

follow us in this august body. I look forward to the likely possibility that one or more of this fine group of young people will return here to serve as Members of the U.S. Senate.

In closing, I hope the experiences the pages have gained here will inspire them to return to their respective communities as better citizens and with a greater appreciation for public service. Speaking on behalf of all Democratic Members, we wish them well and thank them for a job well done. Good luck and best wishes for a bright and successful future.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a list of the 1997 spring pages be printed in the RECORD.

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

1997 SPRING SENATE PAGES
DEMOCRATIC

Mary Elizabeth Begin (RI).
Brian Burton (NY).
Matthew Canter (WI).
Amanda Croushore (WI).
Andrea Hoekman (SD).
Charlotte Houghteling (MA).
Christina Monico (IL).
Robert Mook (VT).
George Nelson (MT).
Karoline Pershell (MI).
David Robinson (AR).
Timothy Smith (TX).
Shatika Starks (MD).
Nathan Zukas (WI).

REPUBLICAN

Carmen Anderson (SC).
LaKeisha Applegate (RI).
Kathryn Brotherton (WA).
Leslie Carter (SC).
Danielle DeArment (VA).
Hamilton Frey (MS).
Whitney Gilliam (SC).
Sarah Gregg (NH).
Jayne Merner (RI).
Catherine Mitchell (NC).
Jordan Raphael (VT).
Brian Reagan (UT).
Joanna Steckler (VA).
Matthew Wales (IN).
Mercedes Weyher (UT).

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, June 11, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,355,419,342,837.75. (Five trillion, three hundred fifty-five billion, four hundred nineteen million, three hundred forty-two thousand, eight hundred thirty-seven dollars and seventy-five cents)

One year ago, June 11, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,136,928,000,000. (Five trillion, one hundred thirty-six billion, nine hundred twenty-eight million)

Five years ago, June 11, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,942,238,000,000. (Three trillion, nine hundred forty-two billion, two hundred thirty-eight million)

Ten years ago, June 11, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,293,413,000,000. (Two trillion, two hundred ninety-three billion, four hundred thirteen million)

Fifteen years ago, June 11, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,075,173,000,000 (One trillion, seventy-five billion, one hundred seventy-three million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,280,246,342,837.75 (Four trillion, two hundred eighty billion, two hundred forty-six million, three hundred forty-two thousand, eight hundred thirty-seven dollars and seventy-five cents) during the past 15 years.

THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
REUNIFICATION OF JERUSALEM

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, today, I would like to comment on this historic anniversary that we have reached. Today marks the 30th anniversary of the end of the Six-Day War, and the reunification of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. It is not only a landmark for the people of Israel, and for Jews around the world, but for people of all faiths and all nationalities.

The 19 years that East Jerusalem was under the control of Jordan saw Jews and Israelis denied the chance to visit the holy sites in the eastern side. The dividing walls and the barbed wire have now come down. When Jerusalem was reunited, Israel opened the city up to all faiths, and that practice continues. Jews, Christians, and Muslims now mingle freely in the entire city.

Reunification did come at a great cost—the price paid was the Six-Day War. Israel launched a preemptive strike against the Arab troops massed against her, and was successful. It ended the dividing of Jerusalem, but it did not end the gunfire. There is still turmoil in Israel.

However, although the Mideast peace process is by no means over, we have perhaps reached a point, as described by Churchill, at the end of the beginning. The recognition and continuation of Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel is crucial to the ongoing peace process.

The United States Congress has recognized this fact, and through a series of actions has sought to insure that an undivided Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Israel. Senate Concurrent Resolution 106, in 1990, declared that Jerusalem must remain the undivided capital and called for Israel and the Palestinians to undertake peace negotiations. This war later cited by Prime Minister Rabin as having helped bring participants of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements to the negotiating table. In 1995, the Jerusalem Embassy Act stated as a matter of U.S. Policy that Jerusalem should remain the undivided capital.

We now celebrate the 30th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem, and affirm our desire for that ancient city to remain reunited eternally. I ask, too, that Jerusalem eternally remain a symbol of freedom where all religions can share in visiting the holy city and be a model for religious tolerance and freedom throughout the globe.

NATO ENLARGEMENT AFTER
PARIS

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, having recently returned from Paris and the signing of the NATO-Russia charter, I rise today to discuss what is one of the most important foreign policy questions facing the United States—and facing this body: The enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to include several new democracies of Central Europe.

Mr. President, I know that what I have just said will at first seem counterintuitive to many Americans. Why is NATO enlargement so important? After all, the Soviet Union is but a bad memory, communism in Europe lives on in stunted form only in Serbia and Belarus, and no military threat in Europe is in sight.

Moreover, some will correctly point out, the Pacific Rim has become the world's premier area for economic growth, and Latin America, while also a prime opportunity for trade and investment, is vitally important to the United States because of problems like illegal immigration and drug trafficking.

So why are we bothering with Europe, much less tinkering with a hugely successful alliance like NATO?

Mr. President, these are legitimate questions that must be answered. I would submit, first of all, without minimizing the importance of Asia and Latin America, that Europe remains a vital area of interest for the United States for political, strategic, economic, and cultural reasons. A sizable percentage of the world's democracies are in Europe, and the continent remains a major global economic player and partner of the United States.

The European union, composed of 15 vibrant free-market democracies, has embarked upon an ambitious program to create an ever closer union with greater political, economic, and social integration. Most of Central and Eastern Europe has gone through several free elections, and democracy is putting down firm roots.

In economic terms, the European union, with a combined population a third larger than ours, has a combined gross domestic product that exceeds ours. While the United States has a larger—and, I might add, less balanced—trading relationship with Asia than with Europe, we invest far more in Europe.

Several new democracies in Central and Eastern Europe have highly educated work forces, already boast rapidly expanding economies, and already attract considerable American investment.

Moreover, most Americans trace their cultural roots to Europe, and millions retain personal ties to it. By any geopolitical standard, it would be a catastrophe for U.S. interests if instability would alter the current situation in Europe.

How might that instability occur? Well, no one believes that the Russian