

military ruler, Gen. Sani Abacha, yesterday in Abuja, the capital city of Nigeria. Although the circumstances surrounding his death remain unclear, it is my hope that his death will provide an opportunity for a new era in Nigeria.

As the Ranking Democrat of the Senate Subcommittee on Africa, I have long been concerned about the collapsing economic and political situation in Nigeria. Nigeria, with its rich history, abundant natural resources and wonderful cultural diversity, has the potential to be an important regional leader. But, sadly, it has squandered that potential and the good will of the world with repressive policies, human rights abuses and corruption, all of which proliferated during Abacha's tenure.

Although there was no clear line of succession, Nigeria's top military leaders met into the night yesterday to select Gen. Abdulsalam Abubakar as the new head of state. We do not know much about Gen. Abubakar, but we know that he has an historic opportunity to effect real political change for the country.

Last month, I introduced the Nigerian Democracy and Civil Society Empowerment Act (S. 2102). The provisions of my bill include benchmarks defining what would constitute an open political process in Nigeria. I call on Gen. Abubakar to implement as soon as possible some of these important changes, such as the repeal of the repressive decrees enacted under Abacha's rule, so that genuine reform can finally take place in Nigeria. The new leadership should demonstrate respect for the rights of all Nigerians to express their views. Most importantly, Gen. Abubakar should take advantage of this opportunity to immediately move toward free and fair elections and unconditionally release all political prisoners, including the winner of the annulled 1993 elections, Chief Moshood K.O. Abiola.

Abacha's death should represent not just a change in leadership, but ought to result in real change for the average Nigerian.

Finally, I believe the United States should take a clear and public stand to demonstrate its support for a clear transition to civilian rule in Nigeria. Now is the time for the United States to make unequivocally clear that the military should exercise restraint in the near and long term, begin to build bridges to the pro-democracy forces, and do everything possible to end the current political crisis and restore legitimacy to the Nigerian government.

I urge the Administration to communicate these sentiments quickly to Nigeria's new leadership.●

TRIBUTE TO JUNE SALANDER

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to June Salander of Rutland, Vermont. On May 9, 1998 June Salander celebrated her bat mitzvah

at the remarkable age of 89. Mrs. Salander is a dear neighbor, mentor, and friend from my days growing up in Rutland, Vermont. It is believed she is the oldest Rutlander to celebrate a bat mitzvah. Over a hundred people attended the ceremony, one of many indicators of the inspiration she is to her family, friends, community, and faith.

Born in 1908 in Poland, June Salander came to America in 1920 to New York City with her family via Ellis Island. In 1941 she married her husband and moved to Vermont where she has resided ever since. In her many years as a citizen of Rutland she has been an active member of the community. She has served as a volunteer at the Rutland Jewish Center, as a Hebrew School teacher, and at the Rutland Hospital with the Grey Ladies.

In addition to filling the role as a bedrock member of her community she has also filled many stomachs with her famous cooking. Her strudel is legendary throughout the area and to the many people traveling through who she has opened her home to over the years. Her strudel recipe was even featured in a cookbook containing Jewish recipes honed in the United States. I can personally attest to the greatness of June Salander's cooking as I was able to eat breakfast at the Salanders when I was growing up as a boy on Kingsley Avenue in Rutland. She continues to teach cooking informally and will appear on a cooking video that will air on PBS in the near future.

Perhaps her most admirable quality is the energy she continues to display as she reaches her golden years. For some it means an idle time in their life but not for June Salander. When she was sixty-two she received her real estate license and remained active until recently. She picked up tennis when she was seventy-three and played for almost ten years. This fall she will travel all the way to Israel to attend the wedding of a niece.

I am glad my wife Liz was able to attend June's bat mitzvah on that Saturday and pass on our well wishes to June. I also wish her well as she approaches her ninetieth birthday on June 28, 1998. Mr. President, I would like to publicly recognize June's upstanding citizenship and the inspiration she is to the rest of us as she continues to embrace life into her nineties.●

TRIBUTE TO JACQUELYN BENSON AND ALEXANDER KAUFMAN 1998 UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Jacquelyn Benson and Alexander Kaufman of New Hampshire for being named 1998 United States Presidential Scholars.

Jacquelyn Benson is a student at Winnacunnet High School in Hampton Falls, New Hampshire, and has been active in her school's National Honor So-

ciety and Art Department. Jacquelyn plays the piano, is currently working on a book of fiction, and plans to attend Northeastern University in the fall. She chose Ms. Toni Talas as her most influential teacher.

Alexander Kaufman is also a 1998 Presidential Scholar. As a student at Phillips Exeter Academy in Dover, New Hampshire, Alexander has excelled in writing and math and was the editor of the school's poetry journal. He is also active in environmental issues and will be attending Harvard University in the fall. Alexander selected the late Frederick Tremallo as his most influential teacher.

The United States Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964, by Executive Order of President JOHNSON, to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. Each year, the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars selects up to 141 Scholars on the basis of their accomplishments in many areas: academic and artistic success, scholarship, leadership, and involvement in school and community. The Commission invites the students to Washington, DC, to be honored for their accomplishments during National Recognition Week.

The Scholars, as guests of the Commission, along with their families and the teachers whom the Scholars have chosen as the "most influential" in their academic and artistic endeavors, will be involved in many activities while in Washington, DC. They will participate in informative panel discussions, a ceremony sponsored by the White House, a reception and art exhibit of the work by Scholars in the Visual Arts at the National Museum for American Art, and an evening at the Kennedy Center featuring performances by the Scholars in the Performing Arts.

As a former teacher and school board chairman, I recognize the challenges involved in providing students a quality education. Congratulations to Jacquelyn and Alexander for their distinguished recognition. I am pleased they have been recognized for their success and it is with great pleasure that I represent them in the United States Senate.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. GRACE BABCOCK

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, it is my great pleasure to honor Mrs. Grace Babcock of Helena, Montana. Grace will be 88 years young on July 29, 1998. She has the wonderful distinction of being the oldest state employee for my home state of Montana. I join Grace's family, friends, and co-workers in thanking her for a job well done!

Grace was born on July 29, 1910 in Deer Lodge, Montana. She was one of nine children. Early on, here family moved to the Canton Valley outside of Townsend, Montana. She married Carter Babcock in 1930. They became

the proud parents of two girls, Marilyn and Joyce. In 1941, the family moved to Helena. Although Carter died in 1970, Grace kept the family going. She now dots on her seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Grace worked for the accounting firm of Galusha, Higgins, & Galusha until her retirement in 1976. Then, in 1980, it was the beginning of her career with the State of Montana. Grace is certainly a role model not only for active seniors but also for so many young people across our state. She has been blessed with good health and uses her talents to help others.

On behalf of all Montanans, I would like to congratulate you, Grace, for your help in making our state truly the "last best place!" Mr. President, I yield the floor.●

TRIBUTE TO BLUEMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

● Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a group of outstanding students from the state of Kansas. Cindy Garwick's first grade class from Bluemont Elementary School in Manhattan, Kansas, has been chosen as a finalist team in the Toshiba/National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) Exploravision Awards Program.

The NSTA Exploravision Awards Program is the largest K-12 student science competition in the country. This year, there were nearly 5,000 entries from more than 17,000 students in the United States and Canada. The class was chosen as a finalist for this prestigious award for their invention display prototype, "The DNA Door Open."

It is difficult to imagine how much time and energy was spent on this project by these outstanding young students. The award that they have received is a testament to their hard work and dedication. It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge Bluemont Elementary School's first grade class for the honor they have received. I congratulate them and wish them continued success.●

TRIBUTE TO DONALD BODETTE—A VETERAN'S VETERAN

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen hero. His name is Donald Bodette and he passed away last August 10th after a long battle with cancer. However, his legacy lives on and he will be honored on June 14th at the Dodge Development Center in Rutland.

Don retired from the Marine Corps in 1968 and received a Purple Heart for wounds sustained in Vietnam. For those of us who knew Don, this information was a well kept secret. He was never inclined to tell you about his heroics. He did tell war stories as a way to draw other Vietnam Veterans out of their isolation. Don's theory was a very simple one and is the premise

used today to help Vietnam Veterans worldwide—discussing traumatic war experiences with another veteran with a similar experience is the best way to heal.

An article in The Rutland Herald on August 12, 1997 announced that Donny had passed away, at age 48, at the VA hospital in White River Junction. As I read, I was struck by some of the tales recounted by his fellow veterans. Three of Don's best friends, Jake Jacobsen, Albert Trombley and Clark Howland, talked about meeting Don through a newspaper ad that only said, "Vietnam Veterans, we need to talk." According to Trombley, "He didn't have any master plan. He would stop and look for people, he would put advertisements in the paper to get veterans to come out, and once he found one or two, they would find two or three. He got all around the state of Vermont."

In the late 1970s, Don was instrumental in shaping the course of a fledgling organization known as the Vietnam Veterans of America (VA). He believed that the VA should be more than an activist group, and Don was so successful in his efforts to establish local chapters that Rutland, Vermont boasts the first VA chapter in the country. According to Jake Jacobsen, "Donny and I never worried about membership. If we're good enough, they'll want to join us."

Don helped found the Veterans Assistance Office (VAO) in Rutland sixteen years ago. It was designed as a non-profit community based organization to support veterans in a variety of different ways. The VAO still serves in that capacity today. The VAO's current director, Clark Howland, says of Bodette, "I owe him a lot. He helped an unknown number. I'd say it would run in the thousands of veterans. And what we're doing now is just to carry on for what Donny started."

Farewell Don. Your legacy of service will live on through your selfless acts that improved the lives of countless Vermont veterans.●

CBO COST ESTIMATE—S. 1275

● Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, when the Committee filed its report on S. 1275, the Northern Mariana Islands Covenant Implementation Act, the cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office was not available. The estimate has since been received and I ask that it be printed in the RECORD for the information of the Senate.

The cost estimate follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, June 8, 1998.

Hon. FRANK H. MURKOWSKI,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 1275, the Northern Mariana Islands Covenant Implementation Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contacts are John R. Righter

(for federal costs), Marc Nicole (for the state and local impact), and Ralph Smith (for the private-sector impact).

Sincerely,

JUNE E. O'NEILL,
Director.

Enclosure.

S. 1275—Northern Mariana Islands Covenant Implementation Act

Summary: S. 1275 would amend the covenant act between the United States and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), a territory of the United States, to reform the immigration laws of CNMI. It also would establish a special committee to set minimum wage rates by industry within CNMI. The estimated cost of S. 1275 depends on whether the Attorney General would elect to apply the provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) to CNMI. If the Attorney General (AG) decided not to apply the INA, CBO estimates that, on average, implementing S. 1275 would increase annual costs by less than \$500,000, subject to appropriation of the necessary amounts. If the AG did apply the INA, as modified for CNMI by S. 1275, CBO estimates that, subject to appropriation of the necessary amounts, implementing S. 1275 would increase costs—mostly at the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)—by less than \$500,000 in fiscal year 1999 and a total of between \$7 million and \$8 million over the 1999-2003 period.

In addition to the increase in discretionary costs, S. 1275 also could affect direct spending if the AG applies the INA to CNMI; consequently, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. CBO estimates, however, that any change in direct spending would have no significant net budgetary impact each year.

S. 1275 contains intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) because the bill would preempt the immigration and minimum wage laws of CNMI. CBO estimates that the costs of such mandates would not be significant and that the threshold for intergovernmental mandates established in UMRA (\$50 million in 1996, adjusted annually for inflation) would not be exceeded.

S. 1275 contains private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Section 2 would impose a mandate on employers by limiting the number of temporary alien workers who could be legally present in CNMI. Section 3 would impose a mandate on employers by increasing the minimum wage which they would be required to pay their employees; the amount of the mandated increases in wages would be determined by an industry committee established as a result of enactment of this legislation. CBO cannot determine whether the direct cost to employers of those mandates would exceed the \$100 million inflation-adjusted annual threshold specified in UMRA.

Description of the bill's major provisions: Within one year of enactment, S. 1275 would require that the AG determine whether CNMI possesses the institutional capacity to administer its own system of immigration control, consistent with minimum safeguards selected by the AG, and the will and commitment to enforce the system of immigration control. During this period, the bill would limit the number of temporary alien workers on CNMI to the number of individuals present at the date of enactment. If the AG determines that CNMI has both the institutional capacity and the commitment, then the INA would not take effect, although the bill would require that the AG make a new determination every three years thereafter.

If the AG determines that CNMI lacks either the institutional capacity or the political will to enforce its own system of immigration control, the bill would require that