate men and, under heavy fire, rescued them all. For his bravery, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

By dawn, it was clear the enemy had suffered a disastrous defeat. In front of the 164th Infantry were 1,700 dead Japanese. The North Dakota unit, meanwhile, suffered only 26 killed and 52 wounded.

Impressed, the Marines' commanding general sent the North Dakotans a message that said the Marines "salute you for a most wonderful piece of work. We are honored to serve with such a unit. Our hat is off to you."

Lt. Col. Robert Hall of Jamestown, ND, received the Navy Cross for his leadership of the battalion during this crucial action.

The fight for Guadalcanal continued into November when the 164th was assigned to drive Japanese defenders off a series of ridges. From November 20-27, the battle raged. It was the bloodiest week of the entire war for the unit. More than 100 men were killed and some 200 wounded. Not until February did the Japanese finally flee the island.

It was none too soon. Guadalcanal had taken its toll. The 164th was no longer combat effective. It was down to less than two-thirds its authorized number. Most men had lost 20 pounds or more. They suffered from malaria, heat exhaustion, exotic tropical diseases. All told, the unit buried 147 men on the island, had 309 wounded, and another 133 casualties from shock, trauma, and neurosis.

It was little wonder that the Americans called the island "green hell" and Japanese referred to it as the "island of death."

The regiment received a Presidential Unit Citation for its outstanding con-

tributions and personal plaudits from General George Marshall, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Admiral William Halsey, commander of the South Pacific forces. For Guadalcanal, men of the regiment won a Navy Cross, five Distinguished Service Crosses, 40 Silver Stars, more than 300 Purple Hearts, and many Soldier's Medals and Legions of Merit. One of its proud boasts was that it would leave no one behind and, indeed, it had no men missing in action.

The survivors are now old men. They have had America's hat tipped to them before, but they deserve it again, one more time before they leave us to rejoin their comrades, brave young men who left North Dakota on troop trains in the bitter February cold so long ago to answer their Nation's call.●

COMMEMORATING THE BIRTH OF GEORGE ROGERS CLARK

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about an important event in Indiana, the 250th birthday of George Rogers Clark. Vincennes University, located in Vincennes, IN, is hosting a celebration that will be held on November 19, 2002. I am pleased to add my voice to those honoring a man who is one of the greatest figures in American frontier history.

George Rogers Clark was born on November 19, 1752, to John and Ann Rogers Clark. Although Clark was literate, he was not known as a scholar. Instead, like George Washington, he took an interest in surveying, a high risk profession that presented the possibility of great reward. Surveying required intelligence, determination, physical strength, resilience, and a thorough knowledge of wilderness survival skills.

When the Revolution began, the Virginia legislature appointed Clark to the position of Commander of the Frontier Militia. He set out, in May 1778, with a small force to battle the British and their Native American allies. During the summer, Clark and his troops ousted the British from Kaskaskia, Cohokia, and Vincennes.

On December 17, 1778, British Lt. Governor Henry Hamilton and his troops retook Fort Sackville, the important stronghold in the City of Vincennes. Clark led about 170 men on a grueling 18-day winter trek from Kaskaskia, through present day Illinois, up to Fort Sackville. Clark and his men moved relentlessly, braving cold weather and crossing freezing rivers, in an effort to stop further British incursions. Then, in a brilliant maneuver, he duped the British into believing that he had gathered a considerably larger militia than he actually had. This tactic worked, and Lt. Governor Henry Hamilton surrendered Fort Sackville to Clark on February 25, 1779. For the next several years, Clark conducted successful campaigns against