

country. In 1995 he was a member of the U.S. delegation to the 51st U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva. Last year he was nominated to serve an alternative representative of the U.S. delegation to the 51st U.N. General Assembly—a position subject to confirmation by the Senate. I want to remind my colleagues that no objection was raised to his nomination for this position, and the Senate confirmed him unanimously on May 23, 1997. In the final analysis, we've all got to make our private decisions about what we find acceptable, about which personal values we embrace. However, this Senator does not believe that private considerations should be used to deny an individual the right to hold a job for which he is qualified or to deny the full Senate its right to exercise its constitutional responsibility to act on a nomination. Those Senators standing in the way of this nomination should remove their "holds" and let the Senate work its will.●

PRAYER WARRIORS

● Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I was moved to find that more than 800 members of the D.C. community gathered together yesterday to pray for the District's public schools. The Rhema Christian Center Church invited people of all faiths to join them and pray for 25 school improvements which ranged from increased parental involvement to better safety.

They call themselves prayer warriors. They were each assigned to one of the District's 146 schools for the "Jesus Goes to School Day of Prayer." As the children of D.C. walked into school—outside the prayer warriors prayed.

Many of these children walk through dangerous neighborhoods—where drug deals and violence are common—on their way to school every day. These children begin their school day with negative images. Yesterday, however, was different. Yesterday, the children of D.C. began their school day with a strong, positive message of prayer and support from their community.

The prayer warriors said "We have tried everything else as a nation to save public education. Now, let's try prayer." Mr. President, we should recognize and affirm the example these prayer warriors have set in the nation's Capitol.●

SHEBOYGAN SELECTED TO LAUNCH CAMPAIGN AGAINST YOUTH INACTIVITY

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the City of Sheboygan, Wisconsin for being selected by the National Sporting Goods Association to launch the Wannabe Cool, Gotta be Active Campaign. The campaign, which targets students in grades 3-8, is designed to inspire confidence in one's abilities and to spur a lifetime dedication to physical and mental wellness.

We must recognize the importance of programs like this which give children options that empower them to lead healthy lives.

Mr. President, this is especially important when we consider that we are witnessing a decrease in activity among our nation's youth. Today, only 22 percent of our children are physically active for the recommended 30 minutes each day. Physical education classes are on the decline with three out of four students in America not attending daily physical education classes and one out of four not attending any physical education classes in their schools—this represents a drop of almost 20 percent in just four years. These are frightening statistics and we need to reverse this trend.

The Wannabe Cool, Gotta be Active Campaign is a good start. There are several things I like about the program. First, the campaign targets the right age group, because we know that a commitment to physical activity is formed between the ages of eight and twelve. I am also impressed that the campaign involves a cooperative effort: parents, students, teachers, and community leaders all working together. Finally, the Wannabe Cool, Gotta be Active Campaign is designed to encourage all youth, not just those who are athletically inclined to participate and develop long-term enjoyment of physical activity. This is a serious issue which demands our attention.

Mr. President, I would like to once again extend my congratulations to the wonderful city of Sheboygan, Wisconsin for being selected to kick off the campaign. I'm sure that everyone involved will benefit from this very worthwhile venture.●

SATELLITE REFORM

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, during the final days of the first session of the 105th Congress, I announced that I would engage in an effort to eliminate outdated regulations and foster competition in the global satellite market. Since that time, I have held several meetings with representatives from the industry. In addition, my staff has conducted a series of open briefings with the various parties currently competing in the market, as well as representatives from the White House, the State Department and the International Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission. These meetings have recently concluded, and I now plan to move forward legislatively on this critical issue.

The international satellite market is poised for phenomenal growth as it looks to the 21st century. A mere 10 years ago there was only one service in place: Intelsat. Today a breathtaking array of services are either already in existence or planned to be launched in the near future. With this rapid transformation, it becomes clear that one day people everywhere from Bozeman, Montana, to Beijing, China, will send

and receive telephone, video and data transmissions via satellite. The future of satellite communications is a future where opportunities are no longer limited by geography.

Unfortunately, while the industry hopes to reach a new orbit, U.S. policy in this area is still being left on the launching pad. Not since Ronald Reagan deregulated the satellite market in 1984 have we taken steps to bring our policy more in line with the competitive pressures of today. As a result, many consumers both here and abroad have not been able to benefit from the increase in services or the lowering of prices that have resulted from President Reagan's vision.

This is why I am going to use the upcoming recess to begin putting together a bill that will move U.S. satellite policy from the Stone Age to the Space Age. I intend to incorporate the views of all interested parties and I urge my colleagues to come to me with their ideas. I expect to have a bill completed and ready for introduction when we return later this month. I will hold a hearing in the Communications Subcommittee on the bill shortly after the Senate returns from the Easter recess. While I had originally planned to hold the hearing on April 22, I am moving the hearing date to April 29 to ensure that members have adequate time to give their insights and suggestions on this most important issue.

As I indicated when I first took on this issue, there will be several principles that will help guide me along the way. Competition, deregulation, privatization and competitive neutrality are all principles that have helped drive past industries toward success. While the global satellite industry is somewhat different because we are dealing with sovereign nations around the world, there is no reason that the United States cannot take a strong position and lead by example. It was our leadership under the 1962 Satellite Act that gave this industry its beginning and it can be our leadership today that brings the industry firmly into the 21st century. In fact, Mr. President, we recently witnessed such U.S. leadership. Last week, the Intelsat assembly of parties approved the creation of a spin-off company. This effort was achieved through the hard work of the U.S. delegation and the 141 member nations of Intelsat. I believe this is a positive first step on the path to bringing boundless opportunities to folks all over the globe.

I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in crafting legislation with the ultimate goal of encouraging competition in this industry. The rapid changes in technology and consumer behavior dictate that we act expeditiously. Market forces simply will not wait. I intend to work closely with my colleagues on the Commerce Committee to make sure that consumer interests are protected as we move forward on this vital issue.●

REMEMBERING THE 1997 WATERTOWN FLOOD

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity today to recognize the one year anniversary of one of the worst natural disasters to hit Watertown, South Dakota, and the amazing fact that, only one year later, Watertown continues to grow and prosper.

Referred to by South Dakotans simply as "the flood," the events surrounding April 5 and 6, 1997, had the potential to cripple one of the state's fastest growing cities. Instead, battling rising waters and a late season snowstorm, the residents of Watertown, South Dakota, overcame adversity and forged a true community, defined by selfless acts of caring, cooperation, and good will.

Few South Dakotans will forget the winter and spring preceding the April floods. Snowdrifts as high as buildings, roads with only one lane cleared, homes without heat for days, hundreds of thousands of dead livestock, and schools closed for a week at a time were commonplace. As if surviving the severe winter cold was not challenge enough, residents of Watertown could hardly imagine the extent of damage Mother Nature had yet to inflict with a 500-year flood.

Watertown residents could sense the impending flood. The first snow of the season fell in October, and six consecutive months of record-breaking snowfall covered ground that was already saturated from years of unusually wet winters. As the first warm days of spring slowly melted layers of the snowpack, Watertown residents began planning for flooding. Sandbags and earthen berms ringed Lake Kampeska and the Big Sioux River. However, despite careful planning, on April 5, an unexpected blizzard hit the state, devastating the area. Everything froze, creating further concerns about what was going to happen once the water began flowing again.

The unusual weather mix caused water levels to surge in a few hours. RECORD levels on the Big Sioux River and Lake Kampeska forced over 5,000 residents of Watertown, or one-fourth the city's population, to evacuate their homes. Over one-third of the city was without sewer and water for three weeks. The headline of the Watertown Public Opinion on April 6 read "Watertown in Peril," and I will never forget the image of homeowners and neighbors, shrouded in a late-season snow storm, sandbagging against the rising waters of the Big Sioux River and Lake Kampeska.

A number of individuals and organizations in Watertown are responsible for the amazing fact that, despite causing millions of dollars of damage to property, the 1997 flood failed to claim any lives. The work of Mayor Brenda Barger and other community leaders held Watertown together with their strength and direction. The city's ad-hoc crisis center brought together local

and county officials, volunteer agencies including the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Lutheran Social Services, and others, to brainstorm and compile "resource lists" of expected needs including equipment, people, and funds.

Local volunteers, students, prisoners, and National Guard personnel were recruited to first fight the rising waters with sandbags and then help clean-up as the waters receded. In the following days, over 750 port-a-potties were deployed on the lawns of those families who could return to their homes. Water trucks were brought in to provide people with a fresh water supply, and repairs to the damaged water treatment plant were completed ahead of schedule.

While those of us from South Dakota will never forget the destruction wrought by "the flood," I was heartened to witness first-hand and hear accounts of individuals coming together in Watertown to protect homes, farms, and lives from rising flood waters.

Mr. President, April 6 marks the one year anniversary of this terrible natural disaster in Watertown. However, residents of Watertown should look back on April 6, 1997, and be proud of the way they and their neighbors came together and worked side by side to see their community survive. It is this community spirit and pride that will continue to make Watertown "South Dakota's Rising Star."•

TRIBUTE TO THE VERMONT STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Vermont State Housing Authority on its 20th Anniversary of providing Vermonters with access to affordable housing.

On March 23, 1968, the Vermont State Housing Authority (VSHA), the nation's first statewide housing authority, was established to ensure that Vermonters have access to affordable housing. Over many years of initiative, dedication, and innovation, the VSHA has aggressively and compassionately pursued opportunities to make housing more accessible and affordable for Vermont's neediest families. I celebrate and extend my congratulations to VSHA.

As a Senator, my highest priorities focus on the essentials for each citizen—economic security, quality education, health care, and meaningful work. We all know that a home is a critical foundation for a successful journey through life. Every year VSHA helps Vermonters build this foundation by providing housing services that reach more than 5,300 families. From mobile home park residents to senior citizens, VSHA serves a wide range of citizens.

Over the years, VSHA has emphasized neighborhood reinvestment initiatives that provide essential supports needed to shape healthy, safe communities so its residents can thrive. The

professionalism, reliability, and accomplishments of the staff at VSHA are unsurpassed. Aware of the needs and hopes of Vermonters, the VSHA staff work tirelessly to preserve and create hopeful environments for Vermonters.

Mr. President, I commend the Vermont State Housing Authority for its outstanding contribution and dedication to improving the quality of life for Vermonters. I am both proud and honored to represent such an accomplished group of individuals here in Washington as they are a national model for how to provide affordable, quality housing opportunities for those in need.

I express my sincerest thanks for VSHA's 20 years of commitment to Vermont and her people. Their continued leadership and drive will continue to ensure that every Vermonter has a place to call home.●

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 1: TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE NATION

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the Vietnam Veterans of America for 20 years of service to veterans and their communities. In particular, I want to recognize the first chapter of the VVA, which was founded in Rutland, Vermont.

If we remember back to the late 1970s, our nation was dealing with the aftermath of a war in which more than 58,000 Americans lost their lives and 2.8 million veterans had served. Many of those veterans were struggling with physical, emotional, and social problems directly related to their service in Vietnam.

Those problems were worsened by the attitude of many Americans who could not separate their opposition to the war from their treatment of our soldiers who had fought it. It was in that spirit that a group of Vietnam veterans from Vermont approached a resourceful young veteran named Bobby Muller. I am proud to say that Bobby Muller has become a close friend of mine and in fact was in Vermont with me just last week. The Vermonters, led by Donny Beaudette and Jake Jacobsen, founded the first chapter of what is now the Vietnam Veterans of America. I remember it well. They were soon joined by other Vermonters like Clark Howland, Mike Dodge, John Bergeron, and others. Together, Chapter One made it their mission to be there for Vermont Vietnam veterans and indeed all veterans.

In the twenty years since then, Chapter One has accomplished that mission, and in the process they have improved the whole Rutland community. They have not only offered assistance to fellow veterans, they have saved the lives of countless troubled veterans who had no where else to turn. Chapter One is responsible for the Dodge Development Center, a veterans center and shelter for homeless veterans which I have