

During the Clinton administration, Eric was instrumental in my efforts to bolster our Nation's armed forces by getting \$48 billion in additional funds for our military through supplemental and congressionally added funds. He also helped me gain \$823 million in military construction funding from 1996 to 2003 to revitalize Mississippi's most critical military bases.

In particular, I should note that Eric's naval experience was significant in helping me bolster the naval shipbuilding industry on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. He was instrumental in bringing together the Navy, the Office of Secretary of Defense, industry, and the Congress to ensure a robust naval shipbuilding program. His work was reflected in the development of the LHD, LHA(R), LPD-17, DD(X), DDG-51, and the Littoral Combat Ship programs.

I know that the citizens of Mississippi benefited from Eric's relentless pursuit of military and economic development projects that will impact the State for years to come. The country, too, should be proud to have had such a champion of strong military ideals fighting to preserve our nation's military power and to properly support our men and women in uniform. As a result of his outstanding performance, Eric was recently awarded the Mississippi Distinguished Civilian Service Medal and the Department of the Navy's Superior Public Service Award.

As Eric moves onto a new and exciting position as Vice President for Programs at Northrop Grumman Corporation, I wish him, his wife Wendy, and their children, Melissa and Matthew, every success. Eric has served our country for more than 27 years, and as he embarks upon his new journey, I wish to take this opportunity to thank him for his service and to wish him nothing but the best in his new career.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH VINCENT TREBAT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the adjournment of the 107th Congress means we shall soon be bidding goodbye to the year 2002. The weeks ahead will be filled with reviews of the headlines and history of 2002. Unfortunately, 2002 marks the passing of an even greater number of individuals who made up what some refer to as the "Greatest Generation." The men and women who sacrificed much and rose to meet the awesome challenges confronting our great nation in the aftermath of World War II are dying off in greater numbers each year.

Today, I wish to recognize the life of one such individual who embodied the self sacrifice, uniquely American optimism, and genuine goodness of this generation—Joseph Vincent Trebat of Mount Prospect, IL. Joseph Trebat passed on to eternal life on August 14th but left behind a legion of family and friends whose lives have been infinitely enriched because of his life.

Joseph Trebat, "Dad" to his six children, "Papa" to his twenty-one grand-

children and two great grandchildren and "Joe" to his beautiful bride of 66 years, Lauretta, will be sorely missed. It is often said of men like Joe that he lived a good life. For Joe, however, it is more important to add that his was a life well led.

Joe's life was truly an American life. The son of Slovak immigrants, Joe grew up in Chicago and was by all accounts a self-made man. He worked his way through college and spent 50 years at the same company. He brought the same dedication to his family. His priorities never changed—work hard, enjoy life and provide a better future for his wife and children. The lives led by his six children: Mary Ann, Tom, Patty, Dottie, Joe and Kathy, evidence Joe's greatest success in life. To meet Lauretta, or "Stella" as Joe lovingly referred to her, is to understand what it means to be in the company of a kind and happy person. Joe may have been born Slovak but his marriage to Lauretta demonstrated he was blessed with the luck of the Irish.

Joe's naturally twinkling eyes could bring cheer to anyone. Those who enjoyed his company, whether joining Joe on the back porch of his house on Wa Pella, playing golf in one of the Trebat Golf Opens or cheering on his beloved Notre Dame, knew they could count on no shortage of laughter and fun. With its number one fan rooting for them from heaven it is no wonder that Notre Dame is experiencing such a winning football season in 2002.

Joe was a gentle giant who will be missed by all. A man for others who's strong faith and love of family was always steadfast and never wavering. When we talk of the "Greatest Generation" it is men like Joe who come to mind. While he will always be missed, he will forever be a model for future generations.

#### WE NEED A PLAN TO STOP AIDS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, several months ago the Appropriations Committee reported out the fiscal year 2003 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, and the Senate passed the Homeland Security Supplemental Conference Report.

Those two bills contain a total of \$950 million for international programs to combat AIDS, including \$300 million for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. We provided \$250 million for the Global Fund last year, although \$50 million has not yet been disbursed.

That sounds like a lot of money. It is far more than what we were spending on international AIDS programs just two or three years ago. But think about it another way. The amount we expect to provide in 2002 and 2003 to combat AIDS, which threatens the lives of each of the world's 6 billion people—is less than what my own State of Vermont, with a population of only 600,000 people, will spend on health care during that same period.

So while the United States is doing more than ever to combat AIDS, and

we can point to successes in several countries—Uganda, Thailand and Brazil, for example, the reality is that the AIDS pandemic is out of control.

It is spreading faster, not slower. 40 million people are infected. Almost nobody is receiving treatment. 25 million people have died from AIDS-related causes, and at the current rate that number is expected to exceed 65 million by the year 2020.

By any measure, AIDS is a plague of biblical proportions. Over 6 centuries ago, the Bubonic Plague started at a small trading post in the Crimea and quickly spread from port to port. By the time it ran its course, a third of Europe was dead.

It is still remembered as the worst epidemic in the history of the world. No longer. AIDS is making the Bubonic Plague look like a mild case of the flu.

The reality is that despite everything we have done and are doing, we are failing miserably to control this pandemic. Until we develop a strategy that matches the challenge, and until we start thinking in terms of billions, not millions, of dollars, we will continue to fail.

The alternative is unthinkable, but it is by no means impossible—100 million deaths. 200 million. 400 million. This virus spreads exponentially, and so does the cost of controlling it.

When I think about AIDS, I think back to 1990, when Ryan White was alive, and Magic Johnson didn't know he was HIV positive. Even though hundreds of thousands of Americans had already died of the disease, we had gone a decade with two Presidents who refused even to speak the word "AIDS" in public.

In the spring of 1990, we learned that in some African villages, one of every 10 people was infected.

That year, my wife Marcelle and I traveled to Kenya, Uganda and South Africa to see the impact of AIDS first hand. During one visit to Kampala, we met people infected with HIV who were teaching others to protect themselves from the virus.

Those brave people were HIV-positive and knew their time was short. Yet they devoted the time they had left to helping others to live.

When I came home, I gave a speech and said that if we failed to act, by the year 2000 ten million people would die of AIDS.

I was wrong. The number of people who died from this disease during the next 10 years was not 10 million, it was 22 million, and now it is 25 million.

Imagine waking up tomorrow morning and learning that every single man, woman, and child—every single person—in Miami, Minneapolis, Atlanta, Denver, Boston, Seattle, Washington, D.C., New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia, San Diego, Detroit, and Dallas combined had a virus for which there was no cure.

That is the reality in Africa today. Every hour, AIDS buries another 250 Africans.