

on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Wednesday, March 5, 1997, at 2 p.m. in open session, to receive testimony on recruiting and retention policies within the Department of Defense and the military services in review of the Defense authorization request for fiscal year 1998 and the future years Defense program.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5, 1997 to receive testimony on Defense programs to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the Department of Defense budget request for fiscal year 1998 and the future years Defense program.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SUPERFUND, WASTE CONTROL AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Control and Risk Assessment be granted permission to conduct a hearing Wednesday, March 5, at 9:30 a.m., hearing room SD-406, on the reauthorization of Superfund, including S. 8, the Superfund Cleanup Acceleration Act.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

• Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I chose to vote against the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, like I have in the past.

Many good arguments were made throughout the debate against amending the Constitution of the United States to require a yearly balanced Federal budget. In fact, the Senate voted 14 times on amendments to improve the underlying resolution, in the hope of revealing its shortsightedness. In every instance, I supported my colleagues. I believe we were successful in painting a clear and honest picture of the disastrous effects such an amendment could have on the economic and social fabric of this country.

This debate is about our Nation's spending priorities as much as it is about constitutional integrity. During the course of debate, I offered an amendment that would have made it a policy of the United States that in meeting the requirements of an annual balanced budget no cuts would be made that disproportionately affect children's programs in the areas of health care, nutrition, and education. Look at the evidence.

In the 104th Congress, dramatic cuts were made to programs for low-income

families. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, more than 93 percent of the cuts in entitlement programs came from programs for low-income people. Congress reduced entitlement programs by \$65.6 billion over the period from 1996 to 2002. In a letter of opposition to the BBA, the Women Legislator's Lobby, a group that speaks for women legislators across the country, pointed out to Senators that in 1997 the Federal Government spent four times more on the military than on housing, education, job training, and community development combined.

The people of Minnesota sent me to Washington to make tough, responsible, fair decisions. Amending the Constitution to require a balanced budget would put a legally binding dollar target above the economic and social health of our country. Our goal of achieving fiscal responsibility should appropriately focus on critical investments in programs that provide basic nutrition, housing, health care, and education to those less fortunate, especially children.

Our fixation with a constitutional amendment and our hunger for political gain have detracted from that important task. I will continue to press forward on finding a fair and equitable way to balance the budget because I think it is important to our country's future. Amending the Constitution in this way is not the answer.●

WILSON K. SMITH

• Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, while on a field trip to a Civil War site in the 1950's, a young African-American boy from Delaware asked his teacher why there was no mention of black soldiers. He learned a cold, hard lesson that day—that even though black soldiers fought and died for their country, they were not honored because of the color of their skin.

That field trip ignited what would become a 40-year crusade by a Delawarean named Wilson K. Smith. Mr. Smith is a retired Army Sergeant, who was decorated with a Bronze Star and Silver Star during the Vietnam war as a member of the 101st Airborne Division, First Special Forces. In 1957, Sgt. Smith began collecting war stories from black veterans. By 1979, he had tracked down all the African-American Congressional Medal of Honor recipients. In 1989, he began seeking financial pledges and support to build an African-American Medal of Honor monument.

I am proud to have worked closely with Mr. Smith over the last 5 years to see the realization of his dream.

Last month, the names of the 85 African-American Medal of Honor recipients were officially recognized in a permanent exhibit at the Pentagon. This exhibit replicates a monument honoring black Medal of Honor recipients now on permanent display at Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD. Mr.

Smith was the driving force behind the design and fundraising for this monument.

This monument will help keep the legacy of the African-American Congressional Medal of Honor recipients alive for generations to come. Never again will young African-American school boys and girls have to wonder why black veterans are not honored for their service and sacrifice to the United States of America.

The Medal of Honor is the highest award for bravery in military service to our country, but few are aware of the names, faces and stories of heroism of the Medal of Honor recipients. These are truly inspiring Americans, who continue to serve this country by their examples of courage, patriotism, and selfless dedication above and beyond the call of duty. From the Civil War to the World Wars to Vietnam to the Persian Gulf war, they have been the outstanding defenders of liberty, the highest hope of humanity in struggle, and the truest representatives of human strength. A memorial to bring that inspiration to African-Americans and to all of us, is a most worthy endeavor.

It truly has been my honor and pleasure to have strongly supported Wilson Smith's crusade, along with many other national and State leaders, including former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Colin Powell. Wilson Smith is an outstanding man, Delawarean, U.S. veteran and historian. We all will forever owe him a double debt of gratitude for his service to our country.●

TRIBUTE TO LOUISIANA AFL-CIO PRESIDENT VICTOR BUSSIE

• Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, next week working men and women from all over Louisiana will pause to honor a great and visionary leader and a remarkable man who has led Louisiana's AFL-CIO for the past 41 years. On March 10, my good friend Victor Bussie will retire as president of my State's AFL-CIO—marking the end of a truly historic public career during which time he was widely regarded as one of the most powerful and respected men in Louisiana public life.

Those of us who have known and admired Vic Bussie for many years understand that his power was not so much derived from the position he held, but from the force of his personality and the deep conviction and personal integrity that he brought to every debate or endeavor. Simply put, Vic Bussie will always be remembered as one of the most honorable and decent men who ever served in public life.

Perhaps the greatest testimony to Vic Bussie's extraordinary career is the many tributes paid to him by those who often found themselves on opposing sides in legislative and political battles. Almost without exception, those who fought with Vic Bussie over the issues never had anything but the highest regard for his integrity and his