

today deployed on U.S. and allied helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft around the world. John moved up to technical director for the Sanders Defense and Information Systems Division in 1983 and was then promoted to vice president and chief engineer for the division that same year. He was named vice president of the company's airborne countermeasures product line in the Electronic Warfare Division in 1984 and was named President in 1988.

John is nationally recognized as a leader in the electronic warfare field. He was honored in 1995 by Aviation Week magazine with the Aerospace Laurels Award and he holds a gold medal award from the Electronic Warfare Association.

As Chairman of the U.S. Senate Strategic Forces Subcommittee, I have witnessed firsthand John's contributions to our national defense and how his efforts have helped protect American lives. Our rights to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" are safer today because of John's leadership.

I have had the pleasure of John's friendship and mutual respect for the past 13 years. I wish John, Carole and his family much happiness in his retirement and I know he will enjoy his free time skiing mid-week in the White Mountains. John Kreick, best wishes and Godspeed. It is an honor to represent you in the U.S. Senate.●

BATAAN DEATH MARCH

● Mr. REID. Mr. President, during the early days of World War II, General MacArthur withdrew his forces from Luzon to the Bataan Peninsula. These forces were responsible for delaying the Japanese timetable for conquest by four months and for keeping the Japanese forces tied up in the Philippines. After four months of fighting, the combined American and Filipino forces were forced to surrender. Many perished in the fight, those that survived were in poor health or were wounded.

Following the surrender of forces in April 1942, the Japanese marched the 70,000 prisoners the length of the Bataan peninsula to prisoner of war camps. It is estimated that more than 10,000 perished during the Death March.

The tragedy and horror of the Death March is almost impossible to imagine. The prisoners were marched with little food and water from the southern end of the Bataan Peninsula to San Fernando, a total of 55 miles. From San Fernando, the prisoners were taken by rail to Capas where they were marched the final eight miles to Camp O'Donnell. Many of the prisoners were weakened from disease and from months of fighting. Those that fell behind were beaten badly by the Japanese troops—a prisoner unable to get up was often executed on the spot. Two out of every three Americans who fought at Bataan failed to return home, having either died in battle, during the Death March, or in prison camps.

This week, 80 survivors of the Bataan Death March are meeting in Reno, Ne-

vada for the American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor Western Chapter Convention. I want to take this opportunity to recognize some of the heroic veterans who were part of MacArthur's army which held off the numerically superior Japanese forces on the Bataan Peninsula for four long months. These heroes not only survived the horrific battle and the subsequent Death March, but also endured internment in POW camps in the Philippines, Manchuria, Korea, and Japan.

Several of the Bataan Death March survivors attending the convention are from my home state of Nevada. I'd like to recognize these veterans in the RECORD: Arthur Bartholf, Bill R. Black, John Bowler, Richard Breslin, Raymond Cavellaro, Chesley H. Irvin, Ralph Levenberg, Donald McDougall, Patrick E. Morris, Manuel Navarez, Douglas Northam, Tomas Pagaliluan, John D. Pasini, John Perkowski, Steve Rogers, George Small, Karl D. Tobey. There will also be survivors from California, Arizona, Oregon and Washington at the convention this week.

Mr. President, I speak for myself, for everyone here in the Senate, and for all Nevada citizens, I am deeply appreciative for the sacrifices these heroic men made who survived such horrific circumstances surrounding the Bataan Death March. I know this is a debt which we can never completely repay, but nonetheless it is so important to say—Thank you for your dedication and devotion to protecting our freedom and liberty.●

DISASTER ASSISTANCE TO ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

● Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, North Carolina suffered a great tragedy last Friday. In less than a moment, without any time for warning, two communities in Rockingham County were hit by powerful tornadoes that left two dead, nearly 30 injured, and indescribable destruction in their wakes.

The good people of Stoneville and Mayodan have pulled together and have already set about the difficult job of picking up the pieces and rebuilding their communities. Homes and businesses are being put back together. Roads, fields, and streams are being cleared of trees and debris.

Speaking for the state and Rockingham County, Mr. President, we are thankful for the federal disaster declaration, which came so quickly, and permitted the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and all the agencies and volunteer organizations to come to the scene so soon after disaster struck. And I have confidence that appropriate federal aid will continue.

Mr. President, I have been assured that funding in this Emergency Supplemental Appropriation will be used for recovery in Rockingham County. Further, I have a letter from Director James L. Witt indicating that FEMA has adequate funding for its emergency

response and recovery activities for this disaster. This federal help, combined with state and local resources, is exactly what is needed. I ask that Director Witt's letter be printed in the RECORD.

I offer my deepest sympathy to the families and loved-ones of those who perished in this disaster. They will be greatly missed. And, I wish a speedy recovery to those injured, with the hope that they will soon be able to join their communities in the rebuilding efforts.

The letter follows:

FEDERAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY,

Washington, DC, March 25, 1998.

Hon. LAUCH FAIRCLOTH,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC

DEAR SENATOR FAIRCLOTH: This is in response to your question regarding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Disaster Assistance Program funding. I can assure you that our Agency has adequate funding to carry out eligible emergency response and recovery activities for Rockingham County, NC, after last week's devastating tornadoes.

As you know, the President declared Rockingham County a Federal Disaster area on Sunday during my visit there. We are already serving citizens under our Individual Assistance program. In addition, we are awaiting the results of the States' Preliminary Damage Assessments to determine the need for Public Assistance. As soon as that information is collected and submitted to FEMA, we will review it and make a determination as appropriate.

We appreciate your interest in FEMA's Disaster Assistance programs and are standing by to offer North Carolinians assistance. If you have any further questions, please have a member of your staff contact our Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs at (202) 646-4500.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. WITT,
Director.●

FCC REPORT ON SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, the Appropriations Supplemental contains a provision sponsored by myself, the Appropriations Committee Chairman, Senator STEVENS, and the Commerce Committee Chairman, Senator MCCAIN, requiring the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to submit a report to Congress by May 8, 1998.

My provision requires the FCC to do several things. First, it directs the FCC to cure the defects found by the General Accounting Office (GAO) in the program's administrative structure. The GAO found that the FCC's implementation of schools/libraries program violated the Government Corporations Control Act (GCCA) in setting up independent corporations to administer the schools/libraries program. Mr. President, when the Congress wants to establish a separate corporation to administer a program it does so. That's why Congress set up the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The FCC does not have such unilateral authority to go creating a corporation because it wants to.

The report also asks detailed questions about how much money will be

needed to fund the program and how the FCC intends to collect the money. The goal is to administer the program without raising telephone rates. Therefore, the report asks detailed questions that are necessary to put the FCC on record to justify the cost of the program. The FCC made commitments to Congress that schools/libraries program would not raise rates and I intend to ensure that the agency keeps its word. If the FCC does not deliver on its commitments to protect consumers from rate increases, Congress will step in and make the FCC accountable.

Finally, my amendment also directs the FCC to cap the salary of the program's administrator at a government salary—as opposed to the \$250,000 salary the FCC set up. I support the program but the Congress must take measures such as these to ensure that the agency administers the law and policy that the Congress adopts. It is not the FCC's job to adopt policies which exceed the authority given to it by the Congress.●

COMMEMORATION OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to commemorate the 177th Anniversary of the beginning of the revolution that won Greece's independence from the Ottoman Empire. I was proud to join with fifty-one of my colleagues in sponsoring Senate Resolution 171 which designates today "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy."

The strong ties between the United States and Greece extend back to the birth of this nation. Indeed, the Founding Fathers looked to the principles formulated by the Greek philosophers when composing the governing documents of the United States. As Thomas Jefferson stated, "to the ancient Greeks . . . we are all indebted for the light which led ourselves out of Gothic darkness." America owes much to the Greeks for all they have given us, then and now.

The Greeks have been members of my state's communities for over one hundred years. Over 6,000 residents of Rhode Island claimed Greek heritage in the last Census. When they first came to the state they worked in the factories and on the shores. Today, the descendants of these first immigrants continue to prosper and enrich the state and rest of the country through their contributions to banking, medicine, the tourism industry and the arts.

Although today we commemorate the Greek victory over 400 years of domination by the Ottoman Empire, we must also remember that Greece is still not able to celebrate complete peace and freedom. Almost twenty-four years ago, Turkey invaded Cyprus and today 35,000 troops continue to occupy over 40% of the island and inflict human rights abuses on the 660,000 Cypriots. Recently, I was proud to sign on as a

cosponsor of a concurrent resolution which calls for the U.S. to encourage the end of restrictions on the freedoms and human rights of the enclaved people in the occupied area of Cyprus. We must continue to work to resolve the Cyprus problem and reduce the tensions that exist between Greece and Turkey.

But, for today, let us celebrate the anniversary of Greek Independence, the richness of the Greek heritage and the legacy of democracy that country gave to the world.●

IN RECOGNITION OF ALDO VAGNOZZI

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend from my home state of Michigan, Mr. Aldo Vagnozzi. Aldo is retiring after a long and distinguished career as a journalist for labor publications.

In 1948, Aldo Vagnozzi began his career in journalism as a Senior at Wayne State University, writing for the Michigan CIO News. He became editor of the Michigan AFL-CIO News, and served in that position until 1968, when he joined the Detroit Labor News. By 1970, Aldo was already considered a legend by many of his fellow labor journalists for the way in which he kept the labor community informed about news affecting the working people of Michigan. One of his colleagues is quoted in the Detroit Labor News as saying "The movement for worker rights and justice has been immeasurably strengthened by his dedication to his craft and his talents as a labor journalist."

Although he is retiring after 50 years of work, that does not mean that Aldo Vagnozzi's commitment to the people of Michigan is also coming to an end. In early May, he will participate in the Michigan Labor Press Conference, where he will share with other labor editors and writers some of the insights he gained throughout his career. And Aldo will also continue his leadership in the public service arena as well. His strong principles and beliefs have earned him the support of people from all walks of life and political persuasions in his home city of Farmington Hills, Michigan, where he serves as the first directly elected mayor in history.

Mr. President, throughout his 50 years in journalism, Aldo Vagnozzi has used the power of the written word to advance the cause of workers' rights, safety and justice. I know my colleagues will join me in saluting Aldo for his exceptional career and in wishing him well in his retirement.●

ORDER OF PRECEDURE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask to be recognized in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor of the Senate to speak of the tragedy which occurred in Jonesboro, AR, yesterday. News reports tell us that two boys, aged 11 and 13, dressed in camouflage, opened fire on the students and teachers of the West Side Middle School. Four children were killed, and a teacher who tried to shield other children also lost her life.

This tragedy did not occur in my home State of Illinois, but, sadly, it could have. Gun violence on children has become so common in America that kids killed in drive-by shootings are no longer lead stories on the national news. We are jarred into the harsh reality of modern American violence only when there is something unusual about the gun violence on children: the number of victims, the setting, or the perpetrators.

In Jonesboro, AR, five victims at a peaceful school, dead at the hands of other children with guns, have caught the national attention for at least a moment. News stories headline the tragedy. This evening's news begins with long features about what this means. Today, from Africa, President Clinton calls on Attorney General Reno to investigate. Parents across America pause for a heartbeat to wonder, "Can it happen to my child? Can it happen at my child's school?"

Sadly it can and it does.

I hope that America is not so careless or so inattentive not to take a moment and reflect on what is happening with these terrible crimes. Sadly, this is not the first or only instance when this has occurred. On December 1 of last year, a young boy opened fire on a student prayer circle in the hallway in Heath High School in West Paducah, KY. Three students were killed, five others wounded. A 14-year-old student, described as small and emotionally immature, was arrested.

Two months earlier, a 16-year-old outcast in Pearl, MI, was accused of killing his mother, then going to school and shooting nine students. Two of them died, including the boy's ex-girlfriend. Authorities later accused six friends of conspiracy, saying the suspects were part of a group that dabbled in Satanism.

Closer to here, a sniper who holed up in the woods wounded two students December 15 outside a school in the southwestern Arkansas town of Stamps. The two, both wounded in the hip, were hospitalized overnight. A 14-year-old boy was arrested in the manhunt.

And now the news reports to us what was confiscated as being in their possession. Mr. President, listen to what was confiscated in the possession of these two boys, 11 and 13, who opened gunfire at this Jonesboro school: three rifles, three revolvers, two semiautomatic pistols, two derringers, and 3,000 rounds of ammunition.

It is interesting when foreign visitors come to the United States and reflect