

Five years ago, September 8, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,962,704,000,000. Four trillion, nine hundred sixty-two billion, seven hundred four million.

Twenty-five years ago, September 8, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$546,875,000,000. Five hundred forty-six billion, eight hundred seventy-five million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,133,208,623,060.12. Five trillion, one hundred thirty-three billion, two hundred eight million, six hundred twenty-three thousand, sixty dollars and twelve cents, during the past 25 years.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### EMPIRE AIR FORCE STATION REUNION 2000

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, from 1950–80, a large part of the Empire, Michigan community revolved around its Air Force Base, and the men and women who not only worked there, but also lived and raised families together in the surrounding community. To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the base, as well as the relationships that developed between the families, several former Air Force Airmen have coordinated a reunion for everyone who served during the 30 years the facility was open. The event will occur in Traverse City from September 20–23, and I rise today to recognize the Empire Air Force Station Reunion 2000.

Empire Air Force 752 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron opened in 1950, having become necessary as an outgrowth of the Cold War. The primary mission of the base was to protect nearby metropolitan areas, including Detroit and Chicago, from enemy bombers, as well as to provide assistance to commercial aviation.

When the station opened, it was a completely manual operation and thus had over 300 personnel assigned. The first personnel assigned to the base were housed in the Village of Empire. Eventually, in 1956, nine family housing units were completed, and soon thereafter servicemen and their families moved into these units.

As the Air Force Base expanded in size, so too did the residential area. Between 1960–62, recreational facilities, including a two-lane bowling center, two recreation courts and a softball field, were completed. These did not serve just to provide the feel of a community, they truly created a community, providing children with places to play together and families with places to congregate with one another.

In 1965, the Federal Aviation Administration assumed the maintenance of much of the radar equipment, and with the steady advancement of technology, the FAA ultimately took control of the Air Force Station in 1980. During the many years that the FAA and the Air Force shared the station, the relations between the two groups were conge-

nial, which was a tribute to both parties.

The reunion includes many outstanding events. There is a banquet Friday evening at the Park Place Hotel in Traverse City, as well as a hospitality suite at the hotel that will be open from noon on Wednesday, September 20th until noon on Saturday, September 23rd. There is also an open house at the Air Force Base on Saturday, hosted by the FAA.

Mr. President, as I extend greetings to all those gathered for the Empire Air Force Reunion, I also congratulate Mr. Don Ostendorf and Mr. Lowell Woodworth, the Reunion Coordinators, on the job they have done putting this reunion together. Their hard work and dedication have surely paid off. On behalf of the entire United States, I hope that everyone enjoys a wonderful four days, and I welcome all those individuals who have left the Wolverine State back home.●

##### NATIONAL ASSISTED LIVING WEEK

• Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I wish today to draw the Senate's attention to National Assisted Living Week. The National Center for Assisted Living is sponsoring National Assisted Living Week this week to highlight the significance and the hope that this type of service can provide seniors.

Assisted living is a long term care alternative for seniors who need more assistance than is available in retirement communities, but do not require the heavy medical and nursing care provided by nursing facilities. Approximately one million of our nation's seniors have chosen the option of assisted living in this country. This demonstrates a tremendous desire by seniors and their families to have the kind of assistance that they need in bathing, taking medications or other activities of daily living in a setting that truly becomes their home.

This year's theme of National Assisted Living Week is "The Art of Life" and it is intended as recognition of the value of creative expression. I think that it is appropriate because it shows that assisted living is a real option for seniors to continue experiencing "the art of life" in living arrangements tailored to meet their needs for socialization, independence and services.

Oregon has led our nation in the concept of assisted living. My state spends more state health dollars to provide assisted living services than any other in our nation. Assisted living has taken different directions in different states, and I believe offering these choices for consumers is important to provide security, dignity and independence for seniors.

Assisted living will become even more important as an option of seniors and their families as our nation experiences the demographic tsunami of aging baby boomers. It is important for us to continue to support options that

allow seniors and their families a choice of settings in order to assure that they get the level of care that they need.●

##### TRIBUTE TO ROBERT F. AND MIRIAM SMITH

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Bob and Miriam Smith upon the recent dedication of the Norman S. and Lida M. Smith Academic Technology Center at Bentley College in Massachusetts.

Bob and Miriam have a long history of philanthropy to the college. They have established numerous scholarship programs, many for deserving students from disadvantaged communities. Bob and Miriam's financial donation will give Bentley College the chance to enhance its business education program. As the retired chief executive officer of American Express Bank, Bob understands the value of a superior business education. Named in memory of Bob's parents, Norman and Lida Smith, the Center will give students the advantage of a business education enhanced by the most advanced technology available today.

Bob's dedication to his alma mater is a testament to his integrity, hard work, and impressive business skills. In addition to the outpouring of generous financial donations, Bob's strategic guidance plan has supported the college through tough economic times and demographic changes, and continues to do so today.

Without the support of generous citizens such as Bob and Miriam, our nation's colleges and universities would not have attained the leadership status in the world of academia that they currently enjoy. Bob and Miriam's donation gives Bentley College the competitive edge. It is an honor to serve them both in the United States Senate.●

##### ADAM CLYMER

• Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, a goodly number of Senators know Adam Clymer of The New York Times as a cheerful, even avuncular, reporter affably working the corridors here in the Capitol carefully chronicling our not always cheerful proceedings. He was prominent in the pages of the Times, but was not much in evidence in the electronic media. Alas, all that changed in an instant last week. This paragon of journalistic self-effacement had celebrity thrust upon him by an open microphone. With characteristic detachment, he related this not altogether welcome experience in an article, "My Media Moment," which appeared in this Sunday's Times. May an admirer and friend wish that it last more than the allotted fifteen minutes.

I ask that the article be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The article follows: