

may be occasional at age 9, but total dependence is normally established upon reaching the teen years. Most boys affected survive into their twenties, with relatively few surviving beyond 30 years of age.

I have heard from the parents and grandparents of a little boy in Arkansas who has DMD. His name is Austin and his family is desperately hoping for a cure so they don't have to watch their son and grandson lose his ability to walk. While we are far from finding a cure for DMD, I am hopeful that language that Senator FRIST has graciously worked with me to include in the children's health bill will help Austin and the thousands of other young boys suffering from DMD. Specifically, the Act authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to expand and increase coordination of the activities by the National Institutes of Health with respect to research on muscular dystrophies, including DMD.

In conclusion, we are about to pass incredibly important legislation to address a myriad of children's health issues, including childhood cancer and Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. Efforts to improve the quality and length of life for millions of children are valuable beyond measure, and I encourage all of my colleagues to work together with me to raise awareness about these devastating diseases and the need to find treatments and cures for the children they affect.

THE INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION ACT OF 2000

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, it may only be September, but it sure feels like Christmas. For seven years, adoption advocates in the United States and throughout the world have waited for the moment that came late yesterday. In fact, it marked the second time this week that history has been made in these chambers. On Tuesday, this body voted to extend permanent normal trade relations to China and yesterday, we voted to ratify the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of International Adoption. In doing so, we have joined the international community in, for the first time, recognizing that the "child for the full, harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family." For the hundreds of thousands of children growing up on the streets and in institutions throughout the world, yesterday's vote marked the hope of a better tomorrow.

I would like to begin my remarks by thanking Chairman HELMS for his extraordinary leadership in passing this historic legislation. There is no doubt in my mind that we would not be celebrating this important moment were it not for him. In the two years since we stood together on this floor and introduced this legislation, he has worked tirelessly to ensure that each of the bill's provisions were aimed at pro-

tecting adopted children and their families. I would also like to thank Senator BIDEN, Senator BROWNBACK, Senator KENNEDY, Senator ABRAHAM, Representative GILMAN, Representative GEJDENSON, Representative SMITH and Representative CAMP for their work in moving this bill forward.

I would also like to commend the adoption community at large. In my opinion, this effort is a shining example of what can be accomplished if people are willing to compromise for the greater good. I have said it before and I believe it rings true here, adoption brings people, whether they are Republican, Democrat, conservative, liberal, American, Russian or Chinese, together. United by the belief that all children deserve to grow in the love of a permanent family. Adoption breaks down barriers and helps build families.

Last year international adoption helped 15,744 children to realize their dream of having a family of their own. Not a day goes by when I do not receive a letter or a picture from one of these families telling me what incredible joy adoption has brought to their lives. Not long ago, I attended the naturalization ceremony for about 100 of these families. I distinctly remember looking into the crowd, at the tiny faces of these little ambassadors from Moldova, India, China, Kazakhstan, Russia, Korea, Romania, and thinking that there is no better example of the new era of globalization. With inventions like the Internet, geographic barriers will no longer stand in the way of children finding families. Today, it is possible for a couple from a small town like New Iberia, Louisiana to be connected with a waiting child in Irkutsk, Russia. There is no such thing as an unwanted child, just unfound families. We share a collective responsibility to find a home for every child in the world and with yesterday's vote, we acknowledged that we are willing to share in that responsibility.

As the largest receiving country, we have the opportunity to use this legislation and the system it creates to construct an international framework designed to protect the children and families involved in the adoption process. It is time for us to take action to eliminate some of the fraud, abuse and greed that can corrupt the adoption process. Joined by their commitment to protecting the rights of the child, Hague countries can now enjoy the comfort of knowing that each and every adoption will be performed in accordance with the established standards. Adoptive parents can rest easier knowing that there is somewhere they can turn with questions and concerns.

As an adoption advocate and adoptive mother, it has been a very exciting week. In addition to passing this treaty, the House just passed the H.R. 2883, the Adopted Orphans Citizenship Act. This bill grants automatic citizenship for children who are adopted. Unlike a child born to a United States citizen, adopted children are not conferred

automatic citizenship by virtue of their adoption. Instead, they must go through a long, complex and costly naturalization process. This is not only unnecessary its unfair. Adopted children should have the same rights as birth children and laws which unfairly discriminate between the two need to be changed. I urge my colleagues to act quickly to pass this legislation.

Yes, Mr. President, it has been a very good week for children in need of homes. Yesterday, President Clinton awarded the second installment of the adoption incentive payments to states who had increased their number of adoptions out of foster care. 46,000 children in foster care found homes through adoption last year. That is a 65 percent increase since 1996.

Although I am excited by the progress we have made, I am still driven by the vision of the children in institutions abroad and the knowledge that over 500,000 children in this country are caught in the foster care drift. We have accomplished a lot, but much remains to be done.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, September 20, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,660,515,052,511.42, five trillion, six hundred sixty billion, five hundred fifteen million, fifty-two thousand, five hundred eleven dollars and forty-two cents.

One year ago, September 20, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,630,759,000,000, five trillion, six hundred thirty billion, seven hundred fifty-nine million.

Five years ago, September 20, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,967,473,000,000, four trillion, nine hundred sixty-seven billion, four hundred seventy-three million.

Ten years ago, September 20, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,214,168,000,000, three trillion, two hundred fourteen billion, one hundred sixty-eight million.

Fifteen years ago, September 20, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,823,102,000,000, one trillion, eight hundred twenty-three billion, one hundred two million, which reflects a debt increase of almost \$4 trillion—\$3,837,413,052,511.42, three trillion, eight hundred thirty-seven billion, four hundred thirteen million, fifty-two thousand, five hundred eleven dollars and forty-two cents, during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I am honored to serve as one of this year's congressional co-chairs for National Bible Week, sponsored by the National Bible Association. This observance occurs during the week of November 19–26, 2000, the week during which Thanksgiving Day occurs. This is appropriate

since many Americans will attend houses of worship during that week to give thanksgiving.

As we gather to give thanks, let us remember that "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4) When we try to live by bread alone, we nourish the body but starve the mind. Members of Congress are called upon to right wrongs and correct injustice. There is no better way for all of us to satisfy our hunger and thirst for justice than by "eating" the life-giving spiritual food found in the Bible. By "eating" the food of the Bible, I mean not just reading and studying the lessons found there, but to ponder those messages in our hearts and apply them to our own lives. John Quincy Adams, our sixth President, said, "For years I have read the Bible through once a year. I read it every morning, as the very best way to begin the day."

We are all very busy people. Many of us think we do not have time to read the Bible every day. D. L. Moody once answered this common excuse by saying, "My friend, if you are too busy to read the Bible every day you are busier than Almighty God ever intended any human being should be and you had better let some things go and take time to read the Bible."

The Bible has always been more than a doctrinal source book or a compendium of theological beliefs. People have turned to it time and time again for comfort, encouragement, guidance and direction. I have my Bible on my desk. Woodrow Wilson, our twenty-eighth President, said, "I am sorry for the men who do not read the Bible every day. I wonder why they deprive themselves of the strength and of the pleasure."

Read the Bible. Study the Bible. Ponder the messages contained in the Bible. By doing this you will learn of God's will for your life. Apply those message to your life and you will learn that there is salvation, there is forgiveness of sins and there is the hope of eternal life in the presence of God.●

CELEBRATING THE GENEROSITY OF JOAN C. EDWARDS

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the philanthropy of one of West Virginia's most celebrated adopted daughters. Later this month at a formal naming ceremony, the Marshall University School of Medicine in Huntington, West Virginia, will be renamed the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine at Marshall University. It gives me great honor to come to the floor today to be able to share Joan Edwards' remarkable story with the nation.

Born in London, England, Joan's family moved to New Orleans when she was only four years old. At the age of 17, Joan set off to tour the nation singing the "Sugar Blues" with Clyde McCoy and his Kentucky band. As a

young girl, Joan's singing career brought her to Chicago, New York, and Pittsburgh, among other cities, where she met her future husband and Huntington, West Virginia native, James "Jim" Edwards. Joan and Jim were married soon after, and lived in Pittsburgh prior to returning to Huntington to work at the Edwards' family business, National Mattress Company. Together, Jim and Joan would build the family's business into a great American success story and were also able to take up their passion of breeding racehorses.

In 1991, after 54 years of marriage, Jim Edwards lost his battle with cancer. Shortly thereafter, Joan Edwards announced that she would present a total of over \$20 million in contributions to the Huntington community from their estate. This included \$1 million to the Marshall University School of Medicine, \$1 million to the Huntington Museum of Art, \$2 million to the Episcopal Church, and \$16 million to the Cabell Huntington Hospital for the construction of an adult cancer center.

This story in and of itself is remarkable, but Joan Edwards' charity goes even beyond that. Since that time, Joan has donated an additional \$1 million to the Fine and Performing Arts Center at Marshall and \$2 million to address the University's most pressing needs. And Joan Edwards has not stopped there. She has raised the bar even further. Having lost both her husband and son to cancer, Joan has bequeathed an additional \$16 million to the Marshall University Medical School with an additional \$2 million dedicated toward preliminary planning, design, and development for the creation of a children's cancer center.

It is indeed fitting that Marshall University will bestow a great honor upon Mrs. Edwards, formally renaming its Medical School the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine at Marshall University. I would also like to point out that only one-third of all of the medical schools in the nation are named after a benefactor. Of these institutions, Marshall University's School of Medicine will be the first in the nation named after a woman. This is such a fitting tribute for such an amazing woman.

Joan has demonstrated the true meaning of philanthropy. Her active engagement in academics, the arts, athletics, and health care has impacted the lives of countless people in West Virginia and across the country, serving as an inspiration to us all. She has done more for the foundation of the community than most people would ever be able to do, and we are fortunate to have her as part of the fabric of West Virginia. I thank Joan for all of her selfless acts, and as we celebrate this honor, I am reminded of how proud I am that she is a fellow West Virginian.●

RECOGNITION OF LINDSAY BENKO, OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST

● Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a remarkable young athlete from the great state of Indiana.

Yesterday, Americans watched with pride as 23 year-old Lindsay Benko and her teammates captured the gold medal in the 4x200 freestyle swim relay. The team did it in style, setting an Olympic record with their time of 7:57.80.

With that victory, Lindsay became the first Hoosier to win a medal at the 2000 Summer Olympic games in Sydney, Australia.

Lindsay hails from Elkhart, Indiana, a small town in the shadow of Notre Dame's famous golden dome. In a town where football rules, today it is Lindsay Benko who has captured the headlines and inspired pride in Elkhart and South Bend.

Like so many other Olympic athletes, Lindsay has been preparing for her Olympic moment since she was very young, in fact, she has been swimming competitively since she was eight years old. Lindsay has dedicated her life to a sport she loves, and worked hard to be among the best. As early as her freshman year at Elkhart Central High School, she was a state champion. In high school, she won a total of eleven state titles, four in the 100 meter freestyle, four in the 200 meter freestyle, and three in the 400 meter freestyle relay. After graduation, Lindsay took her competitive fire and winning Hoosier spirit to the University of Southern California, where she won a total of five NCAA individual titles.

Yesterday, Lindsay conquered her sport at a new level. She can now be called a world-class athlete and a world champion, but we will continue to proudly claim her as our own in the state of Indiana.

Mr. President, I join my friends in Elkhart, South Bend and across Indiana in congratulating Lindsay Benko for her outstanding accomplishment, and wishing the best of luck to all of our nation's Olympic athletes as they compete in the 2000 Summer Olympic Games.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by