

nation in the Armed Forces, especially those who gave their lives to protect the freedoms we enjoy today. Their sacrifice on behalf of our country is commendable and I extend my sincere appreciation for the honorable service they have given.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, May 23, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,658,410,674,620.47, five trillion, six hundred fifty-eight billion, four hundred ten million, six hundred seventy-four thousand, six hundred twenty dollars and forty-seven cents.

One year ago, May 23, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,676,154,000,000, five trillion, six hundred seventy-six billion, one hundred fifty-four million.

Five years ago, May 23, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,120,584,000,000, five trillion, one hundred twenty billion, five hundred eighty-four million.

Ten years ago, May 23, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,463,998,000,000, three trillion, four hundred sixty-three billion, nine hundred ninety-eight million.

Fifteen years ago, May 23, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,030,039,000,000, two trillion, thirty billion, thirty-nine million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$3.5 trillion, \$3,628,371,674,620.47, three trillion, six hundred twenty-eight billion, three hundred seventy-one million, six hundred seventy-four thousand, six hundred twenty dollars and forty-seven cents during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR HARRY A. AMESBURY, JR.

• Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Major Harry A. Amesbury, Jr. who after 29 years is finally being returned home to his family. On April 26, 1972, Harry was the commander of a C-130E aircraft on a night emergency resupply mission to the besieged city of An Loc, Republic of Vietnam. He knew there was a concentration of enemy anti-aircraft defenses because he made the flight the night before. His aircraft was struck by the intense enemy fire and shot down. He has been missing in action since that date, but not forgotten. An Idaho resident and career Air Force officer with over sixteen years of service to his country, he was survived by his parents Dr. and Mrs. Harry A. Amesbury, Sr., who are now deceased, his wife Mary Amesbury Predoehl, and four sons: Harry Kurt Amesbury, David John Amesbury, Robert Stephen Amesbury, and Alan Keith Amesbury. He is also survived by David's wife Marjan, their son Brendan, and the twins Cameron and Shannon, as well as, Stephen's wife Mary and their sons Ryan and Connor. I know I speak for

all my colleagues in the Senate in expressing my profound sorrow to the Amesbury family for their loss.

In a letter to his parents on 15 April 1972, just eleven days before his death, Harry wrote: "I want you to know that if something should happen to me, that I am doing what needs to be done and I am doing what I think is right". He was a thorough professional who believed in his country and his duties as an Air Force Officer. He knew that his fellow service members needed his help, so he didn't hesitate when called on to make that final flight.

Harry received the Silver Star for his valor in attempting the mission to An Loc. He also received the Distinguished Flying Cross for a mission the previous day, when his aircraft was heavily damaged by enemy anti-aircraft fire. These final acts of courage, following days and years of courageous acts, demonstrate the commitment that Major Harry Amesbury had for military service, his dedication to our country, and the importance he placed on performing his duty. Unfortunately, this tragedy reminds us once again of the painful costs of answering the call of service to our country, and the sacrifices our military members make for others who need help. We will never know how many lives in An Loc were saved because of the valor of Major Harry Amesbury, but as we pay homage to his memory, let us rededicate ourselves in the days and months ahead to the ideals of our great nation, and keep faith with all brave Americans who choose to wear the uniform and ensure that their sacrifices were not made in vain.

I hope it is of some comfort to the family that Major Harry Amesbury, Jr. is finally returning home to Idaho. It was always his plan to return to the State after completing his Air Force career, and even bought land overlooking the Snake River, near Marsing, where he planned to build his retirement home.

On Memorial Day at Mountain Home AFB, there will be an official ceremony which will include the rendering of military honors and one final opportunity to express appreciation for his service and his sacrifice. His family will then travel into the mountains, to a place that he loved to go with his children, and say goodbye in their own way.

I am very proud to recognize Major Harry A. Amesbury, Jr. and tell him and his family, Thank You. •

TRIBUTE TO JANE ELLEN STRITZINGER

• Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to one of this country's great educators as she retires after over 30 years of teaching English in my home state of Alabama. This week marks the end of an outstanding career for Jane Ellen Stritzinger as she retires from Demopolis High School. Mrs. Stritzinger has taught thousands of

students to write well and motivated many to pursue higher education. I join her family, friends, fellow teachers and the students she has guided in congratulating and wishing her well in retirement. Her devoted service to the young people of Alabama has made both the state and the nation better places. Her leadership and teaching will be sorely missed.

Mrs. Stritzinger's awards, activities and leadership positions are far too numerous to list exhaustively, yet a few bear special mention. She was selected as the Alabama State Teacher of the Year, District V winner for 1999-2000. Mrs. Stritzinger has also received the University of West Alabama College of Liberal Arts Alumni Achievement Award, the Tombigbee Girl Scout Council Outstanding Educator Award and the Alabama Council of Teachers of English Distinguished Service Award. She has also been recognized three times by the National Endowment for the Humanities with Awards allowing her to attend special seminars. In addition to her support of educational efforts, Mrs. Stritzinger has played active roles in numerous community organizations including historical, alumni and religious organizations.

Mrs. Stritzinger spent most of her career teaching English and literature to twelfth grade students at Demopolis High School where she has been responsible for the Advanced Placement, Honors and College-bound English classes. In addition, she has served as the Chairperson of the English Department at Demopolis High School for twenty years and of both the English Curriculum Development and the English Textbook Committees. Early in her career, she taught English at Uniontown High School and remedial reading at Westside School and served as Assistant Director of the Alabama Consortium for the Development of Higher Education. She has helped mold the minds of students as they prepared for college and for life. Her focus on encouraging and recognizing academic excellence extended beyond her classroom to the numerous activities and organizations she helped coordinate including founding the local chapter of the National Honor Society.

Mrs. Stritzinger holds a strong belief in encouraging students to improve their reading abilities and develop strong writing skills. She championed using the Accelerated Reader Program and applied for her school to become an Alabama Reading Initiative Demonstration site. She devoted countless hours over the years to the Alabama Penman Creative Writing Contest, the Gulf Coast Writing Conference, the Program to Recognize Excellence in High School Literary Magazines, a tutorial program for high school students and the Beta Club. Mrs. Stritzinger participated in a program on writing instruction filmed by the State Department of Education for Alabama Public Television.