

PROGRAM

Mr. THOMPSON. For the information of all Senators, following the morning business period at 1:30 on Monday, the Senate will begin consideration of S.J. Res. 14 regarding the desecration of the flag. Under the agreement reached earlier, two amendments will be debated during Monday's session of the Senate.

As announced, no rollcall votes will occur on Monday, and therefore the votes in relation to those amendments are scheduled for 2:15 on Tuesday. Any Senators interested in debating this important measure should be prepared to do so on Monday or early Tuesday.

Again, the next scheduled rollcall vote will occur beginning at 2:15 on Tuesday.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, prior to leaving the floor, I hope the leader gets the message that we have a lot of work to do. There was a dialog that went on in the Chamber today talking about the many things that need to be done. Minimum wage was talked about at some length. I also remind the majority that there are other things we need to get to work on. We are not doing anything related to education. We have health care delivery problems that need to be addressed, including Patients' Bill of Rights, prescription drugs for seniors, and Medicare.

There are other things that may not sound as important but are just as important. I met again today with some high-tech people. I know the Senator from Tennessee has spent some time on the Export Administration Act. I hope the majority will allow us to move forward on that legislation. It is extremely important to the high-tech industry, which is the flagship that is now driving this economy.

The minority is ready to work day and night on all these issues. The reason I am so concerned is I have worked since my time in the Senate with Senator BYRD. He has been whip, he has been majority leader, minority leader, chairman as well as ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, and many other positions, but I have worked with him my entire 14 years in the Senate on the Appropriations Committee. I know how long it takes to work the appropriations process. We have 13 appropriations bills we must move, and it must be done before October 1.

We don't have a budget yet. We have 13 subcommittees with the appropriators waiting to move their bills. We cannot do it until we get a budget. I don't think we are at a point of desperation yet, but there is a lot of work to do and not much time to do it. I hope the majority allows the Senate to move forward on all these important things as quickly as possible.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD BEST—AN AMERICAN HERO

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, Tom Brokaw's recently released a best-sell-

ing book, "The Greatest Generation" is a tribute to the contributions of the millions of Americans who grew up during the Great Depression, then went on to fight and win WWII.

I suggest that most Americans will agree that Mr. Brokaw's father's generation is one of unique and lasting significance.

Having lived through that dark hour when totalitarian regimes in Europe and Asia threatened the survival of our republic, and having witnessed the sacrifices unhesitatingly borne by our servicemen, I must confess that I, like most of that generation, can never take our liberties for granted.

More than a half-century removed from victory in WWII, in retrospect I am convinced that far too many Americans have forgotten (or perhaps never learned) how bleak the prospects for our success appeared to be in the spring and early summer of 1942.

Victory was not preordained, and our fate might well have been vastly different had it not been for the heroic actions of U.S. Navy Lieutenant Richard Best and others like him who won that decisive victory at the Battle of Midway in June 1942, reversing a decade of previously unchecked (and largely unchallenged aggression) by the Japanese Imperial Navy.

Mr. President, to understand fully the heroic nature of Lieutenant Best's heroism, it is essential to understand the events leading up to the battle. Prior to Midway, American forces in the Pacific had endured a devastating series of losses and withdrawals that had crippled the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Beginning with almost 3,600 casualties at Pearl Harbor in December 1941, Americans witnessed the fall of Hong Kong, Singapore, and Rangoon to battle-hardened Japanese forces; the collapse of a spirited defense of Battan by American and Filipino forces; and finally, the devastating loss of Corregidor, the island at the entrance of Manila Bay—an island that the United States had heavily fortified and which had been dubbed the "Gibraltar of the East."

These losses led many Americans to the conclusion that Japan's success in the Pacific was inevitable. Some voices at home began to call for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from the Pacific theater so that we could first concentrate on winning the war against fascism in Europe.

After the selfless and courageous action of Lieutenant Best on June 4, 1942, and the American victory at the Battle of Midway, it became clear that America would not abandon the Pacific theater to an unprovoked aggressor. Instead, America would stand and fight.

Mr. President, the Japanese plan of attack on Midway was designed as part of the largest operation in the history of the Imperial Japanese Navy. Anticipating complete surprise and equipped with four fast carriers, *Kaga*, *Akagi*, *Soryu*, and *Hiryu*, the First Carrier Striking Force had reason to expect a

crushing victory. The early action of the battle seemed to justify that confidence.

The first action saw three successive waves of American torpedo bombers attack the Japanese carriers. While avoiding damage to their carriers, Japanese fighters and anti-aircraft guns quickly managed to shoot down 35 of the 41 American aircraft.

Following these devastating losses, two squadrons of United States dive bombers from the U.S.S. *Enterprise* swooped down on the Japanese carriers. Leading the *Enterprise's* Bombing Squadron Six, a group of 15 Dauntless SBD aircraft was their commanding officer, Lieutenant Richard Best (later lieutenant commander).

Regarded as one of the Navy's most skilled dive-bomb pilots, Lieutenant Best took the point attacking the well-defended Japanese flagship, the *Akagi*. With precision, he delivered his bomb on the flight deck of the powerful carrier, scoring the first direct hit, one that would eventually lead to the sinking of the ship.

Of the 15 planes in his squadron, only Lieutenant Best and four others returned to the *Enterprise* that day. After refueling and rearming, Lieutenant Best soared into the air again. This time he was searching for the *Hiryu*, the one Japanese carrier that had managed to survive the day's earlier fighting.

According to the Naval Historical Center, Richard Best scored a second direct hit against the *Hiryu*, helping to deliver a devastating blow the overconfident and seemingly invincible Japanese Navy.

In addition to being the only American pilot to score two successful direct hits on Japanese carriers at the Battle of Midway, there was something else remarkable about Lieutenant Best's courage that day. At the time of the attack, he was physically weakened and suffering from severe lung damage. Doctors later diagnosed him as suffering from tuberculosis, a condition that would (1) prevent him from ever flying again and (2) would cause him to spend the next two years recovering in Navy hospitals.

For his actions at Midway, Lieutenant Commander Best received the Navy Cross in 1942, the second highest military award presented to members of the Naval Service. It now appears that this award was based on incomplete information and that at the time, the Navy was not aware (1) that Best was the only pilot who scored two direct hits and (2) that he was suffering from tuberculosis.

Since then, a number of distinguished retired Naval officers, including Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, have "weighed-in" in support of awarding Dick Best the Congressional Medal of Honor. Should the Department of the Navy and the Department of Defense determine that an upgrade of the Navy Cross is appropriate I will unhesitatingly support it.

Mr. President, tomorrow night, at a dinner in New York City, the International Midway Memorial Foundation, will celebrate the 90th birthday of Dick Best and honor him for his selfless and courageous conduct in the Battle of Midway. While I am unable to be present, I certainly extend my gratitude and respect for his incredible heroism that day.

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF RICE-TOTTEN STADIUM, MS VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the importance of this weekend in my home State of Mississippi. On March 25th, Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) will rededicate and rename its football complex. Formerly known as Magnolia Stadium, the Rice-Totten Stadium will honor two of MVSU's great athletes and two ambassadors for the Itta Bena school.

Jerry Rice is a legend—not only in Mississippi, but throughout the world. After completing an extraordinary career at Valley, Jerry went on to become the greatest professional wide receiver ever. During his time with the San Francisco 49ers, Jerry dazzled fans with his ability to make the impossible look easy, broke numerous NFL reception records, and led his team to multiple Super Bowl Championships.

Willie Totten is one of collegiate athletics's greatest competitors. From 1983–1986 Willie led Valley to the top of Division I-AA football. He also raised the bar by which all college offenses are now judged. Today, almost every college football team utilizes a strong pass-oriented offense game plan, but that hasn't always been the case. Football fans have Willie to thank for showing us how exciting passing over 50 times a game can be. Following a solid career with the Buffalo Bills, Willie served the future of competitive athletics as a college and high school coach.

I believe it's only fitting that MVSU recognize and honor Jerry Rice and Willie Totten for their accomplishments and achievements by naming Magnolia Stadium after them. Although I will not be able to attend the rededication ceremony, I wish MVSU, Jerry Rice, Willie Totten, their families, and those associated with the University they celebrate this occasion.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, March 22, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,727,734,275,348.06 (Five trillion, seven hundred twenty-seven billion, seven hundred thirty-four million, two hundred seventy-five thousand, three hundred forty-eight dollars and six cents).

One year ago, March 22, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,642,227,000,000 (Five trillion, six hundred forty-two billion, two hundred twenty-seven million).

Five years ago, March 22, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,844,513,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred forty-four billion, five hundred thirteen million).

Ten years ago, March 22, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,022,412,000,000 (Three trillion, twenty-two billion, four hundred twelve million).

Fifteen years ago, March 22, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,708,934,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred eight billion, nine hundred thirty-four million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,018,800,275,348.06 (Four trillion, eighteen billion, eight hundred million, two hundred seventy-five thousand, three hundred forty-eight dollars and six cents) during the past 15 years.

KEEP OUR PROMISES TO AMERICA'S MILITARY RETIREES ACT OF 2000

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today in support of S. 2003, Keep our Promises to America's Military Retirees Act of 2000.

This is an important step in providing the men and women who serve our nation with a benefit our government promised them when they entered the military and, a promise that our government broke. It is our duty to restore these benefits.

There are still a few of us who serve in the Senate that wore our country's uniform in time of war and in time of peace that know of the hardships placed on the military people and their families. We also know, first-hand, of the promises made by our government to our service men and women. This bill is just a small step in restoring one of those most important promises—health care for military retirees. There are military retirees in my State of Montana that drive hundreds of miles to get their health care. There are some living a few miles from Malmstrom AFB, who cannot get an appointment on base. Mr. President, these are the folks that we promised to take care of it they spent 20 years of their lives defending our freedom.

We have a long way to go and much more to be done for our military personnel, active duty, retired, as well as our veterans. As chairman of the Appropriations subcommittee on Military Construction, I place a high priority on providing the active duty men and women and their families with adequate homes and facilities to work and live in. Mr. President, we have the best trained and the most highly educated military in the world—we must make a commitment to provide them with the tools necessary to do their jobs, with the salaries and benefits to recruit and retain them and with adequate homes and facilities to live and work. Just as these people honor their country with their commitment, this country must honor our commitment to them. With anything less, we lose these valuable people.

I encourage my colleagues to support S. 2003.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

DAY OF HONOR OBSERVANCE

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to wholeheartedly support a resolution to designate May 25 as "Day of Honor 2000," to recognize African American and other minorities who fought so valiantly during World War II. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage nationwide participation in this Day of Honor Observance.

African Americans and other minorities fought and died in World War II to protect the freedom and liberty that we so often take for granted. Too often during the war and in years since, these brave men and women were subjected to unfair discrimination and have never received the recognition they deserve.

In 1941, we lived in an era in which African Americans could not eat at a lunch room counter with others, or drink from the same water fountains. Yet, we felt no hesitation in asking these same Americans to fight for democracy. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I see firsthand the sacrifices that our men and women in the armed forces make to preserve America's freedom. How much harder must it have been to make these same sacrifices fifty years ago. We owe them more than we can ever repay, and for this reason I wholeheartedly support a resolution and encourage nationwide participation in recognizing those African Americans who helped to preserve the liberty that has made our country great.

Pittsburgh will be joining cities across the nation who will host a "Day of Honor Observance" on March 15, 2000, as part of the effort to recognize these citizens to whom we owe so much. I will be participating in this observance and I encourage you to join me in honoring those who put their lives on the line so that we might be free. •

JOHN AND MICHAEL DONOGHUE—FATHER & SON NEW ENGLAND PRESS ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAMERS

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I am pleased to recognize two outstanding Vermont journalists, both affiliated with my alma mater, St. Michael's College, and both recently elected to the New England Press Association Hall of Fame. This prestigious honor recognizes lifetime achievements in journalism. I am well acquainted with the work of both, and know that this recognition is well deserved.

The late John D. Donoghue was the first Public Relations/Sports Information Director at St. Michael's, the first chairman of the Journalism Department there, was a music and arts critic for 35 years at the Burlington Free Press, and Executive Editor of the Vermont Catholic Tribune. During his