

traditions which are brought together for a common cause. This event, for which these women have worked so hard is one of the few times the world can concur this way. To not only attend the Olympics but to win a gold medal is an honor of which they should all be proud.

Mr. President, I want to congratulate Sarah Tueting, Tarah Mounsey, Tricia Dunn, Sue Merz, Colleen Coyne and Karyn Bye for their outstanding accomplishments and I am proud to represent them in the U.S. Senate.●

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, this weekend, on Sunday, March 8, 1998, the world community will celebrate International Women's Day. This day is a time to mark the achievements and progress of women around the world, but also to consider the long road we still have to travel to reach equality and respect for the basic human rights for all women.

Many women and men will mark this day by reflecting on how far women have come in many societies and by continuing to work toward true equality for women all across the globe. The United States has a lot to be proud of in this regard. Women make significant contributions at every level of our society, including in this distinguished body.

Unfortunately, a large number of women will not even know of this day, which is meant to be a celebration of their achievements and accomplishments. On International Women's Day, many women will continue to be subjugated by their husbands or their governments, and many will be unaware of the basic human rights to which they are entitled as members of the world community. In cities and towns all over the world—including in the United States—International Women's Day will be just another day in the long struggle for women to achieve equal pay for equal work, full political and religious rights, access to adequate health care and child care, and the right to control their own destinies. It is troubling that, while women make up approximately 51 percent of the world's population, many of them have little or no civil or political rights.

As Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on African Affairs of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, I have had no opportunity to learn much about the status of women on that continent. The conditions into which women are born in Africa vary from country to country and impact greatly on their chances for a successful, happy life. According to the United Nations, baby girls born between 1995 and 2000 in the West African country of Sierra Leone can expect to live approximately 39 years, the lowest for women born on that continent. In this small, war-torn nation, the infant mortality rate is 169 per 1,000 live births, the highest in Africa.

By contrast, the United Nations says, baby girls born in the United States during the same period, 1995–2000, can expect to live 80 years, more than twice as long as baby girls born in Sierra Leone. The infant mortality rate in this country is seven per 1,000 live births—162 less than that of Sierra Leone. The vast majority of baby girls born in the United States have a bright future ahead of them; their counterparts in Sierra Leone face instability and the constant threat of war. A baby girl born today in Wisconsin will share approximately 39 of her birthdays with a baby girl born today in Sierra Leone—sadly, it is unlikely that the baby girl in Sierra Leone will reach her 40th birthday.

In another war-torn African nation, Angola, the conditions are not much better. The thousands of unmarked landmines that riddle that country have contributed to the low 48-year life expectancy of Angolan women. According to the United Nations, women make up 46 percent of the nation's workforce, and 73 percent of women 15 and over contribute to the nation's economy. These women are indicative of those all over the African continent—and indeed all over the world. They literally carry the economy on their backs by producing handmade products and carrying them to markets, or single-handedly transporting bundles of wood or vessels of water for their families.

But, fortunately, not all of the women in Africa or the rest of the world experience such bleak circumstances. For example, women around the world have made great strides in business with the help of microcredit programs. These programs extend loans, often less than \$100, to women who need assistance starting or expanding a small business. The benefits of these loans, which are almost always repaid, far exceed their monetary worth. Domestic and international microcredit programs have enabled thousands of women to find the confidence necessary to become self-sufficient and to support their families without government assistance—often for the first time.

In a 1997 speech commemorating International Women's Day, Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright said, "Advancing the status of women is not only a moral imperative; it is being actively integrated into the foreign policy of the United States. It is our mission. It is the right thing to do, and, frankly, it is the smart thing to do." I wholeheartedly agree with this statement. I am pleased that the United States is taking an active role in the worldwide promotion of the rights of women. These efforts include working with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to establish guidelines to protect female refugees from sexual and physical assault and exploitation. The United States is also working to ensure that the War Crimes Tribunals for Rwanda and the Former

Yugoslavia will vigorously prosecute rape as a war crime. Too often, women have been the forgotten casualties of war. I am pleased that the United States government is working to ensure that female refugees are protected and that those who would use rape as a tactic of war are punished.

So, Mr. President, as the world prepares to celebrate International Women's Day, we should honor the achievements of women around the world, but we should not forget those who have little to celebrate.●

RECOGNITION OF ROSELLA SCHNACKENBERG

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Rosella Schnakenberg for her fifty years of service to First Community Bank in Ionia. On March 18, 1947, Rosella began working as a teller for the First Community Bank, then the Bank of Ionia. At the time she received a salary of \$75 a month. Today she is Vice President and Facility Manager of the Bank and oversees the day-to-day operations.

Through the years Rosella has watched the economic ups and downs of the bank and through it all has made sure that people have received quality service and the assistance they need. Watching people start businesses, purchase homes and pay for their children's college education has allowed her to see first hand the help she has given to others.

In addition to Rosella's faithful service to her work, she is a community leader in Cole Camp, Missouri. She has been playing the organ at St. John's Lutheran Church in Cole Camp for more than fifty years and volunteers much of her free time to visiting nursing homes so that residents have company. I wish her continued success and congratulate her for fifty years of loyal service.●

RED CROSS MONTH

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the achievement and service of the American Red Cross. March has been declared "Red Cross Month" by Presidential Proclamation, and I can think of no more appropriate a season to recognize an organization whose mission centers on renewing hope for the citizens of our Nation.

Founded in May, 1881 by Clara Barton, the American Red Cross was charged with providing emergency relief in times of war and natural disaster. Today, the American Red Cross is the largest grass-roots volunteer organization in the United States with 2658 chapters and over a million volunteers. I am pleased that the United States Congress had the foresight in 1905 to designate the American Red Cross as the lead voluntary agency responsible for national and international relief in times of peace. In over a century of service, this organization has grown

from an idea borne from war to a national network on which people depend in times of crisis and calm alike.

My own State of Maryland recently suffered severe damage from two consecutive Nor'Easters which battered the coastline. Ocean City, a center of Maryland's summer tourism, and Assateague Island, one of the State's most critical natural resources, sustained high winds, wave action and tidal surges which leveled protective dunes, destroyed recreational beaches and caused severe damage to roads, parking lots, and bike trails. American Red Cross volunteers responded quickly to the needs of these communities by preparing shelters for evacuees, providing replacement food, clothing and basic furnishing to those in need, and helped to evaluate damage to homes of year round residents. I am personally very grateful for all that was done for these people in a time of unexpected loss and would like to thank the many volunteers who pitch in when "Help Can't Wait."

Although disaster relief is one of the most important and renowned roles of the American Red Cross, the local chapters offer many other critical services that serve to prevent emergencies and provide training. The Red Cross is perhaps best known for its work to ensure a safe blood supply and blood products for cancer patients, accident victims and others in need. Other important services include courses in CPR, First Aid, HIV/AIDS education, swimming lessons, life guarding, and disaster relief and preparedness training.

The American Red Cross also works closely with civic and educational entities to further their message and facilitate training. In Maryland, a newly formulated "Safe Families—Safe Kids" Campaign will be presented to schoolchildren from kindergarten to third grade in Baltimore City and counties throughout the State. This program will address safety concerns for children and families, including fire and injury prevention and interaction with strangers.

The activities of the American Red Cross are innumerable and their contributions to the health and wellbeing of our society are invaluable. What is clear, this month and throughout the entire year, is that the tradition of service and the value of community responsibility thrives in the actions of this historic organization. I urge my colleagues to join me in applauding those who are taking part in the oldest and best of America's traditions—the spirit of service.●

HEALTHY KIDS ACT

● Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, recently I cosponsored legislation authored by my colleague from North Dakota, Senator CONRAD, which addresses a serious threat to public health: youth smoking. Every day 3,000 kids take up smoking, and tragically, 1,000 of them

will eventually die of tobacco-related illnesses. Since research has shown that 90 percent of all smokers begin smoking in their teens or younger, we must do more to prevent our children from becoming hooked on tobacco.

The Healthy Kids Act, S. 1638, takes the tobacco settlement negotiated by several states' attorneys general last summer and strengthens it. The bill provides the Food and Drug Administration with full authority to regulate tobacco. This would protect FDA's ability to, among other things, require health warnings on tobacco products, prohibit advertising aimed at children and insure the safety of tobacco ingredients. The bill imposes penalties on tobacco companies if they fail to reduce youth smoking rates by 67 percent over the next 10 years and funds research, prevention and smoking cessation programs. The bill also requires tobacco companies to make public their documents related to the health effects of smoking, manipulation of nicotine levels in tobacco and their efforts to market tobacco products to minors.

Finally, the legislation would impose a health fee on tobacco products of 50 cents per pack in 1999, increasing to \$1.50 per pack in 2001. While I have some concern about the level of this new fee, it has two important goals. The first, and most important, is to discourage children from taking up smoking. Most experts agree that a substantial increase in the price of cigarettes is the most effective way to reduce teen smoking. Secondly, this new fee rightly asks smokers to pay for some of the costs to states and the federal government of treating smoking-related health problems.

I don't agree with every provision in S. 1638, but I cosponsored it because I believe it is important that Congress pass comprehensive legislation to combat youth smoking this year. Tobacco should continue to be a legal product for adults, but we need to do more to keep it out of the hands of children and we must hold the tobacco industry accountable for their efforts to hook our kids.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. WENDELL C. SOMERVILLE

● Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I rise today to note the death of Dr. Wendell C. Somerville, who passed away on Sunday, December 28, 1997.

Dr. Somerville served his nation in the United States Navy and, at the age of 27, received his call to preach. In 1927, he was ordained in the Mill Neck Baptist Church of Como, North Carolina, by a council consisting of representatives of seven churches. From that time until his death, he pastored the First Baptist Church in Rocky Mount, North Carolina and, in 1934, he served as the first full-time Executive Secretary for the General Baptist State Convention.

By 1940, Dr. Somerville took on the assignment for which he is most re-

membered: Executive Secretary of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention, an organization to which dozens of Virginia churches belong. He served with distinction in this position for more than 55 years when he was unanimously elected Executive Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus, an office he held until his death. During his active tenure, he traveled extensively, making 28 trips aboard and one around the world where he met with foreign leaders in an effort to spread his positive message.

We cherish his memory as his work touched the lives of men, women and youth alike. Mr. President, I commend to the United States Senate and to the American people the life and public service of Dr. Wendell C. Somerville.●

URBAN POLICY, THE RICE FOUNDATION AND NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise today to call our attention to a most significant event to be held next week. On March 10, 1998, New York University will honor the generosity and vision of Henry Hart Rice with the first ever Henry Hart Rice Urban Policy Forum on "The Revitalization of New York City."

The moderator will be Dr. Mitchell L. Moss who has fittingly been named the Henry Hart Rice Professor of Urban Policy and Planning, a newly endowed chair at New York University. In addition to honoring the remarkable legacy and vision of Mr. Rice, this new chair, according to University President, L. Jay Oliva, "will play a major role in supporting undergraduate programs in urban policy that will be available to students from all schools of the University."

The study of urban policy is vital to the future of New York and our nation. Appropriate that it is carried out by as vital and lively an institution as NYU. But let us not lose sight of our history as we look forward. For the longest while we in New York defined ourselves by spectacular public works. The Croton Aqueduct, 1842—pick and shovel all the way for 41 miles to 42nd Street. We built Central Park in two years—more gunpowder than was used at Gettysburg. The Empire State Building—a public work really—14 months. Steam power. But the plain fact is that we have developed a civic culture in which prestige more often goes to those who prevent the city from developing than to those who enable it. The time has come to ask how this came about, and how it might be reversed.

Thus, it is with great anticipation that we look to Professor Moss, the esteemed participants in the Henry Hart Rice Urban Policy Forum, and the committed leaders at NYU, to lead us toward this end.●