

DEDICATION OF THE MICHAEL J. FITZMAURICE STATE VETERANS HOME

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, on October 2, 1998, South Dakotans honored one of their veterans with the dedication of the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home in Hot Springs. I believe this is a fitting tribute to a man who was willing to sacrifice his own life to defend the lives of his friends amidst the chaos of battle.

Michael Fitzmaurice served in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division at Khe Sanh. On March 13, 1971, American forces at Khe Sanh were engaged by North Vietnamese troops. During the assault, North Vietnamese sappers threw three satchel charges into a bunker defended by Michael and other airborne troops. Michael Fitzmaurice was able to throw two of the explosive charges out of the bunker, and then showing no regard for his own life, used his flak jacket to smother the third charge. Despite receiving severe wounds, Michael Fitzmaurice refused medical attention and continued to defend the bunker from the North Vietnamese assault. Because of his unselfish action, Michael was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroism and for saving the lives of his fellow soldiers.

Today, Michael Fitzmaurice works at the Sioux Falls Veterans Medical Center after serving twenty years with the South Dakota National Guard. He now lives in Hartford, South Dakota with his wife Patty and his children. The veterans home dedicated in Michael's honor will serve as a residence for veterans who saw combat. The facility also has a nursing home and a place where veterans can receive needed medical attention.

From the battlefields of Lexington and Concord, to the beaches of Normandy, and to base camps such as Khe Sanh, our nation's history is replete with individuals who, during the savagery of battle, were willing to forgo their own survival not only to protect the lives of their comrades, but also to defend a people they did not know. Americans should never forget these men and women who served our nation with such dedication and patriotism.

Mr. President, I offer my congratulations and gratitude to Michael and his family on this profound dedication. The Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home will stand not only as a testament to Michael Fitzmaurice's bravery and leadership, but will remain a constant reminder of South Dakota's continued dedication in serving the needs of our veterans.●

RETIREMENT OF COLONEL WILLIAM L. BERLAND

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise in honor of the distinguished military career of Colonel William L. Berland. Colonel Berland is retiring on November 13, 1998, after completing 27 years

of faithful service to his country. He is currently stationed at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico and plans to make New Mexico his new home. We thank the great State of Montana for sending Colonel Berland to the service of this country, and we welcome him as a new New Mexico resident. Most importantly, we thank Colonel Berland for the unselfish service he gave to America and wish him and his wife Debbie the best in their retirement.●

THE 105TH CONGRESS AND Y2K

• Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, as we wind up the 105th Congress, I would like to commend Senator BENNETT and the Special Committee on the Year 2000 (Y2K) Technology Problem for their work in addressing the computer problem. The Committee has done a fine job in looking at the impact of Y2K on all aspects of our critical infrastructure: the utilities industry, the health care sector, financial services, transportation, government, and businesses. The Committee should also be applauded for the role it played in formulating and passing S. 2392, The Year 2000 Information and Readiness Disclosure Act. As an original cosponsor of this piece of legislation, I am delighted to see that the President signed it into law yesterday. This bill should help us ameliorate the Y2K problem. I say well done to the Committee for all of the work it has done in such a short amount of time.

Almost two and a half years ago, in the 104th Congress, I sounded the alarm on the computer problem. On July 31, 1996, I sent President Clinton a letter expressing my views and concerns about Y2K. I warned him of the "extreme negative economic consequences of the Y2K Time Bomb," and suggested that "a presidential aide be appointed to take responsibility for assuring that all Federal Agencies, including the military, be Y2K compliant by January 1, 1999 [leaving a year for 'testing'] and that all commercial and industrial firms doing business with the Federal government must also be compliant by that date."

January 1, 1999 is quickly approaching. Progress has been made on the Y2K problem. The public and private sector are starting to give it the attention that it deserves. But much work remains to be done. As we head into the 106th Congress, we must continue to work on this problem with dedication and resolve.

Historically, the fin de siècle has caused quite a stir. Until now, however, there has been little factual basis on which doomsayers and apocalyptic fear mongers could spread their gospel. After studying the potential impact of Y2K on the telecommunications industry, health care, economy, and other vital sectors of our lives, I would like to warn that we have cause for fear. For the failure to address the millennium bug could be catastrophic.●

TRIBUTE TO NEIL TILLOTSON

• Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, Neil Tillotson is one of those rare individuals who has accomplished a great deal in his professional and personal life, but has remained rooted to his origins in the Great North Woods of New Hampshire. On the occasion of his 100th Birthday which will be on December 16, 1998, I rise to salute his remarkable achievements.

Neil Tillotson's life is emblematic of New Hampshire's values of hard work, independence, and community spirit. A lifelong resident of the North Country, he has been a trailblazer in the latex industry, inventing many new products, and for the last 67 years, he has been the most prolific manufacturer of latex products in the world. Through his business activities, he has provided jobs for many people in the North Country, and products that improve the standard of living for millions of Americans and people around the world.

But his business acumen is only part of what makes Neil Tillotson special. He also holds the unique honor of being the first person to vote in New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation Presidential primary, and thus, in the nation. Dixville Notch, where the Presidential primary voting begins at midnight on election day, has been home to the Tillotson family for many years, and as patriarch of Dixville Notch, Neil Tillotson has been the first person to cast his vote since 1960.

New Hampshire takes its politics seriously at all levels, from the school board to the Presidential primary, and Neil Tillotson has been a serious player for many years. Since we don't yet have a professional sports team, I guess you could say politics is our state sport, and without Neil Tillotson's support, I might be sitting on the bench watching, instead of playing on the field.

Politics runs deep in many New Hampshire towns and I think that is so because we have a strong sense of community that is expressed through our participation in the representative process. It has a way of bringing us together, and Neil Tillotson has been an example to many people, prompting them to get involved in the political process.

Over his 100 years, Neil Tillotson has been a participant in some of the great events of the 20th Century, including service in World War I as a member of General Pershing's cavalry and in the triumph of capitalism over communism.

I turned 50 myself just a few years ago, and I can only hope to live as long and contribute as much to our state as Neil Tillotson. It is a rare person who lives to be 100 years old, but for someone like Neil Tillotson, like so many other things, he makes it look easy. Neil Tillotson is a remarkable person, and Kathy and I wish him the very best on this momentous occasion.●