

workshops and mentoring programs while working to build cooperative relationships with law enforcement personnel, businesses, and local government officials. Kenneth Barnes and ROOT recently announced plans to expand the Guns Aside program to the top 15 cities affected by gun violence around the country.

Ironically, September 29, 2004 marked not only the start of the Guns Aside campaign, but also the passage of the misnamed "District of Columbia Personal Protection Act" by the House of Representatives. Among other things, that legislation would repeal local laws in Washington, D.C. that ban the sale and possession of unregistered firearms, require firearm registration, impose common sense safe storage requirements, and ban semiautomatic weapons.

The Senate did not make the mistake of passing that legislation during the 108th Congress. However, the bill was reintroduced last year and the National Rifle Association has labeled it a "top legislative priority" for this year.

I hope that the House and Senate Republican Congressional leadership will reward the work of organizations like ROOT and reject the efforts of NRA lobbyists. We should respect the will of the people of Washington, DC, with regard to local gun safety laws and work to support the efforts of antigun violence organizations around the country by passing commonsense gun safety legislation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DAVE SERFLING

• Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate Dave Serfling, a Minnesota farmer, father, friend, and activist who died tragically on January 8 while driving home from church. My thoughts and prayers go out to Dave's family, especially his wife Diane, his daughter Hannah, and his son Ethan. Along with Dave's immediate family, the family farming and sustainable agriculture community in Minnesota also experienced a great loss on that Sunday morning.

Dave raised hogs, beef cattle, sheep, and crops on 350 acres in southeast Minnesota's Fillmore County. During his 46 years, he made extraordinary contributions to sustainable agriculture. As a key member of the Land Stewardship Project's Federal Farm Policy Committee, Dave Serfling put his farming experience and analytical skills to work in developing a new farm program that would reward farmers for their environmental improvements to their farmlands. His ideas were championed by the great Senator from Iowa, Mr. HARKIN, who was then chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. They became the genesis of Senator HARKIN's Conservation Security Act, which is now a

lasting legacy to Dave as an important nationwide agriculture program.

Dave testified before the Senate for policies helping family farmers in Minnesota and across the Nation. His statement to the Senate Agriculture Committee on July 31, 2001, typified his philosophy on farm policy and farming itself: "I am a big believer in farm ingenuity. . . . Please don't tell the farmers how to farm. Just tell us what results you want to see on working land, give us meaningful financial incentives, and we American farmers will not let you down."

Dave's involvement with the 2002 farm bill was just one example of his contributions to sustainable agriculture and family farming. In 1987, he and his wife Diane were one of the original farm families to be involved in the Land Stewardship Project's Stewardship Farming Program, an on-farm research and information exchange initiative, which became a national model for farmer-to-farmer education. The Serflings continued to be involved in on-farm research and education during the past two decades.

Throughout the years, Dave wrote extensively for various publications, including the Minneapolis-based Star Tribune and AgriNews. His writings and speeches combined Dave's razor-sharp analytical abilities with his own family's experiences as stewards of their Fillmore County farm. The Serfling farm had also been featured in the Christian Science Monitor, the Des Moines Register, the Chicago Tribune, and on National Public Radio.

In recent years, Dave and Diane's farm has been recognized for protecting the environment and raising animals humanely, while also making a profit. In 2005, Dave and Diane were given an Outstanding Conservationist award by the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. That same year, their farm was recognized by the national company, Niman Ranch, as a top producer of high-quality pork.

Dave was also a role model for his children when it came to the idea of lifelong learning. In December 2005, he received a master's degree in professional agriculture from Iowa State University after taking classes, one at a time, for 16 years.

At the time of his death, Dave was working on new ideas for the 2007 farm bill. He was helping develop a new farm initiative for conservation, commodity program reform, and rural development based on local food and farming systems.

Dave had his priorities right. He loved his family, he cared for his farm, and he worked for the betterment of his community and society. He lived his faith. Dave Serfling's absence from farming, farm policy, and Minnesota will be felt for a long time to come. However, he has left a legacy of stewardship of the land and a practical vision for family farming that will benefit today's farmers and future generations. Thank you, Dave. Rest in peace.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, 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 appropriate committees.

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

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 2271. A bill to clarify that individuals who receive FISA orders can challenge non-disclosure requirements, that individuals who receive national security letters are not required to disclose the name of their attorney, that libraries are not wire or electronic communication service providers unless they provide specific services, and for other purposes.

S. 2273. A bill to make available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 program for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SUNUNU (for himself, Mr. CRAIG, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. HAGEL):

S. 2271. A bill to clarify that individuals who receive FISA orders can challenge non-disclosure requirements, that individuals who receive national security letters are not required to disclose the name of their attorney, that libraries are not wire or electronic communication service providers unless they provide specific services, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. COLEMAN (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 2272. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the deduction for host families of foreign exchange and other students from \$50 per month to \$200 per month; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SMITH, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SANTORUM, and Mr. JEFFORDS):

S. 2273. A bill to make available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 program for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. DOMENICI:

S. 2274. A bill to establish a language arts facility for Homeland Security personnel and law enforcement officers; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SHELBY:

S. 2275. A bill to temporarily increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out

the national flood insurance program; considered and passed.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 2276. A bill to provide for fairness for the Federal judiciary; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 658

At the request of Mr. TALENT, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. TALENT) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 658, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit human cloning.

S. 722

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 722, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the tax on beer to its pre-1991 level.

S. 877

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) were added as cosponsors of S. 877, a bill to provide for a biennial budget process and a biennial appropriations process and to enhance oversight and the performance of the Federal Government.

S. 1035

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1035, a bill to authorize the presentation of commemorative medals on behalf of Congress to Native Americans who served as Code Talkers during foreign conflicts in which the United States was involved during the 20th century in recognition of the service of those Native Americans to the United States.

S. 2253

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) were added as cosponsors of S. 2253, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to offer the 181 Area of the Gulf of Mexico for oil and gas leasing.

S. 2259

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2259, a bill to establish an Office of Public Integrity in the Congress and a Congressional Ethics Enforcement Commission.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. COLEMAN (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 2272. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the deduction for host families of foreign exchange and other students from \$50 per month to \$200 per month; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to introduce

legislation with my colleague from South Dakota, Senator JOHNSON, that will help ease the financial burden for American families who open their homes to foreign exchange students from around the world, and offer an incentive to additional families to get involved in international exchanges.

Every year, approximately 30,000 American families host exchange students from all over the world. This exchange experience provides the families, their communities, the students and their schools with a unique educational opportunity to increase cultural awareness and understanding. And it often produces lifelong friendship as well.

Exchange programs are vital in today's interconnected world to build bridges of understanding. Youth exchange is particularly critical as it allows young people the opportunity to gain exposure to American families, culture and values early in their lives. Participants take home an understanding and often an appreciation for America's people, society and values.

At her confirmation hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee early last year, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice declared, "I am a big proponent of student exchanges. It is the best policy we can have." She explained that, "the presence of foreign students" is "one of the best things" for American students; the experience "changes the way we think about people, and the way they think about us", and she called student exchange "invaluable."

We could not agree with her more. The legislation we introduce today will encourage more American families to participate in exchanges by increasing the monthly tax deduction for host families from \$50 to \$200 per month. The current \$50 tax deduction has been in place since it was first introduced in the 1960s. It has never been increased to allow for inflation or to reflect the increasing costs associated with hosting a student. Our legislation will increase the monthly deduction with an annual adjustment for inflation.

While the increase is certainly not enough cover the expenses involved in feeding and housing a teenager, it will offer needed cost relief to American families, and most importantly, it will send a strong message to these families that our Nation values their contribution to increasing international understanding.

I hope that my Senate colleagues will join Senator JOHNSON and me in supporting this legislation.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2272

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Youth Exchange Support Act of 2006".

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN CHARITABLE DEDUCTION FOR AMOUNTS PAID TO MAINTAIN CERTAIN STUDENTS AS MEMBERS OF TAXPAYER'S HOUSEHOLD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) of section 170(g)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to amounts paid to maintain certain students as members of taxpayer's household) is amended by striking "\$50" and inserting "\$200".

(b) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—Section 170(g) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any taxable year beginning in a calendar year after 2006, the \$200 amount contained in paragraph (2)(A) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

“(i) \$200, multiplied by

“(ii) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year in which the taxable year begins by substituting ‘calendar year 2005’ for ‘calendar year 1992’ in subparagraph (B) thereof.

“(B) ROUNDING.—If any increase determined under paragraph (1) is not a multiple of \$10, such increase shall be rounded to the next highest multiple of \$10.”

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this Act shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2005.

By Mr. DOMENICI:

S. 2274. A bill to establish a language arts facility for Homeland Security personnel and law enforcement officers; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Foreign Language Training Act of 2006, a bill that I believe is necessary for the success of our Department of Homeland Security personnel and other Federal agents.

As you may know, our Department of Defense employees receive foreign language education and training at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center. This school has provided training for American forces involved in arms control treaty verification, the war on drugs, and Operation Desert Storm.

I believe the Department of Defense's success can provide guidance for Department of Homeland Security personnel and Federal law enforcement agents who need foreign language skills. The Foreign Language Training Act of 2006 provides for such guidance by creating a facility similar to the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center for these Federal employees.

My bill requires the Secretary of Homeland Security and other Federal agency leaders to identify employees who need foreign language education and plan for the provision of such education. To fully utilize existing Federal assets, the Foreign Language Training Act requires this training to take place at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Artesia, New Mexico. FLETC is already planning to increase its language training capabilities and construct new language arts facilities in Artesia to accommodate the increased number of border patrol trainees being sent there, so it makes sense for other DHS employees and Federal agents to utilize this facility as well.