

million outpatient visits for 3.7 million patients would have been denied under the majority's budget blueprint, and we will have turned our backs on the majority of those who so valiantly served this Nation.

Mr. President, this has been our findings in reading through the budget proposal that will be presented today to the Senate. The majority's budget proposals for cuts to Medicare and freezing Veterans' Administration health care programs are simply, in my eyes and in my heart, unacceptable. You cannot single out health care for one segment of the population for cuts without serious consequences. The senior citizens of today, the veterans of today, should not have the rugs pulled out from under them. So, therefore, I urge my colleagues to reject these unwise proposals.

I yield the remainder of my time.

IS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS HAVE SAID "YES"

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the impression simply will not go away: The \$4.8 trillion Federal debt is a grotesque parallel to the energizer bunny we see, and see, and see on television. The Federal debt keeps going and going and going—up, of course—always to the added misery of the American taxpayers.

So many politicians talk a good game—when, that is, they go home to talk—and "talk" is the operative word—about bringing Federal deficits and the Federal debt under control.

But, sad to say, so many of these very same politicians have regularly voted for one bloated spending bill after another during the 103d Congress and before. Come to think about it, this may have been a primary factor in the new configuration of U.S. Senators as a result of last November's elections.

In any event, Mr. President, as of yesterday, Wednesday, May 17, at the close of business, the total Federal debt stood—down to the penny—at exactly \$4,884,246,600,937.11 or \$18,540.68 per man, woman, and child on a per capital basis. *Res ipsa loquitur*.

THE RETIREMENT OF REAR ADM. PATRICK W. DRENNON, CEC, USN

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, it has come to my attention that Rear Adm. Patrick W. Drennon will be retiring from the Navy after some 33 years of honorable and distinguished service.

He most recently served as the Director, Facilities and Engineering Division (N44) for the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Logistics), Washington, DC. In this capacity he has provided timely support and accurate information on Navy facility and engineering plans and programs to the Members of the Senate and our professional and personal staffs.

Admiral Drennon was previously the Commander of Western Division, Naval

Facilities Engineering Command [NAVFACENGCOM], headquartered in San Bruno, CA. This was following duty as Deputy Commander for Planning and Assistant Commander for Facilities and Real Estate at NAVFACENGCOM Headquarters in Alexandria, VA, and as Assistant for Civil Engineering (OP-04E) to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Logistics), Washington, DC.

His other duty assignments have included: Assistant Resident Officer in Charge of Construction in Key West, FL; Public Works Officer at the Naval Facility and the Navy Representative for Construction while on the staff of the Commander, U.S. Forces in the Azores; Operations Officer of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion One on two deployments to Vietnam; an instructor at the Civil Engineer Corps Officers School at Port Hueneme, CA; and an Exchange Officer with the Mediterranean Division, Corps of Engineers, Livorno, Italy. While working with the Corps' Mediterranean Division, he served as the program manager for the planning and design of King Khalid Military City, Saudi Arabia.

Admiral Drennon also served in the Seabee Division, NAVFACENGCOM Headquarters; on the staff of the then-Director, Shore Activities Planning and Programming Division (OP-44) for the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, DC; and as the Executive Officer of the Public Works Center and Resident Officer in Charge of Construction in San Diego, CA.

His awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with Combat "V" and a Gold Star, the Meritorious Service Medal with a Gold Star, and the Navy Achievement Medal.

Rear Admiral Drennon has become widely acknowledged as a leader and visionary in the Civil Engineer Corps. As a fellow Georgia Tech Yellow Jacket, I can say that this is no real surprise as Rear Admiral Drennon began his distinguished naval career upon his commissioning out of the NROTC Program at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Mr. President, over the past several years many communities have experienced great anxiety and turmoil as a result of the Department of Defense's base closure process. Rear Admiral Drennon has played a vital role in promoting effective communications and harmonious working relationships in the Navy's base realignment and closure implementation process. He has assisted local civic leaders throughout the country in working through many challenging situations associated with base closure and realignment actions. Rear Admiral Drennon has been equally recognized and appreciated by all who have come to know him.

A man of Rear Admiral Drennon's talent and integrity is rare indeed, and while his honorable service will be genuinely missed, it gives me great pleasure today to recognize him before my colleagues and to wish him, his

wife, Cheryl, and his family every success as he brings to a close a long and distinguished career in the U.S. Navy.

TEXAS ACTS ON FLAG DESECRATION

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, Texas Secretary of State, the Honorable Antonio O. Garza, Jr., has forwarded to me a copy of a resolution passed by the Texas Legislature on March 9, 1995 and signed by Governor George Bush. The resolution petitions the U.S. Congress to propose to the States an amendment to the Constitution of the United States which protects the American flag from willful desecration. I supported the passage of such an amendment in 1990 when the Senate debated the issue and have cosponsored the most recent proposal to ban the desecration of our flag. Secretary Garza has requested that I place in the RECORD the text of the resolution adopted by the Texas Legislature. Because of the importance that I place on this issue, I am requesting unanimous consent that the text of the resolution and the text of a letter from Secretary of State Garza be printed in the RECORD in order that my colleagues have an opportunity to read for themselves this important expression of the collective will of the people of my State.

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

THE STATE OF TEXAS,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
Austin, TX, April 13, 1995.

Hon. PHIL GRAMM,
U.S. Senator, Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR GRAMM: Please find enclosed an official copy of Senate Concurrent Resolution 24, as passed by the 74th Legislature, Regular Session, 1995, of the State of Texas.

The 74th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby petitions the Congress of the United States of America to propose to the states an amendment to the United States Constitution, protecting the American flag and 50 state flags from willful desecration and exempting such desecration from constitutional construction as a First Amendment right.

It is also requested that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States.

Sincerely,

ANTONIO O. GARZA, Jr.,
Secretary of State.

Enclosure.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 24

Whereas, the United States flag belongs to all Americans and ought not be desecrated by any one individual, even under principles of free expression, any more than we would allow desecration of the Declaration of Independence, Statue of Liberty, Lincoln Memorial, Yellowstone National Park, or any other common inheritance which the people of this land hold dear; and

Whereas, the United States Supreme Court, in contravention of this postulate, has by a narrow decision held to be a First Amendment freedom the license to destroy