

changes. We also have the duty to hold accountable those who break the law in an effort to attack our system.

#### VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today we are commemorating one of the proudest days in our history—Victory in Europe Day. World War II was no less than a triumph of good over evil. As President Harry Truman said, it was “a solemn and glorious hour.” Today we celebrate our victory over the Nazis—and we honor those who gave their lives in the most deadly conflict we have ever seen.

But most of all, we honor the Americans whose personal sacrifices gave us our greatest victory. In Maryland, thousands left factories, shops, and farms to fight on the front lines. People like my uncles Pete, Fred, Richard, and Florene. We also honor those on the homefront who kept the steel mills and shipyards going 24 hours a day to serve the war effort. That includes the women—the Rosie the Riveters who kept America going while our boys fought on the battlefields.

Eleanor Roosevelt said that those days were no ordinary time and that no ordinary solutions would be sufficient to defeat the enemies of America and Western civilization. No only was this no ordinary time, this was no ordinary generation.

I was a child during the War. I grew up seeing the heroism and patriotism of our soldiers—and seeing America united behind a common goal. I saw the sacrifices that individuals were willing to make for our country. That was the only America I knew.

Our veterans of World War II are each a symbol of the principles that have kept this country strong and free. When we think of our veterans, we think of everything that is good about this country—patriotism, courage, loyalty, duty and honor. Our responsibility is to live up to the standards they have set—to foster a new sense of citizenship and a new sense of duty.

That is why it troubles me that too often, young Americans do not learn enough about this special generation. It is our responsibility to honor our Nation's veterans—not just on V-E Day—but every day. Let us honor them in our homes, our schools, our churches, and our synagogues. And here in the U.S. Senate—when we set funding for veterans health care and pensions.

Every day that we live in freedom, we should remember that their triumph was democracy's greatest victory.

#### THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY IN EUROPE

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today marks the anniversary of one of the most important moments in modern Western history. Fifty years ago today, the Allied Powers accepted the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany,

ending the most devastating war in world history. It was a great victory for freedom and for civilization.

The Allied victory was one of courage, valor and enormous sacrifice. Of the hundreds of major battles fought during the war, 15 resulted in casualties numbering no less than 5,000. From the beaches at Omaha to the great campaigns in Europe, American lives were sacrificed in the name of freedom.

The victory in Europe marked the end of unparalleled human horror and of catastrophic human loss on that continent. It signified the end of one of civilization's darkest moments. In essence, V-E Day marked the very rebirth of life in Europe's scarred, and war-torn landscape. But that rebirth did not come without a price.

We must never forget the sacrifices made to ensure our final victory. Of the 400,000 American soldiers who died in this horrible war, most lost their lives on the ground, in the trenches—literally clawing for victory inch by inch. The magnitude of the human price of this effort should command our deepest personal respect. We can never adequately thank our veterans for their supreme sacrifice.

Yet, through the images of fire and the remnants of ashes rises the hope that never again will we face such darkness. Never again will we face the prospect of such global sacrifice. Never again will the forces of freedom be asked to lay down their lives en masse in the name of peace and order.

Today marks the seminal moment in the American chapter of the War in Europe. It reminds us of our absolute resolve to maintain and preserve what is right and just. I join my colleagues in what is perhaps one of our most solemn moments in recognition of those who sacrificed so much for our freedom.

Mr. President, in honor of our fallen veterans, I rise in humble tribute.

#### WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS HAVE SAID YES.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, more than 3 years ago I began these daily reports to the Senate making a matter of record the exact Federal debt as of close of business the previous day.

As of the close of business Friday, April 28, the exact Federal debt stood at \$4,857,682,676,296.70, meaning that on a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$18,439.85 as his or her share of the Federal debt.

It's important to note, Mr. President, that the United States had an opportunity to begin controlling the Federal debt by implementing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. Unfortunately, the Senate did not seize its first opportunity to control this debt—but there will be another chance during the 104th Congress.

#### A PERSONAL REMEMBRANCE OF V-E DAY

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, this morning Samuel Pisar, a distinguished survivor of the Nazi death camps at Auschwitz, Sachsenhausen, Leonberg, and Dachau delivered the keynote address at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's commemoration of the 50th anniversary of V-E Day.

I was very moved by Mr. Pisar's expression of gratitude to his liberators, the U.S. Army. He recounted his first words to the GI in the American tank which rescued him, “I . . . summoned the few English words my mother used to sigh while dreaming of our deliverance, and yelled: ‘God Bless America!’”

That gratitude, in Mr. Pisar's words, “as intense as it was 50 years ago,” serves to remind us all of the role which America has and continues today to play in the world as a beacon of hope for oppressed people.

I ask unanimous consent that the excerpt of Samuel Pisar's address printed Sunday in the Washington Post be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the address was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, May 7, 1995]

ESCAPE FROM DACHAU: MY OWN, PRIVATE V-E DAY—FOR PRISONER B-1317, SALVATION WAS A U.S. ARMY TANK

(By Samuel Pisar)

World War II was coming to an end, yet we in the death camps knew nothing. What is happening in the world outside? Does anyone out there know what is happening here to us? Do they care? I was 15 years old, and I wanted to live.

The day the Allies landed on the beaches of Normandy had been for us a day like any other. The toll in the gas chambers that day was higher than the losses suffered by the combined armies under Gen. Eisenhower's command on this, their longest day.

Judging by the brutality of our guards, we had every reason to believe that all of Europe was irrevocably lost, the Red Army smashed, England fighting alone, its back to the wall, against the seemingly invincible forces of darkness. And America? America was so unprepared, so divided, so far away. How could she be expected to reverse the collapse of civilization at this penultimate stage?

It took weeks for news of the U.S.-led invasion, beamed by the BBC from London, across occupied Europe, to slip into Auschwitz. There was also an amazing rumor that the Russians had mounted a powerful offensive on the Eastern front.

Incredible! So God had not turned His face from the world after all. Could a miracle still prevent the millennium of the Third Reich? Oh to hang on, to hang on a little longer!

We could guess from the Nazis' mounting nervousness that the weight of battle was changing decisively. With the ground shrinking under their feet, they began herding us deeper and deeper into Germany. I was shunted to Sachsenhausen near Berlin, then Leonberg near Stuttgart, then Dachau near Munich—camps normally reserved for political prisoners, common criminals and homosexuals.