

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

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### ISTEA REAUTHORIZATION

• Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, I would like to speak on reauthorization of the highway bill. I respectfully urge the Majority Leader to take up Senate Bill 1173—ISTEA—now. Let's not delay its consideration into the spring.

The State's highway programs are already operating under a temporary funding extension. I believe that further delaying consideration of S. 1173 will add more uncertainty to the States' highway construction.

As I mentioned, before this body adjourned last November, we passed a temporary extension of the highway bill, after repeated attempts to begin debate on the bill failed.

It now appears that floor consideration of S. 1173 may be delayed until after the Senate considers the Fiscal Year 1999 Budget Resolution.

I am second to no Member in my commitment to a balanced federal budget. However, I believe that we must also follow through on our commitment to quality infrastructure, and these two objectives are by no means mutually exclusive.

The current funding extension expires on March 31. That means that all federal highway funds will be cut off on May 1. Clearly, prompt action on ISTEA is critical to maintaining the flow of federal highway dollars.

Unlike delays last fall, however, these spring delays for ISTEA will occur in the middle of construction season. This will compound the disruptive effects of this halt on highway projects—and the jobs they support—around the country.

In the northern States, it is critical that construction funding flows at this time of year. The window for road construction work in many areas is limited by weather factors during the winter months.

Many states, including my own, have highway construction projects underway that are designed to reduce traffic congestion. This congestion worsens air quality, causes "road rage," increases wear and tear on vehicles, wastes fuel, and robs American businesses and families of valuable time.

Cutting off crucial federal funds for these projects undermines State efforts to deal with their congestion problems.

It is very unfortunate that highway fatalities continue to rise. By Federal Highway Administration estimates, poor road maintenance may contribute to as many as 30 percent of fatal accidents, resulting in thousands of deaths per year. Safety-related highway work faces stoppage if we delay consideration of ISTEA.

In fact, in North Carolina, 300 million dollars in safety projects may be delayed if federal funds are not approved.

I want to emphasize that these funds come from gas taxes collected every time Americans pull up to the pump. This "user fee" arrangement is supposed to ensure that these taxes pay for improving their highways.

Mr. President, 31½ billion dollars in gas taxes are collected each year, of which about 20 billion dollars actually goes towards highways. Even as we delay consideration of S. 1173, Americans pay their gas taxes in the belief that much-needed highway improvements will be funded.

Looking at the legislative calendar between now and May 1, when federal highway funds will dry up, there are 41 legislative days including Mondays and Fridays.

Even after we debate and pass a bill in the Senate, we have a conference report to complete.

Other issues are sure to be considered here, including potential military conflict with Iraq, IRS restructuring, campaign finance reform, and the budget resolution. That will take us well into April at best.

If we do not act on S. 1173 now, a lapse in federal highway funding is a virtual certainty. The presence of other important matters on the calendar only increases the importance of bringing up the Highway bill.

This is our obligation. It is our obligation to the millions of motorists who pay gas taxes, and the contractors, subcontractors and employees working on highway projects.●

##### RED CEDAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 50TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the 50th anniversary of the Red Cedar Elementary School in East Lansing, Michigan. The school began immediately following World War II in an effort to educate the children of G.I.s who moved to East Lansing to get an education promised by the G.I. bill. Since that time, Red Cedar has grown tremendously and has come to hold a prominent place in the East Lansing community. Because many of the students are from other countries, the diverse backgrounds and beliefs that make up the Red Cedar community provide for a truly unique learning environment.

This momentous occasion has been celebrated throughout the month of February within both the Red Cedar and East Lansing communities and will culminate on the evening February 27, 1998 with a reception and a dance for students, parents and other members of the community. It is with great pleasure that I recognize and congratulate the Red Cedar Elementary School on their 50th anniversary.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.●

##### DR. ROBERT A. REID, INCOMING PRESIDENT OF THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise to recognize Dr. Robert Reid, who on Feb-

ruary 16, 1998, became the 133rd President of the California Medical Association, the largest state medical association in the nation. With a membership of 35,000 physicians, the California Medical Association represents California physicians from all regions, medical specialties, and modes of practice.

Dr. Reid's medical career is both long and distinguished. For more than 25 years, he was a practicing OB/GYN, and is currently Director of Medical Affairs for the Cottage Health System in Santa Barbara, California. Dr. Reid has also served as the hospital's Chief of Staff, and was a member of its Board of Directors from 1991 to 1996. Dr. Reid is a Fellow of the American College of Obstetrics-Gynecology and Past President of the Tri-Counties Obstetrics-Gynecology Society. A former President of the Santa Barbara County Medical Society, Dr. Reid also served as Alternate Delegate to the American Medical Association.

Born in Milan, Italy, Dr. Reid is a graduate of the University of Colorado Medical Center. He lives in Santa Barbara, California, with his wife Patricia, and is the father of four grown children.

At a time of rapid change in the medical profession, Dr. Reid's leadership will be most welcome. I extend my congratulations to him, and wish him the very best in his term as President of the California Medical Association.●

##### TRIBUTE TO EDWARD AKER, DEVOTED PUBLIC SERVANT

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of Edward Aker, of Adelphi, Maryland, who passed away last week of brain cancer.

Ed was an executive officer with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) for nearly two decades. His service brought him posts in many countries, including Israel, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Pakistan, Somalia, Kenya and Tanzania. He was known by citizens throughout the Washington area and the world for his commitment to his mission, and his desire to help the underprivileged by encouraging economic development, humanitarian assistance and international cooperation.

Ed distinguished himself with his public service. He served in the United States Navy during the Korean War, and worked at a number of government agencies including Housing and Urban Development, the State Department, and the General Services Administration before commencing his distinguished career at the United States Agency for International Development. He graduated from the University of Maryland, received masters degrees from the U.S. International University in Nairobi and San Diego, and received a PhD in business administration from Pacific Western University.

Ed was admired by many for his patriotism, commitment to his family, dedication to his job, and uplifting

spirit. He was the type of dedicated public servant that all Americans can admire. He was a no-nonsense executive who could be tough when the job had to get done; but, he combined this strong work ethic with a quick wit, great sense of humor and special charm. His generous smile will be missed by all who knew him.

Ed Aker was buried today, Tuesday, February 24th, 1997, with military honors at Arlington National Cemetery. I extend my deepest sympathies to his wife, Lisa, his sons, Mike and Tim, his stepson, Jared, and his grandson, Mitchell. He leaves behind a legacy of which his family can be very proud.●

#### THE HEROISM OF CHRISTOPHER SIMMONS

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would like to enter into the RECORD an amazing story of heroism and courage. Faced with the threat of severe injury to his 4-year-old brother, Michael, Christopher Simmons, an 8-year-old from Mt. Vernon, Illinois, boldly placed himself between his brother and a 95-pound dog. In doing so, Christopher demonstrated a profound sense of selflessness that is all too rarely reported. His heroism, as described in an article in the Mt. Vernon Register-News, was quite possibly the only thing that saved his younger brother from serious bodily harm.

On April 6, 1997, as the boys' father, Phillip Simmons, spoke with the dog's owner, Christopher noticed the boxer playfully tugging at Michael's jacket. Suddenly, the dog lunged for the 4-year-old's throat. Christopher, without the slightest hesitation, stepped in front of the attacking dog and kicked it in the left eye. The dog, startled momentarily, became more angry and jumped onto Christopher, clawing and biting his chest. Fortunately, Christopher's quick thinking gave his father enough time to come to his aid, removing the dog from the boy's chest and subduing it until the owner arrived.

Christopher received two chest wounds and lost a significant amount of blood. Michael, now 5 years old, needed surgery to repair a wounded jaw and a severely damaged ear. The dog's teeth barely missed nerves that help control the movements of the eyes and the jaw. If the dog had been able to do more harm to Michael, the little boy may not have survived.

This horrible incident had one positive consequence: Christopher will be in Washington next month to represent 2.1 million Cub Scouts as he presents President Clinton with the Scouts' annual Report to the Nation. I am pleased to have this opportunity to join President Clinton in honoring Christopher for his tremendous heroism and outstanding courage. I ask that the Mt. Vernon Register-News article describing Christopher Simmons' act of heroism be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Mount Vernon Register-News, Feb. 2, 1998]

#### MT. VERNON YOUTH WHO SAVED BROTHER FROM DOG TO MEET WITH CLINTON

MT. VERNON—A young boy who stepped between his 4-year-old brother and a 95-pound attacking dog is being rewarded for his bravery with a meeting with President Clinton.

Christopher Simmons, 8, has been chosen to represent the nation's 2.1 million Cub Scouts in presenting scouting's yearly Report to the Nation in the Oval Office next month.

His bravery also earned him the Scouts' rare Honor Medal, "for unusual heroism in saving or attempting to save life at considerable risk to self." Only 42 such medals were earned last year by the nation's 4.5 million Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Explorers.

Christopher's story began last April 6 when his dad, Phillip, took along Christopher, then 7, and his brother, Michael, to help the dog's owner with some yard work.

Phillip Simmons was chatting with the man, who is in his 80s, when he saw the dog shaking Michael by his coat. The boxer then released its grip and aimed for Michael's throat.

"As his jaws closed on Michael's head, Christopher launched a kick that connected with the dog's left eye," the father recalled last week. "The pain further enraged the dog, who instantly turned on Christopher."

As Christopher stepped back, with the dog's paws on his chest and its jaws ripping at his coat, the momentary diversion gave Simmons time to reach his sons.

"I jumped on him and kicked him," Christopher, a third-grader at St. Mary's School, recalled last week at his home here. "Then he jumped on me. By that time my dad was there. I pulled my brother out of reach of the dog."

Seizing the dog by one ear, Phillip Simmons rammed his fist down the animal's throat and held him against a car.

"As the dog struggled, I looked back to see Michael standing frozen in a pool of blood, still within reach of the dog if he got loose," the father recalled.

"Chris, even though bleeding from two sets of chest wounds, had the presence of mind to pull Michael out of range of the boxer so I could release the dog," Phillip Simmons added. "There is no doubt that if it had not been for Christopher's quick thinking and action, I would have lost my 4-year-old son."

Michael, now 5, had to have surgery on his jaw and dangling left ear. Physicians stitched along a crease so that the ear would heal with no visible damage. The boxer's teeth barely missed a nerve that controls the eye and another that controls the jaw.

A typically lively 5-year-old, Michael seems to have few emotional scars, though his parents say he is very afraid of dogs.

The dog had no history of harming or threatening anyone.

Instead of insisting the dog be killed, the Simmons family agreed to allow the boxer to be sent to a breeding farm where children were not allowed. The dog has since died.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JACK VAN HOOSER

● Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, at the end of this month, Jack Van Hooser the Commissioner for Rehabilitation Services for the State of Tennessee is retiring after thirty-five years of dedicated service. Throughout his career, Jack has been a tireless servant of the State of Tennessee and has worked to empower individuals with disabilities to

achieve independence and gain employment. Jack's record of achievement is impressive. In 1996, under his direction, the Tennessee Vocational Rehabilitation Program served 26,032 individuals with disabilities of which 81 percent were severely disabled. Of the individuals, served 5,820 were successfully employed with more than 90 percent of them working in the competitive labor market. The annualized income of these 5,820 individuals, once they entered the work force increased from \$8.732 million to \$64.233 million. I am proud of Jack's leadership and the achievement of his agency.

Jack began to develop the strong leadership skills that have transcended through his distinguished career while attending Columbia High School in Columbia, Tennessee. At Columbia High, Jack was elected President of the Student Body, and served as the captain of the football, baseball and basketball teams. In football, Jack was All-State for two years and made the All-Southern and All-American teams.

After High School, Jack attended Tennessee Tech where he met his wife of forty-three years, Wanda with whom he has two sons, Jay and Dave. He continued his sports career at Tennessee Tech where he played football and baseball. As Tennessee Tech's quarterback he made the All-Conference Team and the little All-American Football Team. Jack served in the United States Army for two years upon graduation.

Jack went back to school and earned a master's degree from the University of Tennessee after his military service and was a teacher and athletic coach in Lake City, Florida and Isaac Litton High School in Nashville. Even today, serving as a softball coach, his passion for sports and coaching is evident.

In 1960, Jack began his service to the citizens of Tennessee with the Tennessee Division of Rehabilitation Services. He started as a Disabilities Examiner, helping individuals with disabilities get their benefits. Jack, went on to supervise, train and develop the staff of the Division of Rehabilitation Services. As I review Jack's record of achievement, I notice that he has held several important positions that touched all aspects of the program until he ultimately headed the program in 1995. I am proud of his dedication to help Tennesseans with disabilities achieve employment, to help give them opportunity and independence. That caring and dedication should serve as an example to us all as we carry out the critical work of the United States Senate.

Friday, Jack Van Hooser will retire. He will spend more time with his wife and family. I have no doubt that he will also teach his four granddaughters, not only how to play softball, but teach them how to be leaders and serve their fellow citizens with the dignity and respect he has for so many years.●