

I want to say to Senator FEINSTEIN that I commend her for advocating this legislation. Indeed, I am ready to roll up my sleeves and work with her to address this problem. I am committed to moving this legislation through the Judiciary Committee. At the same time, however, we must take care to craft legislation that will be respectful of our First Amendment rights and of any federalism concerns. In fact, I hope the States will view this bill, as it is refined in committee, as a model for adopting similar reforms. And I am confident that we will be able to strike a reasonable balance between the press' First Amendment rights to seek information about public figures and the right of those individuals to their reasonable expectations of privacy. After all, we must take care that the solution to this admitted problem does not trample on important rights. With these concerns in mind, I intend to work with Senator FEINSTEIN to ensure that we have the best legislation possible. We hope to hold hearings to identify the extent of these problems and to determine how best to combat attempts by some overzealous members of the media in their efforts to profit by intruding on others' privacy. I believe that this legislation is an important first step in that process.●

HONORING THE 12TH ANNUAL ENTREPRENEURIAL WOMAN'S CONFERENCE

● Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, it is my distinct honor to recognize an organization from my home state of Illinois that has been an invaluable resource for and promoter of women-owned small businesses. I am speaking of the Women's Business Development Center, who will hold their 12th annual Entrepreneurial Woman's Conference on September 9, 1998 in Chicago.

Since 1986, the WBDC, a nationally-recognized nonprofit women's business assistance center, has assisted more than 30,000 women business owners in establishing and expanding small businesses throughout our country. The Women's Business and Finance Program, the Women's Business Enterprise Initiative, the Entrepreneurial Woman's Conference and the Women's Business and Buyers Mart are a few of the many programs and services of the WBDC that support female small business ownership and help to strengthen the entire U.S. economy.

As the first permanent female member of the Senate Finance Committee, I know firsthand of the obstacles faced by women when attempting to establish a foothold in the world of commerce. The WBDC and its two founders, Hedy Ratner and Carol Dougal, have made great progress towards tearing down these obstacles.

Today, women-owned small businesses are an integral part of the current success of the American economy. Currently, there are over 7.7 million

women-owned businesses in the United States, generating \$2.3 trillion in sales. In Illinois, there are over 250,000 women-owned businesses. These businesses mean more jobs for American workers. In fact, women business owners employ one of every four U.S. company workers. Certainly, some of this success is due in part to the programs and services offered by the WBDC in Illinois and similar programs in Indiana, Ohio, Florida, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. Despite this success, there is still more to be done. I am confident that with help from organizations such as the WBDC, the number of women entrepreneurs will continue to rise.

The Woman's Entrepreneurial Conference is the centerpiece of the WBDC's activities. The Conference provides women business owners with the opportunity to network, attend informative panel discussions, and pursue business opportunities in an environment that is supportive of the needs of female small business owners. It is my pleasure to welcome the conferees to Chicago, and to congratulate the WBDC for their work and dedication to increasing female ownership in the American marketplace.●

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CLARK AND SUSAN DURANT

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 25th wedding anniversary of my dear friends Clark and Susan Durant of Grosse Pointe, Michigan.

The Durants have shared a very special marriage over the last twenty-five years and have produced four wonderful children. Their friends and family have witnessed them grow stronger together over the course of the last twenty-five years. Not only do these two individuals have a strong and successful marriage and family, they have contributed tremendously to both their community as well as State of Michigan and have touched the lives of many.

Once again, I would like to congratulate Clark and Susan on this blessed occasion. I wish them continued happiness and success. I send my warmest regards to the entire Durant family.●

RECOGNITION OF U.S. CUSTOMS FOR OPERATION CASABLANCA

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the U.S. Customs Service and the Departments of Treasury and Justice for one of the most important victories they have had in the war on drugs to date.

I would like to thank Attorney General Janet Reno, Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin, and Undersecretary of the Treasury for Law Enforcement Ray Kelly for their leadership in this important endeavor and the two hundred U.S. Customs agents, who put their lives at stake, diligently and tirelessly for thirty months, to es-

tablish this necessary beachhead in the war on drugs. It is a testament to the dedication and the ability of our law enforcement personnel that they were able to complete this difficult and dangerous operation.

On Monday, May 18, Secretary Rubin and Attorney General Reno announced the arrests of 112 people involved in illegal drug money-laundering in Mexico, which resulted in the seizure of an anticipated \$157 million in over 100 accounts in the United States, the Caribbean and Europe. Furthermore, 4 tons of marijuana and 2 tons of cocaine were seized during this 30-month undercover investigation. The indictments include officials from 12 of Mexico's 19 largest banks, who stand accused of knowingly abetting drug traffickers to launder hundreds of millions of dollars.

As a result of this investigation, for the first time ever, Mexican banks have been directly linked to money laundering and have been indicted as institutions due to their complicity in money-laundering, the significant number of employees involved, the large number of illegal transactions, and the institution-wide profiting from these illegal transfers, which brought a 4-5% fee per transfer. Bancomer, Mexico's second largest bank, Banca Serfin, Mexico's third-largest bank, and Confia, also among the top twenty, were the three banks involved.

This investigation, known as "Operation Casablanca", involved two hundred undercover Customs agents, targeting the Cali cocaine and heroine syndicate in Colombia, the Juarez cartel in Mexico, and the involvement of Mexican banks. Two hundred individuals face arrest warrants as the investigations continue, including warrants issued for the Juarez cartel money manager, Victor Alcala Navarro and one of its leaders, Jose Alvarez Tostado.

I would also like to show my support for the Federal Reserve's issuance of "cease and desist" orders suspending the U.S. operations of Banca Serfin, Bancomer, Banamex, Bital of Mexico and Banco Santander of Spain, because of "serious deficiencies in their anti-money laundering programs." These banks must institute new and tougher controls to resume business in the United States.

Despite Mexico's lax enforcement of its own money-laundering statutes, it is good to see that the United States is not afraid to use its own resources to address this serious problem.

I hope that operations like these will continue to bleed the powerful drug cartels. The American and the international drug war has benefited from this peek into the intricacies of drug-related money laundering.

However, Mr. President, I cannot help but see this latest good news in relation to my concerns about Mexico's insufficient counternarcotics cooperation with the United States. The Mexican government was not informed of this 3-year, extensive investigation

until the same morning the press was. Why not? It would seem that this would have been a perfect opportunity to engage in a cooperative law enforcement effort.

The Administration's certification of Mexico for its counternarcotics cooperation in March certainly suggests that a major investigation like "Operation Casablanca" would have been a joint effort. However, the reality is that distrust between U.S. and Mexican law enforcement has strained relations and hurt earlier cooperative efforts.

Undersecretary Ray Kelly, who has been nominated to be the chief of the Customs Service, answered this question in an article of *The Washington Post* on May 19th. The Mexican authorities were not informed, "Because of fear of compromising the operation and placing the lives of U.S. agents in danger."

Since the announcement of the indictments this week, the Mexican government has made statements in support of this operation, and the Mexican Attorney General indicated that his office will investigate these banks as well.

I just hope that this will result in tougher Mexican laws against drug traffickers and money-launderers and progress toward real cooperation to halt the flow of drugs across our borders, rather than the erratic and insufficient cooperation that we have seen until now. Let the Mexican government take this opportunity to prove their commitment to fighting the spread and profit of drugs. Let this be the start of a new concerted and cooperative effort to rid our countries of this menace.●

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

● Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise in observance of the tenth annual National Foster Care Month, May, 1998—a month when the nation commemorates the outstanding contributions that foster parents make every day to the lives of some of our most vulnerable young people.

Children are our nation's greatest hope and responsibility. Every child deserves a loving, permanent family. Unfortunately, nearly half a million American children find themselves without a family to count on, victims of violence, drugs, or neglect. With the help of foster parents, these children can live in an environment that is safe, stable, and full of love. Yet all too often, the compassion and caring of foster parents go unrecognized.

Let me tell you about an Idaho family who have been foster parents for ten years. Arthur and Janet Mayer have fostered more than 140 boys throughout those years. It is impossible for most of us to imagine—much less imitate—the tremendous commitment of time and energy these fine people have made to their foster children. Later this month, they will be recognized in my state with the Lifetime

Achievement to Foster Care Award. I am pleased to express my admiration of Arthur and Janet, and my appreciation for their dedicated service to children and families.

National Foster Care Month gives us an opportunity to commend not only the Mayers, but also the more than 100,000 foster parents across the nation who have opened their homes and hearts to young people in need of temporary refuge. Whether they help 140 children or one, these individuals are making a critical contribution that will resonate long into the future. I hope all of my colleagues will join with me in encouraging families in their own states to participate in the foster care program and applauding the important work of our nation's foster parents.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. D.H. MCDONALD— 45 YEARS AS COMMUNITY PHYSICIAN

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career of Dr. D.H. McDonald, who is retiring after 45 years of dedicated service to the health of the people of Winneconne, Wisconsin.

As a young boy growing up during the Great Depression, Dr. McDonald always dreamed of one day being able to take care of others. He took great pride in his father's hard work and accomplishments, and cherished the educational opportunities available to him. His desire to help people, hard work ethic and determination to do his best led Dr. McDonald to serve in the medical corps of the U.S. Army Air Force Command as a hospital administrator during World War II.

During his time at Marquette University Medical School, Dr. McDonald took advantage of every opportunity he had, not only to learn about diverse areas of the medical field, but also to volunteer in the community. He worked at St. Mary Hill Psychiatric Hospital in Milwaukee and volunteered in the disadvantaged areas of Chicago where he made home deliveries of babies under the supervision of specialists.

In 1952 Dr. McDonald established the McDonald Clinic. In an effort to accommodate the needs of the patients, Dr. McDonald used his clinic as a 24 hour, seven days a week walk-in clinic.

Mr. President, Dr. McDonald has remained extremely close to the Winneconne community for over 45 years. Throughout the years, he has contributed to many of the events that have taken place within the community and will always be remembered for his commitment to the health and well-being of the people of Winneconne, Wisconsin.

As he retires from the practice of medicine to the community which he has spent most of his life serving, we wish him the best of luck and thank him for his service.●

MEMORIAL DAY 1998

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise today to say thanks to those who have gone before us. Monday marks the 130th year of our country's official observance of Memorial Day. It is a day America dedicates to remember all those who fell in defense of this country. On Monday, many across the land will bow their heads in silence for a few moments and remember the patriots of our past.

There is no way to measure the impact on the lives of those who have lost someone to war. Certainly on this Memorial Day, many will mourn the youth and joy of loved ones lost. This is a day for the heroes, known and unknown, who died on the field of battle so we might be free. Mr. President, I salute every soldier, airman, marine, coast guardsman, merchantman and sailor who put themselves in harms way and who forfeited their lives so that members of future generations would have the opportunity to stand in this chamber, on a day like today, and speak without fear.

I have never, nor do I ever wish to know, the fear and suffering that many of these brave men and women surely experienced. It has been said and I would agree, that it is best we leave the understanding of their sacrifice in God's hands—only He can truly know the full measure of what was lost and what was gained. Our responsibility is to acknowledge their sacrifice—to remember that it was made and the reasons for which it was made. Monday, Memorial Day, is the day that our country should unite in one spirit to remember those who purchased the freedom we and our loved ones enjoy.

Former President James A. Garfield, at the first national Memorial Day observance, said "we do not know one promise these men made, one pledge they gave, one word they spoke; but we do know they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of men and citizens. For love of country, they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and virtue."

We should all pause with great gratitude on Monday and look to the future with the greatest of expectations for what the 21st Century holds for us, our children, and our children's children. Our fallen patriots gave everything they had to extend freedom beyond the reach of most of our lifetimes. Mr. President, Memorial Day is not only about remembering the men and women who made the Supreme sacrifice while defending the American way. It is about acknowledging and protecting the ideals they died for, so that their sacrifice shall not have been made in vain.

Brave Alabamians have been among those who have fought so valiantly and are among the hundreds of thousands who died in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon, Panama, Grenada, and the Persian Gulf. They deserve our deepest respect and honor.