

utilities. I want to assure them that the Senate will not wait any longer and will pass legislation this session to provide immediate relief to the thousands of senior citizens in South Dakota and across the nation who are having difficulty affording life-saving medication.

Even if we can't reach an agreement on a Medicare prescription drug plan this year, there are several steps we can take now that would provide some relief to seniors who face rising prescription drug costs. All three of the bills that I have sponsored, including the Prescription Drug Fairness For Seniors Act, the International Prescription Drug Parity Act, and the Generic Pharmaceutical Access and Choice For Consumers Act, if enacted this year, would provide immediate relief to millions of Americans across the country. Equally so, these bills would require no additional taxpayer dollars nor new government program."

While they may not be the magic bullet that meets all of the long term needs of providing Medicare prescription drug coverage, they would provide a mechanism for immediate relief from rising drug costs. Working together, reaching across the aisle, we can use this time of unparalleled prosperity to do the right thing by our seniors. We should do it this year for their sake, and for the sake of the future of Medicare.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNITION OF THE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION ACT ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today, on the 66th anniversary of the National Credit Union Act being signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, to salute the Nation's credit unions and acknowledge their important contributions.

Prior to 1934, collective pools of employees gathered their assets to assist them in acquiring credit and improving their financial futures. The first credit union in the United States was established in 1909, as the only financial institution available to low-income workers who wanted to save their wages and receive short-term consumer loans.

In the spring of 1925, the Minneapolis postal employees collectively began Minnesota's first credit union with 15 workers attending the initial meeting. Started with a total of \$146.25 in assets, the Minneapolis Postal Employees Credit Union, now called the US Fed-

eral Credit Union, has survived through times of economic hardship such as the Depression of the 1930s and World War II.

Today, the Federal Credit Union System has well over \$300 billion in assets, and some 67 million Americans enjoy membership in credit unions nationwide. Credit unions bring together people with common employers, ethnic backgrounds, or geographic areas. They have positively impacted economic growth in the United States by increasing Americans' access to credit through a system of cooperative organizations which have helped stabilize America's credit structure.

The credit union philosophy of "people helping people" continues to provide many rural and economically depressed areas with the financial tools and confidence necessary for success. In my state of Minnesota, more than 195 credit unions not only provide mortgages, loans, and financial savings opportunities, but also bring their communities together to raise money for programs such as "Credit Unions for Kids." This effort is a collaboration of credit unions and business partners benefitting 170 Children's Miracle Network-affiliated hospitals serving 14 million kids nationwide.

Minnesota credit unions also provide funds for the Minnesota Credit Union Foundation, a non-profit corporation organized to serve charitable, scientific and educational purposes with special emphasis on credit union-related activities. Funds are used to provide disaster relief efforts for credit union members, develop credit unions in emerging nations, and supply scholarships to educational training programs.

Mr. President, as a member of a credit union myself, I would like to thank America's credit unions on this anniversary for their constant and continuous efforts to assist the men and women of their communities overcome life's financial obstacles and build a more secure future for themselves and their families.●

##### IN HONOR OF PAUL McLAUGHLIN

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I rise today to join the City of Boston, the residents of Massachusetts, and members of the law enforcement community across the country in recognizing the loss of Paul McLaughlin. Paul was a committed prosecutor who lived his life for others, and on September 25, 1995, he was shot while getting into his car after work. This weekend Boston memorializes its loss with the dedication of the Paul McLaughlin Boys and Girls Club in Dorchester's Savin Hill neighborhood and I join the city in this important day of recognition.

Paul came from a long, distinguished line of Bostonians. His grandfather, Edward Sr., was the Boston Fire Commissioner as well as a member of the State Legislature in the 1920's, and his father, Edward Jr., was President of the Boston City Council, an Assistant U.S.

Attorney, and Lt. Governor under Governor Volpe. A graduate of Boston Latin School, Dartmouth College and Suffolk Law School, Paul was admitted to the bar in 1981 and his early work included time at the Cambridge District Court and the Public Protection Bureau. Paul was the consummate professional, and his reputation soon led to serving on the Attorney General's staff in 1991, where he was assigned to drug and gang cases in Suffolk Superior Court. During one five year stretch he compiled an impressive 73 percent conviction rate, winning 98 of 134 Superior Court cases.

In a fitting tribute to Paul's commitment to working for a better community for all of us, especially our children, the site for the McLaughlin Boys and Girls Club is one of Boston's Ten Most Wanted drug houses. On Saturday, June 24th, the McLaughlin Family joined with Mayor Thomas M. Menino and members of the Colonel Daniel Marr Boys & Girls Club in honoring Paul's life by opening a remarkable new facility in his name in Dorchester's Savin Hill neighborhood. The Paul R. McLaughlin Youth Center will perpetuate Paul's legacy of selfless service to his community by serving 2,600 children in one of the state's most successful youth programs. The structure that used to be the source of drugs and despair will now be a beacon of hope for the whole city.

Mr. President, I join the people of Dorchester, West Roxbury and Jamaica Plain in mourning the loss of their neighbor and friend. My thoughts go out to Paul's colleagues, friends and family. Together, we realize how fortunate we are to have worked with and known an individual of his caliber. Today the City of Boston memorializes this loss, and I join everyone in honoring his life by opening the Paul R. McLaughlin Youth Center.●

##### TRIBUTE TO THOMAS BURACK

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Thomas Burack of Dunbarton, New Hampshire, for receiving the "Cotton Cleveland Leadership Award" for 2000.

A renowned and engaging speaker, he is often found addressing business groups and honoring professionals who have made outstanding accomplishments. It seems only fitting, then, that he should be honored with this award which celebrates the accomplishments of an outstanding individual who has demonstrated involvement and commitment to community service as well as the ability to encourage and develop leadership in others.

A graduate of the 1997 Leadership New Hampshire class, he practices law at the firm of Sheehan, Phinney, Bass, and Green, P.A. Over the past ten years, he has donated both time and experience to the Dartmouth Environmental Network, the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Commission, the Audubon Society of New