

been moving steadily closer to Mr. Putin, allowing a Russian takeover of much of Ukraine's energy industry and signing an economic integration treaty.

Now Mr. Kuchma appears to be looking for ways to curtail Ukraine's democracy so that he can prolong his own hold on power when his term expires this year. Last month his allies in Parliament pushed through the first draft of a constitutional amendment that would cut short the term of the president due to be elected in October and provide that future presidents be chosen by Parliament—where Mr. Kuchma's forces retain control. Then the judges he appointed to the supreme court ruled that the constitution's two-term limit does not prevent Mr. Kuchma from serving again. The president's cronies protest that they are only moving the country toward a more parliament-centered system, and Mr. Kuchma coyly says he has not "yet" decided to seek another term. But the effect of his moves would be to neutralize the country's most popular leader, Viktor Yushchenko, who, polls say, would win the next presidential election if it were fairly held.

More than Mr. Kuchma's quest for continued power is at stake, Mr. Yushchenko is popular precisely because he is associated with those Ukrainians who seek to consolidate an independent democracy and move the country toward integration with Europe. Mr. Putin surely will be sympathetic to Mr. Kuchma's subversion of the system. The question is whether the Bush administration will work with Western Europe to mount an effective counter. Freedom could be consolidated this year in Ukraine or slip away. The outcome may just depend on how well Mr. Powell keeps his resolution.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

POEMS FROM RUSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, each year I try and take advantage of the opportunity to visit some of the high performing schools in my State. This past year, I had the privilege of spending time with the students of Ruston Elementary School in Ruston, LA. I was very impressed by them and their level of achievement. The fifth grade students had just spent the semester studying the U.S. Senate and its role in American democracy. They were eager to learn about our work and the many traditions that make the Senate one of the most deliberative bodies in the world. I asked some of the students if they would mind sharing some of their work with me so that I may bring it back to Washington and enter it into the RECORD. I would like to thank their teacher, Sonja Walker, for all of her good work. In these poems, the children tell us that they are proud to be an American. I, for one, think America should be proud of them.

I ask that the following poems be printed in the RECORD.

The poems follow:

I'M PROUD TO BE AMERICAN POEM

(By Alhira)

I'm proud to be an American today.
We have rules here in the USA.
Rules that we love, rules that we hate.
I'm proud to be an American in the USA.

We have nice, kind, and sweet in the USA.
I love to be an American.

FLOWERS

(By Sabrina Bowden)

Some flowers are red,
Some flowers are blue,
Some are yellow, green, and purple,
Like Mardi Gras masks
Worn on children's smiling faces,
While others are orange or white.
But one thing they all have in common
Are the big green stems
And leaves that support the petals
And carry fresh, clean water to the leaves.

BUTTERFLIES

(By Pymir Brown)

They swirl around in my stomach.
It feels like I'm going dizzy.
They're playing volleyball.
Hitting the ball over the net,
Back and forth
To each other.
Don't you just love butterflies?

BUSY

(By Jasmine Calloway)

Busy.
Busy yesterday,
Busy today.
Busy tomorrow,
Busy everyday.
Busy and work,
Must be the same.
Work today,
Busy tomorrow.
If you think about it,
It's all the same.

REMEMBERING ABE

(By Travis Carter)

America seems so beautiful,
When I see the flag wave,
But the most thing I think
Of is when Abe freed the slaves.
He brought everyone freedom
And stopped segregation.
He let everybody work together
To form a nation.
Abe helped us greatly
Through our troubled days,
So now we have love
In all sorts of ways.

LOVE

(By Crystal Harris)

Love,
Love is something you can't make or take,
It just comes on a regular basis.
But sometimes your love could be taken
away.
It might be the one you never even cared for,
your love.
You just tricked your love.
It's hard to say goodbye to your love and it
never comes back.
Don't just dangle over a haystack, go find
another love,
And love him like you never loved any one
before.
Love,
Love,
Love.

I'M PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN

(By Jamakia Hatter)

I'm proud to be an American,
I'm proud to do what I do, aren't you?
I'm proud to stand for what I stand for,
Especially when you're number one.
I'm proud of what I believe,
I'm proud to be in a country that's free.
My country tis of thee and its sweet land of
liberty.

This is why I'm proud to be an American.

FEELINGS

(By Judy Huynh)

Feelings, hopes, dreams

Treasured so beautifully
Like a butterfly flying across the meadow.
Feelings, sorrows, madness
Swirling so painfully
Like a tornado.
Your hopes and dreams sink
Your heart is so cold and pure of darkness
Like a vacuum feeding on your sorrows and
madness.
Feelings, feelings, feelings.

IF I WERE PRESIDENT

(By Kevin Jackson)

If I were President, it would be fun. I could
do all kinds of things.
I know I would have to do a lot of work, but
in my free time, I would do this.
First, I would go and meet Michael Jackson.
He is my favorite singer and he would teach
me how to do the moon walk.
Next, I would go meet my favorite actor,
Chris Tucker.
He was in my favorite movie, Rush Hour 2.
I would ask him about the movie.
Last, but not least, I would get my groove on
by going to China.
I would do all kinds of things. I would eat
Chinese Food everyday.
This is what I would do.

IF I WERE THE SENATOR

(By Randall Loyd)

If I were the Senator,
I would make a law about recess,
Or even school.
I would make a law of pizza.
There would be free pizza.

AMERICA THE VACUUM CLEANER

(By Ben McFatrige)

Like a giant vacuum
America
Sucking all of the evil and terrorists
Out of the world,
Until it is clean,
And rid of terrorists.

FROM CHAOS TO COURAGE

(By Matthew Rich)

We watched them fall,
With unbelieving eyes.
We saw it burn,
With staring eyes.
We saw the rubble,
With teary eyes.
Then we saw the flag,
With its brilliance,
Shining through the dust.
Now we see it
With courage in our eyes.

PLEASE REMEMBER

(By Samantha Rich)

Remember when time was ours to enjoy.
Sometimes you wish you could turn around,
And live it again,
But you can't.
So remember,
Remember what happened.
How we were there for each other,
Singing Christmas music,
Cheering for each other,
Hoping for each other to win.
So remember all that happened,
Back when things were the same,
And I'll always remember you and smile.
Though memories last, time goes on.
Although it is hard,
We always have to say goodbye.
So please remember,
Please remember me.

WHY

(By Shane Rich)

Sometimes I wish I could just ask why, and
that why would be answered.
If I had that opportunity this is what I'd ask.
Why can't we have world peace, where ter-
rorists didn't exist, and bombs, and
guns, and wars were unheard of?

Why can't we come together to join and be a nation?
 And why can't it be that no one was prejudice or racist?
 And why can't we take out all the bad and use truth and kindness to fill it in?
 But if I could change it I wouldn't, because I'm going to leave that to God!•

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

DECISION TO LEAVE SENATE

• Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, 35 years ago Lois and I, along with John Jr. and Bill Breaux, rented a U-Haul truck and headed north to Washington, D.C.

Lois tells the story about Bill the night before we left saying his prayers and concluding with "Good-bye God, we are moving to Washington." And, we had to pull John Jr. from under the house.

Well, today, John Jr. is 38 years old. Bill is 37, and Beth is married to Jeff Shepherdson and has three children—Anna Kate, 6, Campbell, 4, and C.J., 2 years old, and Julie, our youngest is now 28, works in New Orleans, and is here with us today.

I'll always remember that trip. My mother, who is deceased, and my father, followed us to D.C. We got there at night. I had never even visited Washington, so we drove right to the Capitol, and that evening the Marine Corps band was in concert on the Capitol steps. It was beautiful, and I thought they were playing just for us.

It's been a great 35 years—a few years as a staff person, 14 years as a Member of the Congress, representing southwest Louisiana, and it will be 18 years as a U.S. Senator, representing our State of Louisiana. I had the privilege of serving with five Governors and seven Presidents.

I have said for a year now that I would announce my decision whether to seek another term as U.S. Senator after the governor's election this year. I further said that I would make that announcement between November 15 and December 15. The difficulty of that decision is shown by the fact that today is December 15.

Lois and I have spent a lot of time discussing this decision—not formally, but, "what do you think?" type discussions. Although one time she actually sat up in bed, drew a line down the middle of a page, and listed the pros and cons of running—not surprisingly, they came out just about even.

We have received lots of advice—from my staff, from family and supporters here in Louisiana, and from around the country. Some of the letters from total strangers were so touching and heartfelt that we will forever treasure them.

My colleagues in the Congress, especially in the Senate, spoke to both Lois and me frequently with their thoughts and suggestions. Colleagues, actually from both sides of the aisle, urged me to run again, and for their encouragement and friendship I cannot begin to

say how much Lois and I appreciate them. My special appreciation also goes to TOM DASCHLE, HARRY REID and MARY LANDRIEU.

The citizens of Louisiana have greatly honored my family and me by allowing me to serve these 30-plus years as their Congressman and U.S. Senator. I can honestly say I enjoyed every moment and appreciated the opportunity that I have had to serve.

But there comes a time in every career when it is time to step aside, and let others step up and serve. And for my family and me that time has arrived. I will not seek re-election to the U.S. Senate.

Throughout my years in Congress I have been guided by a simple philosophy to make government work for everyone. I did not go to Washington to get nothing done other than argue about whose fault it was when we failed to make government work.

My sincere hope is that future Congresses will be able to pursue the center-out coalitions that I have advocated. It is my hope that cooperation and legitimate compromise between our political parties will not be seen as political failure, but rather as a means of building a stronger democracy that better serves our Nation.

To my wife Lois, we started this journey together many years ago and you have been there every step of the way—through the good times, and there were many, and through the not so good times, and there were a few. I could not have asked for a more helpful and supportive partner and friend. No one has been more lucky and fortunate than me in finding you.

To my staff here in Louisiana and in Washington, let me say I could not have accomplished anything without you. Our office has the greatest of reputations and all of you are truly part of our family—and will always be.

To my father Ezra and to Lois' mom, Doris, I say thank you for putting up with all the things we dragged you through, whether you wanted to be there or not. And to our children, John, Bill, Beth and Jeff, and Julia, I say thank you for being there—you have made us very proud every step of the way.

I am not leaving today. There is still a lot to get done this Congress. We have to get the energy bill passed, and I want to get started on legislation for the 40 million Americans who have no health insurance. I look forward to co-chairing with Governor-elect Kathleen Blanco the very important summit meeting on healthcare in Louisiana.

So this is not goodbye. After working more than half my life on issues important to Louisiana, I intend to continue that involvement in the future, but in a different capacity. But for now, thank you for the privilege and honor of serving Louisiana and our country.•

HONORING MARCIA COGGS

• Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I want to remember Marcia Cogg, a

trailblazer in Wisconsin politics and a dear friend, who passed away in December.

Words cannot fully express the impact Marcia Cogg had on the lives of the people of Wisconsin. She was the first African-American woman elected to the State's legislature and was widely known as "the Conscience of the State of Wisconsin." Marcia also became the first African-American to sit on the State legislature's joint finance committee. Better housing, the best in public education, integration and human rights were just some of the causes Marcia championed during her 16 years in the Wisconsin Legislature.

First elected to the State assembly from Milwaukee in 1976, she forced the State to listen and pay attention to the troubling issues people in her district often faced. Civil rights, both in Wisconsin and throughout the world, were always at the forefront of her mind. Those who knew her were not surprised when she protested against apartheid in South Africa, even joining a demonstration outside that nation's Washington, DC, embassy in 1985.

I had the honor and privilege of working with Marcia on several issues, including a successful effort to make Martin Luther King Jr. Day a legal holiday in Wisconsin. We also joined together in fighting to establish a private cause of action for civil rights violations.

I am honored to have been associated with her and proud to have called her both a mentor and a friend. Marcia made an outstanding contribution to the lives of countless Wisconsinites and left a legacy that the people of my State will honor for many years to come.•

RETIREMENT OF PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS FREDERICA MONIQUE WILLIAMS

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a great American a true patriot: Hospital Corpsman, First Class Petty Officer Frederica Monique Williams, a resident of Selma, AL. Petty Officer Williams began her career as a deck Seaman Recruit at Naval Hospital Great Lakes as an administrative clerk. There she was selected for Hospital Corpsman "A" School at Great Lakes in October 1984, and upon graduation, she was assigned to Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune as a general duty corpsman where she refined her exceptional patient care and organizations skills, and developed into a strong leader and manager.

Petty Officer Williams served overseas on numerous occasions to include a tour at Naval Hospital Rota, Spain. While in Rota, she worked on a busy Labor and Delivery Unit. Once again her proven clinical experience, caring demeanor, organizational ability and "can-do" leadership style allowed her to excel. While assigned to National Naval Medical Center Bethesda, Maryland, Petty Officer Williams deployed