

Twenty-four-year-old John Minaya was accosted and fatally shot outside a busy Dairy Queen ice cream shop in Providence's West End early on the evening of May 21, 1999. Officers found Minaya lying on the pavement in the parking lot shortly after 7:00 p.m. He had been hit more than once, and people were ministering to him. He was taken to Rhode Island Hospital, but he died within minutes.

Though it was still springtime, Minaya was Providence's 13th homicide victim of 1999, a year in which there were ultimately 26 murders in the city, up from 15 in 1998 and 13 in 1997. The majority of these killings were committed with firearms, and most of these were handguns.

The children and families who witnessed the shooting of John Minaya in broad daylight at a Dairy Queen in Providence will carry the horrific memory of that day with them for as long as they live. We should do our part to ensure that fewer Americans experience gun violence by passing common sense gun legislation without further delay.●

A TRIBUTE TO OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM

● Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, Saturday, May 20th was Armed Forces Day and I can think of no better time to honor those who serve this great country in the United States military. The millions of active duty personnel who have so unselfishly dedicated their lives to protecting freedom deserve the highest degree of respect and a day of honor.

I recently had the privilege of being invited to tour the U.S.S. *Enterprise* during a training mission off the Florida coast. My experience aboard the *Enterprise* reminded me of the awesome power and strength of the United States military. But more importantly, it reminded me of the hard work and sacrifice of the men and women serving in our armed forces.

The U.S.S. *Enterprise* was commissioned on Sept. 24, 1960 and was the world's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. This incredible ship is the largest carrier in the Naval fleet at 1,123 feet long and 250 feet high. While walking along the 4.47 acre flight deck with Captain James A. Winnefeld, Jr., Commanding Officer, it was amazing to learn that "The Big E" remains the fastest combatant in the world.

Spending two days touring the *Enterprise* showed me what a hard working and knowledgeable military force we have. As I moved through the ship I was greeted with enthusiasm, as sailors explained the ship's equipment and their role as part of the *Enterprise* crew. At full staff, the "Big E," as it is affectionately known, has over 5,000 crew members from every state of the Union, most of whom are between 18 and 24 years old. These young adults are charged with maintaining and operating the largest air craft carrier in

the world and guiding multimillion-dollar airplanes as they land on a floating runway. I was in awe of these men and women who work harder and have more responsibility than many people do in a lifetime.

"The Big E" is a ship that never sleeps, it operates twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. I watched as a handful of tired pilots sat down for 'dinner' at 10:30 p.m. on a Sunday night. Hungry and tired, they wanted it no other way. I had the privilege of joining Captain Winnefeld in honoring the 'Sailor of the Day' for spending three consecutive days repairing broken machinery, taking only a few 30 minute breaks to sleep. I witnessed the same degree of commitment in a separate part of the ship as an eager technician showed me how the cables on the flight deck operate and are maintained below. His task for the past two days was to create the metal attachment which holds one of the four arresting tailhook cables together and his voice was filled with pride as he explained the entire 8 hour process. Between giving orders to his crew, he pointed out a few tiny air bubbles that formed during the cooling process of the metal attachment. Although he started his shift at 4:30 a.m. and probably won't sleep for the next 24 hours, he smiles and tells me it will be redone, that it must be perfect—the lives of our pilots are at risk if it is not. The amazing thing is, they all do it with a smile.

When I think about Armed Forces Day, I think about two events I experienced on the *Enterprise*. First, are the sailors from across Colorado who sat down for breakfast with me in the enlisted mess hall, who gleamed with pride for the job they do and the important role they play in our nation's defense. Second, was the "Town Hall meeting" I held, where I responded to questions and concerns ranging from military health care to Social Security, from members of the crew. These one on one interactions were extremely valuable to me and I learned as much from these events as the crew did.

I have never witnessed a more dedicated or hard working group of people than the crew of the U.S.S. *Enterprise*. It makes me proud when I realize that the "Big E" crew is representative of the millions of American military personnel throughout the world. Nevermind that many of them could be paid more money for less work in a civilian job, may not get eight hours sleep each night or see their families for weeks at a time—they make those sacrifices for the country they love.

I hope that Coloradans will join me in using Armed Forces Day to thank those who are serving in the best military force in the world.●

S. 2581

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I am pleased to cosponsor legislation introduced by Senator SESSIONS, S. 2581, the Historically Women's Public Colleges

or Universities Historic Building Restoration and Preservation Act.

There were seven historic women's public colleges or universities founded in the United States between 1884 and 1908 to provide industrial and vocational education for women who at the time, could not attend other public academic institutions. These schools are now coeducational but retain some of the significant historical and academic features of those pioneering efforts to educate women.

Let me take this time to tell you about one of these schools, Winthrop University, located in South Carolina. Winthrop's history dates back to 1886 when 21 students gathered in a borrowed one-room building in Columbia, S.C. David Bancroft Johnson, a dedicated and gifted superintendent of schools, headed up the fledgling institution whose mission was the education of teachers. Winthrop has changed considerably since moving to its permanent Rock Hill, S.C. home in 1895, growing from a single classroom to a comprehensive university of distinction. The institution became co-educational in 1974 and assumed university designation in 1992.

Like similar institutions founded as historically women's colleges and universities, the Winthrop University campus hosts numerous historic buildings—buildings that are expensive to adapt and/or maintain for modern-day uses essential to public higher education in the 21st century. Also, like similar institutions, many of Winthrop's alumni were women of modest means who were unable to make the kind of substantial private donations that would have enabled the University to build a strong endowment throughout its history. Nonetheless, this campus is significant and is worthy of federal support to assure that its distinctive role in U.S. history is not lost.●

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

● Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to America's small businesses—the backbone of our Nation's vibrant economy. As my colleagues may know, the week of May 21-27 is recognized as "National Small Business Week."

Small businesses have always been one of the leading providers of jobs in our country. According to the Small Business Administration, small businesses employ 52 percent of the private workforce and account for 35 percent of federal contract dollars. Small businesses produce 38 percent of jobs in high-technology industries, and small- and medium-sized companies comprise 96 percent of all exporters and 30 percent of all exports. These statistics underscore the important role the small business community will have toward developing a 21st century economy that is global and technologically driven.

In particular, I am very pleased with the tremendous growth in women-