

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, this week, celebrations throughout the Nation will mark the 90th anniversary of the founding of Girl Scouts. I would like to take a few moments to acknowledge this great organization and the profound impact it makes in the lives of girls and young women.

Ninety years ago, Juliette Gordon Low assembled a group of girls in Savannah, GA, for the first meeting of Girl Scouts. Her goal was to provide an environment where girls could develop physically, mentally and spiritually. Those goals are unchanged today, with nearly 4 million girls and adults currently holding membership in Girl Scouts. Even more impressive is that more than 50 million women in the United States today claim a Girl Scout experience in their past.

While focused on its goal to help individual girls thrive, Girl Scouts has also known that it can make an important difference in our Nation's cultural life. From its beginnings, Girl Scouts has maintained a commitment to inclusiveness. It has encouraged diversity in its ranks, in its leadership and in the broad variety of public service programs Girl Scouts pursue.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in acknowledging the anniversary of Girl Scouts. I think that if Juliette Gordon Low were to visit a Girl Scout Troop today, she would rightfully be very proud of what she would see.

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Madam President, I want to congratulate the Girl Scouts of the USA on celebrating its 90th anniversary. Last night I attended the anniversary banquet with my wife, Peatsy, who has been involved with the Girl Scout leadership for many years.

It never ceases to amaze me how this organization, with a membership of almost 4 million, has maintained the same core values it held 90 years ago; yet it still has changed with the times to empower girls of all races, all backgrounds, and all income levels to meet their full potential. Some two-thirds of the women members of Congress are Girl Scout alumni, and there is no question that more and more of our future business leaders, doctors, lawyers, educators, and community leaders will come from the Girl Scout ranks. •

GLOBAL HIV/AIDS: THE HEALTH CRISIS OF OUR TIME

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I came to Washington to the U.S. Senate in my heart to serve my home state of Tennessee and this great nation, but after arriving my steps have also taken me far from the floor of the United States Senate—on medical mission trips to Sudan, Africa, and most recently, in January, to Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania.

The purpose of my trip just a few weeks ago was to learn, for myself, more about the human impact that a simple virus is having on the destruction of a continent. Not a family. Not a community. Not a state. Not a country. But an entire continent.

The statistics behind this global plague are shocking:

Each year, a staggering three million people die of AIDS. Someone dies from the disease every ten seconds. About twice that many, 5.5 million, or two every ten seconds, become infected. That's 15,000 a day. And what's even more tragic is that 6,000 of those infected each day are young—between ages 15 and 24. Globally, as many as 40 million are infected. Africa is hit particularly hard. Of those infected, 70% are in Africa. In Botswana alone, one out of every three individuals is infected.

And the toll on families is incalculable. 13 million children have been orphaned by AIDS, mostly in Africa. Projections for the next ten years are sobering—the orphan population may well grow to 40 million—the number equivalent to all children living east of the Mississippi River here in the U.S. But Africa is not alone. India, with over 4 million cases, is on the edge of an explosive epidemic. China is estimated to have as many as 10 million infected persons. The Caribbean sadly boasts one of the highest rates of infection of any region in the world. Eastern Europe and Russia report the fastest growth of AIDS cases, 11 times over during a three year period. And even worse—90 percent of those infected do not know they have the disease. There is no cure. There is no vaccine. And it is increasing in numbers.

As ranking member of the African Affairs subcommittee of the Foreign Relations Committee, I have a commitment to increase public awareness of the HIV pandemic in Africa, and most importantly, to develop a strategy to combat and eradicate the disease from the continent and the world. What I saw and learned in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania was extraordinary—coming face-to-face with the human tragedy of HIV/AIDS, and lives cut far too short.

Madam President, Africa has lost an entire generation. In Nairobi, Kenya, I visited the Kibera slum. With a population of over 750,000, one out of five of those who live in Kibera are HIV/AIDS positive. As I walked the crowded, dirty pathways sandwiched between hundreds of thousands of aluminum shanties, I was amazed that everyone was a child, or very old. The disease had wiped out the parents—the most productive segment of the population—teachers, military personnel, hospital workers, law enforcement officers.

In Arusha, Tanzania, I met Nema whose name means “Grace.” She sells bananas to survive and provide for her year and a half old son, Daniel. When Daniel cried from hunger, Nema kissed his hand because she had nothing to give him but her love.

Margaret, also in Arusha, whose symptoms first came on in 1990. When her husband died, despite her illness, she found the strength to fight his family to keep the family property. Thanks to her brothers, she has a house for her six children.

And I had the privilege of visiting with Tabu, a 28-year-old prostitute, who was leaving Arusha to return to her village to die. She stayed an extra day to meet with us, and I will never forget her cheerful demeanor and mischievous smile as we met in her small stick-framed mud hut, no more than 12 by 12. Her two sisters are also infected, another sister has already died. Tabu will leave behind an eleven year old daughter, Adija.

At home in Tennessee, or even here in Washington, D.C., Uganda and Tanzania feel very far away. But the plague of HIV/AIDS and the chaos, despair and civil disorder it perpetrates only leads to the demise of democracy in a country, in a continent, in the world. Without civil institutions, there is disorder. Last year in South Africa, one in every 200 teachers died of AIDS. In Kenya, 75 percent of deaths on the police force are from AIDS. HIV-related deaths among hospital workers in Zambia have increased 13 times in over a decade. In the wake of these losses, economies are devastated. Botswana's economy is projected to shrink by 30 percent in ten years. Kenya's economy will see a 15 percent decline. Family incomes in the Ivory Coast have declined by 50 percent while expenditures for health care have risen by 4000 percent.

The orphans of Africa are left without parents, without teachers, without role models and leaders. They are susceptible to recruitment by criminal organizations, revolutionary militias, and terrorists. Terrorism could become a way of life—not only for maniacal cults but for a generation. September 11 taught us how small our world really is. And how great the responsibility before us.

And that is why I'm devoting much of my time in the U.S. Senate to the issue of global HIV/AIDS, and in particular, to the impact of the disease in Africa. Just as our great nation is the leader in the war on terrorism, we must also continue to lead in the global battle against AIDS as we work to build a better, safer world. Then where do we go from here?

It seems to me there are three key ingredients: leadership, prevention and treatment, and funding.

I would like to elaborate a moment on each. The good news is we know a lot about how to reverse the epidemic. And as a first step, it takes strong leadership at all levels, but as with most things in life, that leadership must start at the top. President Museveni in Uganda, with whom I spent some time on my trip, has not been bashful about speaking very publicly to the citizens of his country about HIV/AIDS. Bakili Muluzi, President of Malawi, was in my office here in Washington just a few weeks ago. He told me that he opens every speech to his countrymen with an admonition about HIV/AIDS. These two presidents underscore the need to bring the disease out into the light, helping to eliminate the stigma often associated

with the disease, and opening the way for public education.

Others have also been doing their part—governments, the U.N., the World Bank, world leaders, corporations and philanthropies. From President Bush to Kofi Annan and Secretary Powell, world leaders support a call to action, and all recognize the need to do more. It's also leadership from people as unlikely as Bono, lead singer of the Irish rock band, U-2. With his passion for Africa and his "bully pulpit" as a celebrity, he's a credible and accomplished spokesperson on the issue. He joined us in Uganda and Kenya for a couple of days, and I was impressed with his knowledge, his commitment, his caring.

It's the role of leadership at all levels to ensure that our efforts are well coordinated, understanding the importance of enlisting all stakeholders in the fight against HIV/AIDS. We must coordinate within national governments as well as across them. We must leverage our precious resources and avoid duplication of effort. As I saw first-hand in east Africa, many of the best ideas come from those working in the trenches to fight this disease. Local community participation is essential to this process, and local leadership is critical, particularly as we work to prevent and treat the disease. Let me cite a couple of examples.

In Tanzania, Sister Denise Lynch runs the Uhai Center for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Arusha, providing a range of services to village schools and churches. Father Bill Freida, a physician at St. Mary's Hospital in Kenya, tells me they serve over 400 patients a day, and their chapel and bakery are anchors for the community. And Dr. Ebenezer Mawasha, also in Tanzania, promotes the teaching of spiritual and moral values in addition to health and hygiene education.

The work that these individuals have accomplished, coupled with their faith and commitment, are a true inspiration to me. And their efforts in preventing the disease will have positive repercussions in the years to come. Their leadership on the ground, in the trenches, each and every day, is fundamental to our ultimate success. I also want to salute the leadership of those with the CDC and U.S. AID on the ground in east Africa. President Museveni told me that our government's investment in Uganda, for example, of \$120 million over the last ten years has been instrumental in their success in bringing new infection rates from 32 percent to just over 6 percent. Our presence through these two federal agencies is making a difference.

Until science produces a vaccine, prevention through behavioral change and awareness is the key. And once again, cultural stigmas must be overcome. With a combination of comprehensive national plans, donor support and community-based organizations, progress can be made. Uganda, Thailand and Senegal are these examples of solid

success. We must encourage people to be tested, for here is our real opportunity to save countless lives. The more people know about infection, the more likely they are to do something about it. I believe we should increase investments in rapid HIV testing kits and counseling for developing countries. Access to these testing tools helps to reinforce prevention messages and guide treatment options.

As I saw in Africa, testing centers become centers of hope for a community, a place where those struggling with HIV/AIDS can share ideas, support each other, learn coping strategies, and receive medical treatment and nutritional support. I was particularly impressed with the work in the Kibera slum of Nairobi at the Kibera Self-Help Programme, run by the Centers for Disease Control. Officials there told me that a negative test provides a powerful incentive to stay healthy, and gives people an opportunity to receive counseling on risk behavior that will ultimately save lives. A positive test removes the burden of not knowing and allows for timely treatment and counseling, an important first step in living longer and healthier lives.

In recent months, pharmaceutical companies sent a message of hope by slashing prices on anti-retrovirals for poor countries. Other treatment regimens may make an ever bigger difference in extending life and holding families together. Just as importantly, the hope of some kind of treatment will encourage more people to have themselves tested. And there are other potential public health advantages to treatment that require further research and evaluation. Treatment with anti-retroviral drugs lowers the amount of virus in the blood, potentially decreasing the risk of transmission, both among adults and mother to child transmissions.

In addition, access to treatment and drugs is also needed for opportunistic infections, such as tuberculosis. For all the damage that HIV/AIDS does, TB kills more people in Africa with AIDS than any other opportunistic infection. CDC officials in Kenya told me TB has increased six times over in the last ten years, and it's impossible to separate HIV and TB. I've seen first hand in Sudan the reemergence of TB in strains more resistant, more virulent, than any we've seen before.

And finally, support of health care delivery systems, with a special emphasis on personnel training, is essential to effective treatment programs. Let me add that on the subject of vaccines we must continue to search for the tools to finally reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS. Research and development must continue, and I'm pleased to report that NIH currently has over two dozen vaccine candidates in the pipeline. Someday, and hopefully very soon, we will have a vaccine to prevent this disease.

In sum, I believe there are eight goals we must pursue in this global fight.

1. We must continue to encourage the political, religious and business leaders of the world to unit in an international commitment to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS and to help those who are afflicted with the disease.

2. We must continue to embrace the new Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, TB, and Malaria. This is not a UN fund, or an American fund. It is a new way of doing business.

3. We must better leverage America's public health care resources and talent to address the challenge. There must be a "call to cure" for our health care professionals to use their talent and expertise.

4. We should encourage and empower coalitions of governments, multi-lateral institutions, corporations, foundations, scientific institutions and NGO's to fill the gap between the available resources and the unmet needs for prevention, care and treatment.

5. We must continue to put community-based organizations, both religious and secular, at the forefront of action on the ground by getting funds to them quickly so they can most effectively do their jobs in reaching out those who need help most.

6. We must make certain that international research efforts on disease affecting poor countries is reinforced in a manner that assures the best scientific work in the world will lead to real benefits for the developing world—at a cost they can afford.

7. We must focus on prevention, and also support care and treatment options that combine reasonable cost pharmaceuticals with appropriately structured health care delivery systems.

8. Finally, we must do all we can to provide comfort to the families and orphans affected, to give them hope and dignity.

I can still hear young Daniel's cries of hunger and know that his young mother will not live to see him grow into adolescence, much less manhood; can see Sister Denise as she patiently and capably answers my many questions about the best ways we can help; still hear the pride in Father Freida's voice as he describes his hospital as a place to provide dignity and comfort to the afflicted and dying; and I think of Tabu who has returned to her home village to face death. These images will remain with me; these images strengthen my resolve to win the fight against HIV/AIDS.

History will judge us as to how we as a nation, as a global community, address and respond to this most devastating and destructive public health crisis we have seen since the bubonic plague ravaged Europe over 600 years ago.

The task before us looms large, but by pulling together, with leadership from all, we will eliminate the scourge of HIV/AIDS from the face of the globe in our lifetime.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS—SENATE
PASSAGE

Mr. ALLEN. Madam President, it is with great relief that I rise today in commendation for approval of the "Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002," which I believe represents a job security, job creation and balanced response by the Federal Government to the economic challenges faced by families and businesses. With the signing of this Act into law, on March 9, 2002, by the President, Americans finally received the economic stimulus relief that should have been passed many months ago.

During the past months, all Americans have been deluged with grim news of recessions, plummeting consumer confidence and rising unemployment. Last March, which is widely believed to be the beginning of the current recession, unemployment totaled 6.2 million, or 4.3 percent. Just under a year later, February unemployment rate equaled 5.5 percent, a number representative of the 1.4 million jobs lost since March of last year.

These numbers represent much more than just mere statistics, the 5.5 percent represents 7.9 million people who are without a job, a steady paycheck and the security of knowing that bills will be paid and food will be on the table. Even more worrisome for many families is that they have begun to exhaust their State unemployment benefits: in January 2002 alone, 373,000 displaced workers ran out of the financial support they need to simply survive as they look for a job.

This is why ending the obstruction by passage of the Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002 is so important. This bill not only includes targeted tax incentives that will increase capital investment and spending, ensuring that the weak recovery underway will not be derailed, but it provides the economic security the families of displaced workers so desperately need to get by until new jobs can be found.

I would like to take this opportunity to talk briefly about two provisions that I am particularly pleased are included in the economic stimulus package.

First, this recession is notable for the sharp plummet in the level of capital investment in new equipment and technologies by companies, coupled with a decrease in consumer demand. Until such capital expenditures increase, our economy will not fully recover from the recession.

Accelerated depreciation is a top priority of Virginia's and America's technology industry. It will spur capital expenditures for new advanced equipment and technology. This incentive will create and save more jobs for working men and women involved in producing, creating, fabricating and transporting such capital equipment from computers and construction equipment to airplanes and locomotives.

By providing for a 30-percent bonus depreciation rate over a 3-year period,

the economic stimulus package will encourage enterprising businesses and people to invest and grow, promoting capital expenditures that would not have occurred but for the passage of this act, eventually increasing job growth and consumer spending.

Second, the bill includes a provision, similar to legislation I introduced in September 2001, which provides displaced workers with an additional 13 weeks of unemployment benefits after they have exhausted their State-provided unemployment benefits.

Recently, we have received good news on the economy and the prospects of its recovery from the recession. February was the first month in which jobs were added since July 2001, and the unemployment rate is finally beginning to inch down from its high of 5.8 percent in December 2001.

Yet, even with the good news, Chairman Greenspan is still maintaining his earlier forecast of relatively weak economic growth in 2002 of between 2.5 percent and 3 percent. It will take time for the economy to fully recover and to create the jobs that will get workers back on the payrolls. News of eventual recovery is of little relief for the 1.4 million workers who have exhausted their unemployment benefits since September 2001.

Without the immediate financial lifeline that the additional 13 weeks of benefits provides, these families, at the minimum, risk ruining their credit ratings and, in the worst-case scenario, could lose their home or car.

Hard-working Americans, facing such a harrowing situation, ought to have a response to help them get through the early stages of the economy recovery until jobs become more readily available and workers can provide for their families. The 13 weeks of extended benefits provides the temporary financial assistance for displaced workers to get back on their feet and successfully get a new job.

In sum, the Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002 is the appropriate combination of immediate financial relief and security to American families and tax incentives for businesses to make the capital investments necessary for economic growth and job creation. I am confident that the new opportunities made available with the passage of this act will go a long way toward ensuring a more secure future for American working men, women and families.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING BETHANEY ADAMS

• Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, I rise today to honor a truly amazing and enchanting woman, Ms. Bethaney Adams of Bowling Green, Kentucky. Bethaney was recently named Ms. Wheelchair Kentucky by the Ms. Wheelchair America Program, Inc. The Ms. Wheelchair America Program's

mission is to provide an opportunity for women of achievement who utilize wheelchairs, such as Bethaney, to successfully educate and advocate for individuals with disabilities.

One certainty that I have come to realize in life is that adversity will strike and often with a mighty blow. When Bethaney Adams came face to face with adversity, she did not back down from her fears or focus her thoughts on negative scenarios. In fact, she excluded the word defeat from her vocabulary and decided to live life with a purpose and meaning. Bethaney, a senior at Murray State University, is currently getting her undergraduate degree in therapeutic recreation. After completing her studies at Murray, she plans on pursuing her masters degree in therapeutic recreation and eventually wants to work in a children's hospital where she could assist and inspire those living with disabilities on a daily basis.

Outside of her studies, Bethaney has made great strides in the area of community service. She has taken trips to Mexico, Washington, D.C., and New Orleans, where she worked to aid those less fortunate individuals living in poverty. Here in D.C., she stayed at a homeless shelter in an attempt to motivate those currently down on their luck. Bethaney made the choice a long time ago to view her "dis"ability as just the opposite. Being in a wheelchair gives her the ability to communicate with others and make a difference in their lives.

As for Bethaney's most recent accomplishment, winning Ms. Wheelchair Kentucky, she now plans to use this as an opportunity to broaden the scope of her audience. She will speak at camps across the Commonwealth and address inner-city youth in an effort to provide that successful and positive thinking leads directly to successful and positive actions. In June Bethaney will, for the third straight year, be a speaker at the National Spina Bifida Conference in Orlando, Florida, and in August she will represent Kentucky in the Ms. Wheelchair America pageant to be held in Maryland. The contest will judge the contestants based upon their accomplishments, communication skills, self-perception, and projection in the personal and on-stage interviews as well as the platform speech presentation. I know Bethaney will make Kentucky proud.

I once again congratulate Bethaney Adams for this honorable distinction and wish her the best in all her future endeavors. I believe each and every one of us can take something away from this incredible woman and her ability to turn an obstacle into a motivation. I thank her for being an inspiration to me and so many others. •

TRIBUTE TO 2001 BUSINESS OF
THE YEAR—FIDELITY INVESTMENTS

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Madam President, I rise today to pay