

Starting with our youth, it is necessary to fund the Excellence in Economic Education, EEE, Act, which provides resources for teacher training, evaluations, research, and other activities in K-12 education. There is no better time to instill in individuals the knowledge and skills that they need to make good decisions throughout their lives than during their years in elementary and secondary education.

I have also introduced S. 1800, the College LIFE, or Literacy in Finance and Economics Act, to address needs in this area for the college population. We must give students access to the tools that they need to make sound economic and financial decisions once they are on campus. Without an understanding of finance and economics, college students are not able to effectively evaluate credit alternatives, manage their debt, and prepare for long-term financial goals, such as saving for a home or retirement. I am working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come up with a package based on S. 1800 that can be included in the Higher Education Act.

I also appreciate the work done by my colleague from New Jersey, Senator CORZINE, in developing and introducing S. 386, the Education for Retirement Security Act of 2003. The legislation authorizes grants for financial education programs targeted towards mid-life and older Americans to increase financial and retirement knowledge and reduce their vulnerability to financial abuse and fraud. I am a co-sponsor of this legislation which will help Americans prepare for retirement.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to improve economic and financial literacy. I also want to express my appreciation for the significant efforts made by Senators SARBANES, ENZI, CORZINE, ALLEN, STABENOW, and FITZGERALD to improve economic and financial literacy. Our efforts need to continue so that individuals will be able to make informed decisions and be able to pursue their long-term financial goals, particularly into their golden years of retirement.

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President. As we approach this holiday season of Thanksgiving, I want to draw attention to National Adoption Month as we celebrate it this month.

I am joining my colleagues on the Congressional Coalition for Adoption this month to increase awareness and knowledge of the obstacles that children in foster care face while waiting to be adopted and to encourage more families to consider adopting.

Currently, there are 580,000 children in the foster care system in America, 126,000 of whom are waiting to be adopted. Yet, only 20 to 25 percent of foster children waiting for adoption will ever find an adoptive family before aging out of government care. The foster care system has been extremely im-

portant in rescuing abused and neglected children. However, the foster care system was designed to be a temporary situation, but it is increasingly becoming a permanent guardian for many children. This is particularly true for children who are not adopted in their early years or who find themselves in foster care at an older age. Of the 126,000 children waiting to be adopted approximately half are 9 years of age or older.

Every year an average of 100 children in South Dakota, and 25,000 children nationally, age out of the foster care system at the age of 18, often with very little if any support system in place. These children often face the challenges of homelessness, college non-completion, unemployment, and a lack of health care. Transitional living and mentoring program can alleviate some of these concerns but programs face the strains of staff shortages and underfunding. I must commend the South Dakota Coalition for Children for working to secure Medicaid coverage for children that age out of the foster care system until they reach the age of 22. This eliminates one serious concern many former foster care youths face with they are no longer in Government care, but it does not replace the support of a loving family.

On November 22, 2003, courts across the country joined State agencies, children in foster care and hopeful parents to finalize adoptions and demonstrate the large number of children waiting for safe, stable, permanent homes.

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday and gather with our families, we should not forget those children still waiting for a loving, permanent family to be thankful for.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING ARVILLA "BILLIE" CAMPBELL ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I honor Arvilla "Billie" Campbell of Meridian, ID, who is approaching her 100th birthday on January 21, 2004. Arvilla's impressive longevity is matched by her positive contributions to home and country. I am sure that her six children, 19 grandchildren, and 48 great-grandchildren join me in paying tribute to this great woman.

Arvilla was born and raised in Preston, ID, where she attended high school at the Preston Academy. In 1923, she married Elgin Campbell, and the couple had six children together. Her children report that Arvilla set a great foundation for each of their lives through the principles she taught. Arvilla recognized the importance of a strong work ethic, telling her children that you only get what you work for. Arvilla herself was a hard worker, doing all she could during the Great Depression to ensure that her family had what they needed. She was known

to comment that though the family may have been broke, they were never poor. Arvilla taught her children to have pride in their appearance and made sure they had impeccable decorum and proper speech at all times. Arvilla was also active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and she taught many children over the course of many years of service.

Arvilla also taught love of country, a fact reflected in the lives of her children. Remarkably, all six of her children have served or are affiliated with the Armed Forces. She encouraged them to serve in the military because she believes freedom is a privilege that deserves effort and sacrifice. All four of Arvilla's sons have served in combat. E. Stewart Campbell served in the Navy, starting in World War II through the Vietnam War, attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel. Garth K. Campbell served in the Pacific Theatre of World War II as a petty officer in the Navy. Bruce E. Campbell served in the Korean War as a corporal in the Army. Doug Campbell served in both the Korean and Vietnam wars as an Army platoon sergeant. Helen Campbell Harden, one of the Arvilla's daughters, is married to John Harden, an Army warrant officer in the Army. Ruth Campbell Rivers, another daughter, is also closely connected to the military: her husband Gerald is a lance corporal in the Marine Corps. America has benefited from the efforts of each of these individuals, and Arvilla is to be commended for her children's unselfish service to the United States.

I wish Arvilla a Happy Birthday. She has been a great teacher, example, and citizen of Idaho. I wish her health and happiness on this exciting day, and join with family and friends in honoring her contribution to Idaho.●

GENE BOYT

• Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I stand today to pay tribute to a great American and a great Oklahoman. Gene Boyt was a member of our Nation's "Greatest Generation" and served his country during World War II in the United States Army. He died at the age of eighty-six in Chickasha, OK.

After being assigned to the Philippines as a lieutenant in the Engineering Corps, he was taken captive by the Japanese on April 9, 1942. As a prisoner, he was forced to march 90 miles in 6 days in what has become known as the Bataan Death March. The prisoners marched without food or water, and many were executed or died along the way from exhaustion and dehydration. After surviving the grueling journey, Lieutenant Boyt spent 3½ years in Japanese prisons.

Gene Boyt knew what persecution meant. He knew what it meant to stand up for the cause of freedom, for the honor and integrity of the United States. Gene Boyt knew what it meant to defend this country from enemies determined to destroy it. He knew

what it meant to suffer for what he believed.

I stand today proud to be an American because men like Gene Boyt lived and died protecting that right. He was awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, three Presidential Citations, the Philippines's Presidential Citation Medal, and the Oklahoma Medal of Valor. He deserves to be honored once again today on the Senate floor.

Today I stand in tribute to one of Oklahoma's favorite sons, a great American hero and devoted family man. Gene Boyt sacrificed everything for his country, and I am sure that his family is proud of this great man, and the legacy he left behind. The thoughts and prayers of a grateful Nation are with them during this difficult time.●

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

HONORING MILITARY RESERVISTS AND THEIR SMALL BUSINESS EMPLOYERS DURING NATIONAL EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE WEEK

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, as this is National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week, it seems an appropriate time to speak on the honorable Americans serving in our National Guard and Reserve.

To fight our wars and to meet our military responsibilities, the United States supplements its regular, standing military with a capable band of citizen soldiers, reservists who serve nobly and continue to make the ultimate sacrifice for this country. At present, there are about 165,000 national guardsmen and reservists on active duty—more than half of the 300,000 called to active duty since September 11. They serve admirably around the world, performing critical wartime functions in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. This country does not go into battle without members of the National Guard and Reserve, and we should be grateful for their service.

Instead of gratitude, members of the Guard and Reserve find the Bush administration's military agenda leaving them behind. In addition, earlier this year, the Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives sought to cut reservist pay by 40 percent for normal peacetime training requirements. The Republican majority in the U.S. Senate blocked efforts to extend health care benefits to Guard and Reserve members. Just this month, the Republican majority in Congress voted against legislation by Senator DURBIN that would have provided supplemental income for Federal employees who are called up to active duty. These efforts are wrong and demonstrate the misplaced priorities of the Republican Party.

To make matters worse, the Bush administration recently announced that it would require thousands of National Guard and Army Reserve troops to ex-

tend their tours of duty up for an additional six months. This extension will cause significant economic difficulties for the reservists, their families, their employers, and our national economy.

Beyond the hardship of leaving their families, their homes and their regular employment, more than one-third of military reservists and National Guard members face a pay cut when they're called for active duty. Many of these reservists have families who depend upon that paycheck and can least afford a substantial reduction in pay.

The United States Chamber of Commerce estimates that 70 percent of military reservists called to active duty work in small- or medium-size companies. The continued activation of military reservists to serve in Iraq and the broader war on terrorism has imposed a tremendous burden on many of our country's small businesses. Too many of these businesses, when their employees are asked to leave their jobs and serve the Nation, are unable to continue operating successfully—resulting in severe financial difficulty and even bankruptcy. Large businesses have the resources to provide supplemental income to reservist employees called up for active duty and to replace them with a temporary employee. However, many small businesses are unable to provide this assistance or temporarily cover the reservist's duties.

The Federal Government has an obligation to help small businesses weather the loss of an employee to a call-up and a duty to protect small business employees and their families from suffering a pay cut to serve our Nation. It is imperative that we help families of reservists maintain their standard of living while their loved one protects our country abroad.

That is why I have proposed creating a Small Business Military Reservist Tax Credit, which does two things. First, it provides an immediate Federal income tax credit to any small business to help with the cost of temporarily replacing a reservist employee that has been called up to active duty. Second, it provides a tax credit to small businesses that pay any difference in salary for an employee who is called up. This tax credit is worth up to \$12,000 to any small business and up to \$20,000 for small manufacturers.

It is common knowledge that small businesses continue to be our most effective tool at creating new jobs and spurring economic growth nationwide. Small businesses employ over 50 percent of the Nation's work force. Across the country, small businesses are currently creating 75 percent of new jobs. Furthermore, many of these small businesses provide quality goods and services that are a vital link in the supply chain for national defense. Many of these small companies need immediate help to keep their business going while their employees encounter tremendous personal sacrifice in service of our country.

This assistance will immediately help struggling entrepreneurs keep

their small businesses running during the loss of an employee to temporary military service. It will also help the families of military reservists cope with the financial burden of their absence. In this way we ensure that we preserve our great tradition of citizen soldiers at such a critical time in the Nation's history.

In his speech designating this week National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week, President Bush recognized several large businesses for their support of the Guard and Reserve. I, too, commend these big corporations for their support of our reservists and guardsmen, but the President has again showed that he doesn't understand the plight of our military reservists and their smaller employers. The fact is big businesses, like those the President recently honored, aren't going out of business if one of their reservist employees is called up. Small businesses may.

My legislation provides a real solution—helping small businesses maintain productivity and helping make up the difference for reservists who face pay cuts when they're deployed—not just a pat on the back that this week provides. I urge the President and all of my colleagues to support my proposal.●

HONORING NOR-LEA GENERAL HOSPITAL

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, today I recognize the outstanding achievement of a hospital in my home State of New Mexico. Nor-Lea General Hospital, which is located in Lovington, New Mexico, was recently honored as one of the Nation's "Top 100" Hospitals by Solucient Corporation, a healthcare information company, in their 10th National Benchmarks for Success study. Nor-Lea was recognized because they have demonstrated superior clinical, operational, and financial performance in overall service.

I am proud to recognize Nor-Lea Hospital for its strong commitment to help the community. Too often we hear about hospitals that are struggling; hospitals asserting they can not save money and improve patient services and thus are not able to meet the needs of their communities.

Nor-Lea represents the exception. They represent the value of management, not only to save money, but also to improve efficiency. Nor-Lea is demonstrating what kind of performance is possible when this is done and they are setting new targets for performance improvement across the industry.

Nor-Lea General Hospital is a 25-bed Medicare-certified facility. Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance and private pay are accepted for services rendered. Nor-Lea General Hospital offers comprehensive outpatient services, which include a state-of-the-art laboratory facility with national lab affiliations, radiology services, MRI, bone densitometry, fluoroscopy, x-ray, ultrasound, and respiratory services.