

the debt ceiling is not increased in time. That would be the prudent thing to do. That would be the responsible thing to do.

So, today, I am calling on President Obama to begin planning ahead so that failure to raise the debt ceiling does not immediately turn into a totally unnecessary crisis.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

WOMEN VETERANS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to salute the women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces and honor the sacrifices they have made for our country.

Long before they were welcomed as members of the military, women played an important role in supporting our troops. Since the American Revolution, women have tended to the wounded and provided care to our soldiers. In the early 20th century, women answered the ultimate call to duty and began to serve proudly in our Armed Forces.

These early women veterans were trailblazers, creating new opportunities for the women that follow in their footsteps. They gave all that they could to protect and defend our country, often without the same recognition given to their male counterparts. Today, women serve at all levels of the armed services as combat pilots, medical care professionals, engineers, and police officers.

There are over 1.8 million women veterans in the United States and the role of women in the armed services continues to grow. Over 212,000 women have served actively in Iraq and Afghanistan. More than 120 women soldiers have sacrificed their lives and many more have been wounded. These women have played an integral role in our military's success, working closely with ground combat troops.

Women have been and continue to be a vital part of the military. Their bravery and patriotism is without question. Their contributions demand recognition. We must pay tribute to those women veterans who answered the call to defend America.

On behalf of myself, and speaking for the thousands of women who have benefited from their example, I would like to recognize and thank the women who have served our country, proudly and with honor.

FOR-PROFIT EDUCATION COMPANIES

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, during my floor speech last Thursday on for-profit education, I neglected to insert a letter into the RECORD. I ask unanimous consent that the following letter from Apollo Education Group be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

APOLLO GROUP, INC. STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

Apollo Group, Inc. respectfully submits this response to the statement delivered today by Senator Tom Harkin on the issue of military educational benefits.

During this statement, Senator Harkin cited a complaint submitted by a student at the University of Phoenix in April 2009. As part of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pension's investigation into for-profit higher education, Apollo Group voluntarily produced this complaint and the documents relating to its resolution, along with tens of thousands of pages of additional documents on a wide range of subjects. Apollo Group remains committed to cooperating with the Committee's investigation.

University of Phoenix is the largest private university in North America, serving a current population of over 400,000 students. As with any institution of higher learning, the University receives complaints from its students. It takes those complaints very seriously and works hard to investigate and address students' concerns in a timely, efficient, and appropriate manner. The University's Office of Dispute Resolution administers an industry-leading dispute resolution process to investigate and resolve complaints like the one referenced by Senator Harkin.

Notwithstanding the charges cited by Senator Harkin, it is important to consider the facts of this particular complaint and how it was investigated and resolved by the Office of Dispute Resolution. Specifically, the documents reveal that this student was dissatisfied because he or she did not receive a degree one year after enrollment. After diligent inquiry, the Office determined that the student's grievance stemmed from the University's denial of the student's request to waive certain curriculum requirements based on credits received from another institution fourteen (14) years earlier. That denial was based on a determination that those prior credits were outdated and not equivalent to the credits required as part of the applicable curriculum at the University. The Office did not find any evidence that the student had been promised that he or she would complete the degree program within one year, as the student alleged. Further investigation has determined that the student did complete the degree program at the University, based on educational coursework that met current academic standards, and received a degree within a year after filing the complaint and within two years of entering University of Phoenix.

Senator Harkin pointed out that the student who filed this complaint is a veteran who attended University of Phoenix on the GI Bill. The University is committed to serving the needs of its military and veteran students and believes that it provides an accessible and flexible option for this segment of its student population. The University has long served military students, resulting in its recognition as a military friendly school by GI Jobs, civilianjobs.com, and, most recently, Military Advanced Education in their Third Annual Guide to America's Top Military-Friendly Colleges and Universities.

University of Phoenix's service of military students is driven by its mission to provide access to higher education for historically underserved populations. The University takes this mission extremely seriously and strives continually to improve the experience and opportunities for the many thousands of students who have put their trust in it. The University's industry-leading dispute resolution process is a critical component of its efforts in this regard and demonstrates

the University's commitment to the needs and concerns of its student body.

TRIBUTE TO HAL DAVID

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to congratulate Hal David on his upcoming 90th birthday. Hal is a pioneer in the music industry and a world class lyricist, having composed some of the most enduring songs in American popular music. Marcelle and I spend many wonderful evenings with him and so enjoy hearing his stories of not only his song writing, but others.

Hal was born on May 25, 1921, in Brooklyn, NY, and was the son of two immigrants. He served in the U.S. Army Entertainment Section in the Central Pacific during World War II with Carl Reiner and Werner Klemperer. The dedication to his country and the entertainment he provided for the men serving will never be forgotten.

Hal's musical writing career took off with his first hit record "The Four Winds and the Seven Seas." His legendary collaboration with composer Burt Bacharach began in 1957 with the Marty Robbins hit "The Story of My Life" and included other hits such as "Magic Moments" and "What the World Needs Now is Love." Through this successful partnership, Hal and Burt Bacharach were nominated for four Academy Awards and won the Oscar for best song in the 1969 film "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" with "Raindrops."

Hal David also works on legislative efforts as a board member on the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers, ASCAP, and led the battle against source licensing. During Hal's time as chairman and CEO of the Songwriters Hall of Fame, he helped launch the Songwriters Hall of Fame Gallery at the Grammy Museum in Los Angeles.

Hal's achievements have earned recognition on a local and international stage. He has been inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Songwriter Hall of Fame, which honors the most popular songs from around the world. He was also the first non-British award recipient to receive the Recording Academy and Ivor Novello Award bestowed by the British Performing Rights Society. I commend him on his impressive lyricist career that has entertained countless Americans and citizens around the world. Hal David is a dedicated and talented lyricist and friend, and I am pleased to join in wishing him a happy 90th birthday and all the best in his future endeavors.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO REUBEN SALTERS

• Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator CHRIS COONS, Congressman JOHN CARNEY and myself, I pay

tribute to the Honorable Reuben Salters, retired member of the Dover City Council, educator, officer and humanitarian statesman.

Reuben Salters has been a true friend to the city of Dover and the State of Delaware. Born in Spartanburg, SC, to Reuben and Lillian Salters, Reuben was educated in public schools and graduated from the George Washington Carver High School before matriculating at Livingstone College in Salisbury, MD. A man of extraordinary service, Reuben joined the U.S. Air Force and served tours in France, Germany, Southeast Asia, England and Dover, DE. Reuben was commissioned as a 2d lieutenant at the Dover Air Force Base in 1957 and rose to the rank of major before honorably retiring in 1971.

Reuben's first civilian job was at the former Kent County Vocational and Technical School, now known as the Polytech School District, and in 1974 he earned his master of science degree in counselor education. After serving 3 years as the director of Neighborhood Youth Corps and Administrator of the Adult ABE/GED Program for Kent and Sussex counties, Reuben accepted a position as an academic counselor for the engineering technology and business curriculum at the Delaware Technical and Community College, Terry Campus. There, he also worked as a veteran's counselor, activities coordinator and as the Terry Campus representative at the Dover Air Force Base.

A man of extraordinary service, Reuben has served as president of the central Delaware branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, president of the local chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., a faithful member of the Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church and a member of the Dover City Council serving from 1989 until his retirement earlier this year. While a member of Dover City Council, Reuben held a number of leadership positions including the chair of the Legislative and Finance Committee, the chair of the Civilian Pension Committee and a member of the Downtown Dover Partnership Committee.

Seeing the need for a greater understanding and appreciation of the arts and culture among Dover's inner city citizens, Reuben founded the Inner City Cultural League, Inc. in 1971. The league provides scores of inner city youth with the opportunity to participate in cultural and community activities. It also provides a crime and drug-free environment where they can prepare to live productive and happy lives. The program has flourished and has been enhanced by the addition of the annual African American Festival—now in its 21st year and attended by thousands of people last year—and by adding the Sankofa African Dance and Drum Company to the activities of the League.

A frequent traveler to Africa and South America to name only a few,

Reuben always returns to his favorite city of Dover, DE, where his love and passion for equal opportunity and quality of life for all prevail. I am truly honored to have worked with Reuben Salters for many years and am privileged to pay tribute to Dover's favorite son.●

LEEDS, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 125th anniversary. On July 14-17, the residents of Leeds will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

In the Spring of 1886, the Great Northern Railroad founded the townsite of Leeds at the junction of the Great Northern Railroad and the Northern Pacific Railroad. It was named for Leeds, Yorkshire, England, an important manufacturing center dating back to 616 A.D. On August 31, 1887, the post office was established with Thomas Howrey as the postmaster.

Today, Leeds has much to be proud of. The residents enjoy the outdoors through use of their golf course, parks, baseball diamonds, basketball courts, and a swimming pool. The community also boasts an award-winning school system and the Leeds City Library. The people of Leeds are known for their strong work ethic and caring attitude towards others, making it a great place to live and raise a family.

In honor of the city's 125th anniversary, officials have organized a wonderful celebration that includes a family steak fry at the golf course, family games, a basketball and golf tournament, a 5K run, trap shoot, dances, fireworks, and a parade.

I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Leeds, ND, and its residents on their first 125 years and in wishing them well in the future. By honoring Leeds and all other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Leeds that have helped shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Leeds has a proud past and a bright future.●

LIDGERWOOD, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 125th anniversary. On July 29-31, the residents of Lidgerwood will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

The city of Lidgerwood was established as the Soo Railroad pushed westward in the summer of 1886. George Lidgerwood, for whom the town is named, along with General W. D. Washburn and R. N. Ink, platted the original townsite.

Today, Lidgerwood is a vibrant community, with several area attractions. Residents enjoy the town's golf course, swimming pool, recreation park, the American Legion Park, and camping. The people of Lidgerwood also care about preserving the history and heritage of their town, which can be seen in the Lidgerwood Museum and the Bagg Bonanza Farm. The town is also home to the Ann Thielman Performing Arts Center and a wonderful public school. Lidgerwood is known for its sense of community and is an excellent place to raise a family.

In honor of the city's 125th anniversary, officials have organized a celebration that includes a softball and golf tournament, a classic car show, an antique tractor show, street dances, games, food vendors and much more.

I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Lidgerwood, ND, and its residents on their first 125 years and in wishing them well in the future. By honoring Lidgerwood and all other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Lidgerwood that have helped shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Lidgerwood has a proud past and a bright future.●

NEW ENGLAND, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a community in North Dakota that will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. On July 14-17, the residents of New England will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

New England was the first townsite in Hettinger County, and was originally named Mayflower. It later became known as New England City. On June 8, 1894, the new post master, Horace W. Smith, shortened the name to simply New England, noting that most early settlers were from Vermont and Massachusetts, two of the New England States.

Today, New England is a vibrant, agricultural community in southwestern North Dakota. It is home to, among other things, Dakota West Credit Union, Top Line Auto, Riverside Lodging, Country Style Beauty Salon, Ag Alliance, a grocery store, and a seniors center. The New England Public School sits at the north end of Main Street and provides a high quality education to all of its students. New England is known for its sense of community and is an excellent place to live and raise a family.

The citizens of New England have organized numerous activities to celebrate their 125th anniversary. Some of the activities include dances, basketball and volleyball tournaments, an antique tractor pull and show, a parade, an arts and craft show, a bake sale, a car show, games, and a derby.

I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating New England, ND, and