

Twenty-five years ago, April 30, 1973, the federal debt stood at \$457,063,000,000 (Four hundred fifty-seven billion, sixty-three million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,042,831,559,513.94 (Five trillion, forty-two billion, eight hundred thirty-one million, five hundred fifty-nine thousand, five hundred thirteen dollars and ninety-four cents) during the past 25 years.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO PENNY ABEGGLEN ON THE SECRETARY'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN NURSING

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I stand today to recognize a very special Montanan. Penny Abegglen has received the Secretary's Award for Excellence in Nursing from the Department of Veterans Affairs. I am very proud that Penny's hard work and dedication to veterans is being recognized with this award.

The Secretary's Award for Excellence in Nursing is one of the highest honors for nursing, and Penny competed with 172 nurses from around the country for this award. Her work in opening a sleep lab at Fort Harrison, Montana, demonstrates initiative above and beyond the call of duty. It has saved Montana's veterans with sleep disorders from making long trips out-of-state to receive treatment.

Penny has worked hard to provide better care to patients and to make herself a better nurse. She should be very proud of her accomplishments and of their well-deserved recognition by the Department of Veterans Affairs. It is a pleasure to let my colleagues and the American people know of the fine service Penny Abegglen has provided to Montana's veterans.●

"IT'S MY FIGHT, TOO"

● Mr. GREEN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to women, men, and their families who are fighting the scourge of breast cancer. As many of my colleagues may remember, last Spring, I submitted S. Res. 85, with my fellow Senator from New Hampshire, recognizing the family and friends of breast cancer patients in the struggle to cope with this disease. The Senate passed my Resolution by unanimous consent and expressed their overwhelming support for individuals who provide strength and support for loved ones fighting breast cancer. I come to the floor today to again note the importance of this expression and to recognize a very important organization in my home state of New Hampshire that is spreading this message to breast cancer patients across the country.

The American Cancer Society estimates that in 1998, 178,700 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed among women in the United States and 1,600 cases will be diagnosed among men. These numbers more than

triple in size when you consider the family and friends who are also impacted by the disease. With each and every one of these cases comes family and friends who are looked upon to provide the caring and loving needed to overcome such a terrifying disease.

The Northeast Health Care Quality Foundation, in Dover, New Hampshire, has done an excellent job of expressing this notion to the people of New Hampshire and beyond. With their campaign titled, "It's My Fight, Too," the Foundation has let individuals afflicted with breast cancer know that they are not alone in their struggle. It is important for the family to understand that their feelings are shared by others in their same situation and that they should find strength in numbers.

Awareness campaigns like "It's My Fight Too," are extremely important to foster an environment where support for both the individual with breast cancer and their family and friends is encouraged. Awareness is the key to allowing people to understand and identify with those suffering around them. We can all, as community members, provide support and strength to those in need.

As Mother's Day approaches, the Northeast Health Care Quality Foundation will be holding their annual event to recognize the important women in our lives who may or may not be suffering from this disease but who never the less, need to know that breast cancer is not just a women's disease but a struggle that can be fought by all of us together. Their event, "Family and Friends Against Breast Cancer, It's My Fight Too, A Night of Hope, Song and Love" will bring people from across the Northeast together to express the same support the Senate expressed with the passage of S. Res. 85. I commend the efforts of the Northeast Health Care Quality Foundation and encourage organizations across the country follow their leadership and example.●

THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the sixty-fifth anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps, and to pay tribute to the commendable service its members offered our nation. Created by President Franklin Roosevelt on March 31, 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps had a profound impact on this nation, helping to sustain the United States through the depths of the Depression, and setting a precedent for other federal agencies to carry on the diverse missions of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Within days after his presidential inauguration, Franklin Roosevelt initiated plans for the Civilian Conservation Corps, citing the need for an organization that would provide jobs for hundreds of thousands unemployed young men ages 18 to 25. President Roosevelt declared that the Civilian Conservation Corps would "conserve

our precious natural resources and pay dividends to the present and future generations. More important, we can take a vast army of the unemployed out into healthful surroundings." The Civilian Conservation Corps' intention was not only to provide services to the United States but also to give the unemployed an opportunity to live in healthful surroundings with a steady pay, room, board, and clothing.

By July 1, 1933, a quarter of a million enrollees had enlisted in the Civilian Conservation Corps, making it the fastest large-scale mobilization of men in U.S. history. The enrollees enlisted for six months with the option to re-enroll for another six months or a maximum of two years. They worked forty-hour weeks and received thirty dollars a month. Each month, they required the men to send twenty-five dollars to their families to help them through the difficulties of the Depression. The Civilian Conservation Corps provided members with the opportunity to learn a new skill and allowed them to attend classes to further their education. More than 100,000 men were taught to read and write with the aid of the Civilian Conservation Corps's education classes.

The accomplishments the Civilian Conservation Corps achieved in its nine year existence are impressive. Historical areas in Jamestown, Williamsburg, Yorktown, Fredericksburg and Spotylvania were restored and developed by the Corps members. At the program's peak, there were over 500 Civilian Conservation Corps camps in national, state, and local parks. Civilian Conservation Corps workers cleared trails, built buildings and shelters, fought forest fires, planted trees, and made other improvements to parks in all the states, territories, and possessions. The three million men planted a total of 2.3 billion trees, spent 6.4 million days fighting forest fires and eradicated diseases and pests. These accomplishments contributed to the Civilian Conservation Corps' lasting environmental legacy. Today, agencies such as President Clinton's Americorps, the Park Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service are continuing the tradition of the Civilian Conservation Corps by instilling a sense of value for our natural environment as well as for national service.

Communities across the country benefitted from the hard toil of the Civilian Conservation Corps. The camps helped local economies, bringing large numbers of consumers to the towns' stores and industries. More importantly, they aided the communities in times of crisis, searching for missing persons, fighting fires, and offering assistance to residents during snow and ice storms. The state of Connecticut received such services from the twenty forest camps located within the state during the peak of the Corps program.

Besides offering the members an opportunity to work, the Civilian Conservation Corps provided long-lasting friendships and ties that have endured over the sixty-five years since the Corps' inception. This sense of loyalty and pride extended to an unquestionable sense of pride for our country that is almost unparalleled. The work of the Civilian Conservation Corps remains as a monument to the young men who dedicated their lives to mending and preserving our natural resources. These men have earned the respect and honor of our nation. I offer my heartfelt thanks to the members of the Civilian Conservation Corps and congratulations on their sixty-fifth anniversary.

#### WEST LAFAYETTE GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

• Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the West Lafayette girls' basketball team in West Lafayette, Indiana as the 1998 Indiana Class 3A Girls' Basketball State Champion.

On Saturday, March 14, 1998, the West Lafayette Red Devils rallied under coach Steve Dietrich and assistant coaches Alyson Sautter and Corissa Yasen, to defeat the Franklin Community Grizzly Cubs, 62-45, to win Indiana's first girls' Class 3A title. The Red Devils finished their season with an impressive 24-4 record.

I congratulate the West Lafayette Red Devils on their season of excellence in the Hoosier tradition of basketball. I commend the players, coaches and supporters for their dedication and enthusiasm, which has fostered an outstanding girls' basketball program.

Members of the State Championship team are: Rachael Anderson, Captain; Abbie Erickson, Captain; Kuleni Gebisa, Captain; Keaton Brumm; Lello Gebisa; Lea Musselman; Joni Woods; Hannah Anderson; Johanna Smith; Megan Stackler; Kristen Aaltonen; Ebba Gebisa; and Jeannine Mellish. •

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I have a series of unanimous consent requests that I would like to make, one of which is that we will conclude our business today after the Senator from North Dakota has had an opportunity to make his remarks.

#### NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WEEK

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 352, Senate Resolution 175.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 175) to designate the week of May 3, 1998, as "National Correctional Officers and Employees Week."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution appear at this point in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 175) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 175), with its preamble, reads as follows:

Whereas the operation of correctional facilities represents a crucial component of our criminal justice system;

Whereas correctional personnel play a vital role in protecting the rights of the public to be safeguarded from criminal activity;

Whereas correctional personnel are responsible for the care, custody, and dignity of the human beings charged to their care; and

Whereas correctional personnel work under demanding circumstances and face danger in their daily work lives: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate designates the week of May 3, 1998, as "National Correctional Officers and Employees Week". The President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

#### U.S. HOLOCAUST ASSETS COMMISSION ACT OF 1998

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 351, S. 1900.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1900) to establish a commission to examine issues pertaining to the disposition of Holocaust-era assets in the United States before, during, and after World War II, and to make recommendations to the President on further action, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "U.S. Holocaust Assets Commission Act of 1998".

##### SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.

(a) *ESTABLISHMENT*.—There is established a Presidential Commission, to be known as the "Presidential Advisory Commission on Holocaust Assets in the United States" (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Commission").

(b) *MEMBERSHIP*.—

(1) *NUMBER*.—The Commission shall be composed of 21 members, appointed in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) *APPOINTMENTS*.—Of the 21 members of the Commission—

(A) 9 shall be private citizens, appointed by the President;

(B) 3 shall be representatives of the Department of State, the Department of Justice, and the Department of the Treasury (1 representa-

tive of each such Department), appointed by the President;

(C) 2 shall be Members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(D) 2 shall be Members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives;

(E) 2 shall be Members of the Senate, appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate;

(F) 2 shall be Members of the Senate, appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; and

(G) 1 shall be the Chairperson of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council.

(3) *CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP*.—Each private citizen appointed to the Commission shall be an individual who has a record of demonstrated leadership on issues relating to the Holocaust or in the fields of commerce, culture, or education that would assist the Commission in analyzing the disposition of the assets of Holocaust victims.

(4) *ADVISORY PANELS*.—The Chairperson of the Commission may, in the discretion of the Chairperson, establish advisory panels to the Commission, including State or local officials, representatives of organizations having an interest in the work of the Commission, or others having expertise that is relevant to the purposes of the Commission.

(5) *DATE*.—The appointments of the members of the Commission shall be made not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) *CHAIRPERSON*.—The Chairperson of the Commission shall be selected by the President from among the members of the Commission appointed under subparagraph (A) or (B) of subsection (b)(2).

(d) *PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT*.—Members of the Commission shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(e) *VACANCIES*.—Any vacancy in the membership of the Commission shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(f) *MEETINGS*.—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson at any time after the date of appointment of the Chairperson.

(g) *QUORUM*.—Eleven of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold meetings.

##### SEC. 3. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) *ORIGINAL RESEARCH*.—

(1) *IN GENERAL*.—Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (3), the Commission shall conduct a thorough study and develop an historical record of the collection and disposition of the assets described in paragraph (2), if such assets came into the possession or control of the Federal Government, including the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or any Federal reserve bank, at any time after January 30, 1933—

(A) after having been obtained from victims of the Holocaust by, on behalf of, or under authority of a government referred to in subsection (c);

(B) because such assets were left unclaimed as the result of actions taken by, on behalf of, or under authority of a government referred to in subsection (c); or

(C) in the case of assets consisting of gold bullion, monetary gold, or similar assets, after such assets had been obtained by the Nazi government of Germany from the central bank or other governmental treasury in any area occupied by the military forces of the Nazi government of Germany.

(2) *TYPES OF ASSETS*.—Assets described in this paragraph include—

(A) gold;

(B) gems, jewelry, and non-gold precious metals;

(C) accounts in banks in the United States;

(D) domestic financial instruments purchased before May 8, 1945 by individual victims of the Holocaust, whether recorded in the name of the victim or in the name of a nominee;