

higher income, and greater tax revenues. Entertainment's significant financial impact can be attributed to the rising television and commercial production within the state. Recent studies confirm that payrolls and payments for goods and services within the entertainment industry currently contribute over \$27 billion to California's economy. The Emmy Awards confer annual awards of merit to creative arts people in the television industry, as incentive to continue supporting the economic growth in California.

Now celebrating its fiftieth anniversary, the Emmy Awards was not always so celebrated and grand. The first awards banquet in 1949 was held at the old Hollywood Athletic Club, with tickets costing a mere five dollars. With few stars in attendance, the program was not even televised nationally. The ceremony was broadcast on local station KTSL beginning at 9:30 p.m. Despite the American public's unfamiliarity with the obscure, new medium, Los Angeles Mayor Fletcher Brown declared the day of the first telecast TV Day on January 25, 1949.

Sponsor of the annual awards program, the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences has a long and venerated history. Since its early days, membership to the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences has flourished to more than 9,000, making it the single largest television professional association in the world. The Academy not only presents the Emmy Awards, but also hosts a program for college educators and has underwritten the Archive of American Television in an effort to preserve television's rich and detailed past.

As the Emmy's golden anniversary approaches, let us pay tribute to the award show's support of the entertainment industry and recognition of quality television programming. With 50 years of telecasts to its credit, the Emmy's have become a genuine part of American history. ●

#### TRIBUTE TO ZACHARY FISHER, THE 1998 PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM RECIPIENT

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Zachary Fisher, who on Monday, September 14, 1998 will be presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City.

The medal, which is the highest honor given to civilians by the President, is awarded annually to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the security or national interest of the United States or to world peace, or those who have made a significant public or private accomplishment.

Zach and his wife, Elizabeth, have always felt strongly about the young men and women who serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. During WW II Elizabeth served in the USO, entertaining thou-

sands of troops while they were away from home. Zach, unable to serve because of a leg injury sustained in a construction accident, assisted the U.S. Coast Guard in the construction of coastal defenses.

Although still active in his family's construction company, Fisher Brothers, he has devoted his time and energy to his country and bettering the lives of Americans. In 1978 he founded the Intrepid Museum Foundation, in an effort to save the historic and battle-scarred aircraft carrier *Intrepid* from scrapping. Through his efforts the vessel became the foundation of the Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum, which opened in New York City in 1982.

Through the Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher Armed Services Foundation, Zach has pledged to do all he can in support of our nation's military and their families, and to offer new opportunities to our children, such as through the educational programs at Intrepid, and as part of the Fisher House Program, to build homes for families of hospitalized military personnel.

His newest effort is the Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research Foundation, founded in 1995 to fund research in, and work towards a cure for Alzheimer's disease. In partnership with David Rockefeller, Chairman of the Board of The Rockefeller University in New York, a new research center has been founded to help develop a cure for this debilitating disease.

Zach is also involved in many other charitable causes, including the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, the Coast Guard Foundation, the Navy League, the Jewish Institute of National Security Affairs, the George C. Marshall Foundation, the Margaret Thatcher Foundation, the Reagan Presidential Library, the United Jewish Appeal, and many other organizations.

In addition to this year's Presidential Citizens' Medal, Zach has received the 1995 Presidential Citizens Medal, presented by President Clinton, and the Volunteer Action Award, presented by President Ronald Reagan.

Zachary Fisher truly exemplifies what it means to be a patriotic American, and continues to strengthen our Nation and improve the lives of many Americans. Mr. President, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in recognizing and honoring Zachary Fisher on many years of worth-while work and achievements which have culminated with the honor of receiving the 1998 Presidential Medal of Freedom. Zach Fisher is truly a remarkable man and a first-rate American deserving of such an honor. ●

#### FARM CRISIS PACKAGE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I wonder if the majority leader will entertain an inquiry.

At the conclusion of Senator BYRD's presentation, it is my intention to speak for a few moments on the agriculture crisis, and I would just like to

inquire of the majority leader, who I know was supportive in July as we moved a \$500 million indemnity piece out of the Senate dealing with the farm crisis, I would like to ask the majority leader if he has some interest and some intention of allowing us to work on a farm crisis package during the month of September.

The reason I ask the question, I know that the Senator from Mississippi, the majority leader, is trying to fit a lot of things into a very short window here, but I think he knows that Members on this side and the other side coming from farm country are having to deal with an enormously difficult farm crisis. We hope very much that that will become part of the agenda in the month of September. I would just inquire of the Senator as to his intentions.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I will respond to the Senator that I am aware of the difficulties in the farm community in a number of States because of weather problems but also because of a number of problems involving falling prices and trade problems. It would be my intent that we act in that area before we go out at the end of this session.

I think it is important that we start on it quickly, in a bipartisan way. I am going to be working on that early next week.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, that is welcome news. I appreciate the cooperation of the majority leader. We obviously are facing collapsed farm prices and as tough a time in farm country as we have ever seen. I appreciate the response of the leader.

#### NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM VOLUNTEER AND PARTNERSHIP ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1998

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 504, H.R. 1856.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1856) to amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a volunteer pilot project at one national wildlife refuge in each United States Fish and Wildlife Service region, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "National Wildlife Refuge System Volunteer and Partnership Enhancement Act of 1998".*

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the National Wildlife Refuge System (referred to in this Act as the "System"), consisting of more than 500 refuges and 93,000,000 acres, plays an integral role in the protection of the natural resources of the United States;