

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, be authorized to hold an executive business meeting during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 21, 1998, at 10 a.m., in room 226, of the Senate Dirksen Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet for a hearing on "Genetic Information and Health Care" during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 21, 1998, at 10 a.m.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 21, 1998, at 11 a.m. to hold a hearing on the nomination of Joan A. Dempsey to be Deputy Director of Central Intelligence for Community Management.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT PRODUCTION, AND REGULATION

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Energy Research, Development, Production, and Regulation of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 21, for purposes of conducting a subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on S. 1141, the Biodiesel Energy Development Act of 1997 and S. 1418, the Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act of 1997.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, PROLIFERATION, AND FEDERAL SERVICES

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on International Security, Proliferation, and Federal Services to meet on Thursday, May 21, 1998, at 10 a.m. for a hearing on "Benefits of Commercial Space Launch for Foreign Satellite and ICBM Programs".

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING VETERANS ON
MEMORIAL DAY

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, this weekend, Americans from all walks of life turn their thoughts to those men and women who died in the service of our nation. From the early heroes of

the Revolutionary War through those who fought and died in the Persian Gulf, about 1.1 million Americans have sacrificed their lives to preserve our precious freedom and to meet our commitments to allies around the globe. We are privileged to enjoy the benefits of the ultimate sacrifice that those men and women in our Armed Forces made on our behalf. We take this day to honor their memory and offer our deepest gratitude.

I remember when I was a young man, hearing those stirring words of President John Kennedy when he said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." Those words rang loud and clear in the hearts and minds of my generation. They captured our spirit and renewed our commitment to serve America.

Perhaps the noblest heroes of my generation were those who, in the midst of the great debate over Vietnam, stepped forward to serve their country and paid the ultimate sacrifice. Those sacrifices were borne from the same spirit that John Kennedy urged upon all of us in 1961. Regardless of political persuasions, none could argue that those who died in Southeast Asia were not among America's finest men and women. We salute them today, and will always remember and be grateful for their patriotism and sacrifice.

Those brave men and women who died in Vietnam, however, were not unique in American history. The legacy of courage, sacrifice, and patriotism has a long history in this country. During this century some 33,651 Americans lost their lives in Korea, 417,316 died during World War II, and 117,708 perished during the First World War. Almost 500,000 Americans—both North and South—lost their lives fighting for the America they believed in during the Civil War. We owe each and every one of those veterans and their families a debt of gratitude.

I hope that every New Mexican and every American will take time this Memorial Day to find a quiet moment to consider the enormity of what our fallen friends and families have bequeathed us. This nation is blessed beyond all others—providing us with a political system that guarantees each of us life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We are free to speak our minds. We are free to practice our faiths. We are free to travel this great land and be with whomever we choose. These precious gifts of freedom have not come free. They have endured through the blood of American heroes and heroines. We pause this day to say "thank you." We won't forget. •

TRIBUTE TO MISSOURI
BROADCASTERS

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the Missouri radio and television stations for their contributions to public service. This year, in a survey conducted for the Missouri

Broadcasting Association by Public Opinion Strategies, it was determined that Missouri Broadcasters aired \$44 million worth of public service announcements (PSA) in 1997. This amount was fourth best among the thirty-eight states who participated.

The survey reported that Missouri television stations air an average of 175 PSAs each week and radio stations air an average of seventy-five per week. That comes to a total of 18,775 PSAs weekly. Every television station and 94 percent of radio stations in Missouri participated in fundraising efforts for charitable organizations last year. Those organizations received a total of \$17.3 million in charitable donations because of the on-air PSAs made by Missouri's broadcasters.

The most frequent PSAs dealt with drug and alcohol prevention and abuse. Other common PSAs covered anti-crime efforts, hunger, poverty, the homeless, anti-violence and AIDS prevention. No other industry can make the impact that broadcasters can make. I am proud to say that the Missouri broadcasters are some of the best.

I commend the Missouri broadcasters for their untiring dedication in helping charitable causes in Missouri. It does make a difference and people are benefitting from these broadcasters' efforts. I join the many who thank the Missouri broadcasters for their support throughout the year. Whether it be charities, weather warnings or public health announcements, I know the Missouri broadcasters will be on-air to lead the cause. •

HONORING THE CONNECTICUT
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION ON ITS
150TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, there are many things about my home state of Connecticut that are a source of great pride to its people, but few are greater than the overall quality of our state's public schools. Connecticut students are performing at the highest levels in the nation on federally sponsored standardized tests. Three out of four Connecticut public school students go on to pursue higher education. And our public school students have outperformed students from private and parochial schools in our state.

Many people have contributed to the quality of our public schools, in particular our parents and students. But the backbone of Connecticut's public schools is its teachers. In my view, they are the finest in the country, and there are numbers that back me up. More than 80 percent of Connecticut's public school teachers have advanced degrees, the highest percentage in the country. They are among the nation's most experienced teachers, with the average teacher having taught for more than 15 years. And the greatest testament to the quality of their teaching is the accomplishments of Connecticut's students.

One organization, more than any other, has worked to ensure that Connecticut's children are taught by the finest teachers in the country, and that organization is the Connecticut Education Association (CEA).

The CEA is a membership organization that represents nearly 30,000 elementary and secondary public school teachers in our state. Through the years, the CEA has consistently promoted the value of public education, encouraged public awareness of the resources needed to provide quality education, and emphasized the importance of the teacher in the education process.

This is a significant year for the CEA: it celebrates its 150th anniversary. Over the past century and a half, the Association has been a consistent champion of children, teachers, and public education, and today, its voice on education issues is as strong as ever. There is no job more important than teaching our children, and I would like to thank and congratulate the Connecticut Education Association for a job well done. I wish them all the best as they celebrate this anniversary and continued success in the future.●

FINANCIAL SERVICES ACT OF 1998

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, today Senator SARBANES, the distinguished Ranking Member on the Senate Banking Committee, and I have announced that we will hold hearings on June 17th to begin the process of Senate consideration of the Financial Services Act of 1998, recently passed by the House of Representatives.

America is the financial leader of the world, and New York is the capital. But we cannot remain complacent. We must recognize that the world is changing and global competition is tougher than ever. We must meet this change head on. If we are to remain competitive and maintain our pre-eminent position in the marketplace, we must provide a climate that allows our financial system to be as efficient, and competitive as possible.

Mr. President, simply put, financial modernization will provide consumers with more choices. Financial institutions will be able to provide even more diverse services. Insurance companies, securities firms, brokerage houses, local banks and other institutions will be allowed to compete fairly with one another. But we must remember that while expanding the freedom of every American to make their financial choices, we must not sacrifice the safety and soundness or place the taxpayers at risk.

The issues surrounding financial modernization have in the past proven to be contentious. Our hearing next month will allow an open and frank dialogue with the Administration, industry groups and consumers.●

TRIBUTE TO WILLA CATHER

● Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, writer Willa Cather fashioned from her experi-

ences uncommon stories of the character of Nebraska's people and landscapes. It is my pleasure to pay tribute to Cather because, like many Nebraskans, her writing continues to inspire me.

This year, we celebrate three major anniversaries in Cather's life. Seventy-five years ago, Cather won the Pulitzer Prize for "One of Ours." One of her best known novels, "My Antonia," will have its 80th anniversary on September 21st. Finally, December 7th marks the 125th anniversary of her birth.

Cather's writings illustrate a Nebraska of stark landscapes, epic frontiers, and mysterious grandeur. Her characters are often placed in a Nebraska panorama to which Cather gave breathtaking expression. Shortly after moving from the east to Nebraska at the age of nine, Cather realized that that shaggy grass country had gripped me with a passion I have never been able to shake. It has been the happiness and the curse of my life."

For Cather in "My Antonia," Nebraska is raw and vast, the material out of which countries are made. . . naked as the back of your hand." Out of the passion she felt for Nebraska's materials, Cather wrote with unparalleled sensitivity about the soil, trees, and wildflowers of the landscape. In The "Song of the Lark," the cottonwoods are the light-reflecting, wind-loving trees of the desert, whose roots are always seeking water and whose leaves are always talking about it, making the sound of rain."

The inhabitants of the land are connected to and determined by this landscape. Thus, in many of Cather's novels, the character is a pioneer, whether literally or as artist, one breaking new ground, finding his or her own path, creating his or her own landscape. In the hands of Cather's sparse and evocative prose, questions of the pioneering self shaped by experience and tested by difficulty indicate Cather's commitment through her characters to integrity.

Readers continue to feel the special relationship between the wonder of Nebraska and the dignity of its people through Cather's well known novels "O Pioneers, My Antonia, One Of Ours," and "Death Comes for the Archbishop," as well as her poetry and other stories. I invite you to join me in honoring Willa Cather on the 75th anniversary of her Pulitzer Prize, the 80th anniversary of "My Antonia," and in memory of her 125th birthday.

In "The Wild Land," Cather writes, The history of every country begins in the heart of a man or a woman." Thanks to Cather's artistry, we continue to be moved by the written recordings of Nebraska's history.●

SPACE DAY

● Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of "Space Day" to recognize the accomplishments and achievements we have made in the

United States over the last quarter of the century in space-related activities.

The space industry has rapidly evolved from public sector dominance to private sector innovation. Throughout the industry's infancy, the Department of Defense's military operations and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's activities dominated the emerging space frontier. These DOD and NASA initiatives served as catalysts in the commercialization of space. Many advances in technology have resulted, leading to new jobs, industries, and exciting new opportunities for uses of space that we cannot yet imagine.

The growth within the space industry, and the opportunities created have been dramatic. The space industry is a major contributor to our economy, and has spurred technological advances over the past 20 plus years. In 1996, total industry revenues from the commercial sector exceeded those from the government sector for the first time ever. Revenues from the space industry are currently running at approximately \$85 billion annually, and are projected to increase to approximately \$121 billion by the year 2000.

Although participation in space initiatives has been and continues to be capital intensive, this arena is fertile ground for smaller entrepreneurs and innovative startups. One of the key factors has been the huge market for satellite launches. The demand for telecommunications services and the distribution of television and cable programming caused the satellite capacity to expand. This industry is continuously evolving to include a host of new satellite-based services including worldwide mobile telephony, and infrastructure for the television industry. Through continued Federal investment in space ventures, we can also see other emerging applications such as distance learning, telemedicine, and the exploration of microgravity conditions of materials in a clean space environment on the International Space Station.

Transferrable technologies—"spin-offs"—from government space initiatives are now being used in various commercial applications. For example, as a result of tests aimed at improving the performance of NASA's Space Shuttle, the Boeing Company was able to hone its design of the Boeing 777 aircraft at NASA's facilities. Several NASA innovations were instrumental in the development of that aircraft, including wind tunnel tests to confirm the structural integrity, use of lightweight composite structures for increased fuel efficiency and range, and the use of computer modeling to conduct advanced computer-based aerodynamic analysis. The is the largest twin engine jet manufactured today. Other such spinoffs include fire retardant materials used in space flight suits now being used for fire fighters and automotive insulation for race car drivers, and various sensors that monitor radioactive materials and environmental control, to cite just a few.