

Rick will carry a lapel pin with him into space from the Concord planetarium. Rick will also bring a New Hampshire flag from the State Legislature, which will be returned to fly in our State House, as well as a banner for the University of New Hampshire, and some personal items for relatives and friends.

New Hampshire is very proud of Rick's extraordinary commitment and hard work to achieve his boyhood dream of space flight. America needs more visionaries like Rick, who not only hold on to their dreams but work hard to achieve them. I congratulate Rick on this outstanding honor and am proud to have him represent us in the final frontier.●

CALIFORNIA CITIES ACT TO BAN JUNK GUNS

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, last month I introduced legislation with Senators JOHN CHAFEE and BILL BRADLEY to prohibit the manufacture and sale of junk guns—or as they are also called, Saturday night specials. We believe that these cheap, poorly constructed, easily concealable firearms pose such a great threat to public safety that their sale and manufacture should be prohibited.

Nearly 20 years ago, Congress prohibited the importation of junk guns, but allowed their domestic manufacture to soar virtually unchecked. Today, 7 of the 10 firearms most frequently traced at crime scenes are junk guns that cannot legally be imported. My view is that if a gun represents such a threat to public safety that it should not be imported, its domestic manufacture should also be restricted. A firearm's point of origin is irrelevant.

Earlier this year, the City of West Hollywood prohibited the sale of junk guns within the city limit. Shortly thereafter, I introduced my bill, which would ban junk guns nationwide. Since then, California cities have made progress that exceeded my expectations. Once again, California is at the leading edge of a nationwide movement.

This week, the Oakland City Council, with the support of the mayor and the police chief, voted to ban the sale of junk guns. San Francisco is expected to follow shortly. And the city of San Jose is also considering enacting a junk gun ban. The police chiefs of these three cities have all endorsed my bill to ban junk guns nationwide.

I am very proud that these California cities are acting responsibly to take these dangerous firearms off our streets. This momentum is growing into an unstoppable force. The current junk gun double standard cannot be maintained. It is simply a matter of time before Congress acts to apply the same standards to domestically produced junk guns as currently applied to imports.●

TRIBUTE TO VERNON J. BAKER

● Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, it is indeed a pleasure and a privilege for me to speak today about the accomplishments of one of my fellow Idahoans, Vernon J. Baker. Vernon Baker is one of seven African-Americans whose heroic actions in World War II are being belatedly recognized. Vernon has been nominated for this Nation's highest award—the Congressional Medal of Honor.

When 1st Lt. Vernon Baker awoke on the morning of April 5, 1945, I am confident he did not begin the day thinking, "Today, I am going to be a hero." I am more confident he began that morning thinking, "Lord, give me the strength to get me and my men through another day."

In the smokey grayness of predawn, artillery rained on the German mountain stronghold called "Hill X" near Castle Aghinolfi, Italy. First Lieutenant Baker was a platoon leader of 25 men and a recent graduate of Officer Candidate School. Standing five foot five and weighing in at 139 pounds, he led his men to the south side of the draw, within 250 yards of the castle. Seeing a telescope pointing out of the narrow slit of the bunker, he ordered his men to stay down and he crawled to the opening, stuck in his M-1 and fired until the rifle was empty. When he looked inside, one of the two dead Germans was still slumped in his chair. Baker then stumbled upon a camouflaged machine gun nest where he killed two more Germans.

As he reported to his company commander, Captain John Runyan, who like all his superiors was white, he was hit in the head by a "potato masher" hand grenade. It failed to explode and Baker quickly shot and killed the German who had thrown the grenade. While his unit was under heavy fire, he continued into the canyon alone. Discovering a hidden entrance to another dugout, he blasted it open with a grenade and dashed inside, killing two more German soldiers with a discarded machine gun he had picked up off the ground.

Captain Runyan ordered a withdrawal of the unit and told Baker he was going for reinforcements. That was the last time Lieutenant Baker saw Captain Runyan. The reinforcements never arrived. At the end of the battle, Baker regrouped the seven survivors of the 25 man platoon. The unit had killed 26 Germans, destroyed six machine gun nests, two observer posts, and four dugouts.

Vernon Baker was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross on July 4, 1945, for his actions that day. The Distinguished Service Cross is the Nation's second highest military award. On the citation for the award, Baker is cited for "outstanding courage" and "daring leadership."

Nearly 50 years later, during an Army review of medals awarded during World War II, the absence of a single African-American from the list of Con-

gressional Medal of Honor winners was duly noted. This began the process to determine if African-Americans had not received the Nation's highest award merely because of racial bias rather than military record under fire. Seven Distinguished Service Medal awards were reevaluated and have now been recommended for upgrade to the Congressional Medal of Honor. Vernon J. Baker is the only surviving nominee from this illustrious group.

Mr. President, on behalf of a grateful nation, I once more want to thank Vernon J. Baker for his courageous actions, on that April day so long ago.●

JANET COOPER

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise to honor Janet Cooper who will be retiring from the State of Michigan Department of Civil Rights on June 1, 1996. Janet Cooper has given more than three decades of dedicated service in establishing one of the best civil rights agencies in the Nation.

Janet Cooper joined the Michigan Department of Civil Rights as a field investigator in 1963, about the same time I became the general counsel. I knew her as a dedicated and thorough public servant. Since then, she has served the department in many roles including director of the Conciliation and Hearings Division, deputy director of the Enforcement Bureau, and director of the Legal Bureau. She is currently the department deputy and is responsible for the Enforcement Bureau, the Office of Contractual and Business Services, and the Office of Research.

Janet Cooper is an experienced attorney who is known across the country as an expert in the field of civil rights. She has served as an adjunct professor at Wayne State University School of Law and the Detroit College of Law. The Michigan State Bar Foundation honored Janet with the title of Fellow. This title is given to attorneys who have demonstrated outstanding legal ability and a strong dedication to the community.

Janet Cooper is retiring from the Department of Civil Rights, but her work protecting the constitutional rights of all citizens will not end. She will now become the chair of the Metropolitan Detroit Branch of the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan.

I know that my Senate colleagues will join me in honoring Janet Cooper for her many years of dedicated service in upholding the civil rights of all people.●

LT. CAROLYN J. FERRARI, M.D.

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the selection of Lt. Carolyn J. Ferrari, M.D. as medical director and physician for Highland Medical Center in Monterey, VA. Dr. Ferrari's acceptance of this key medical position concludes a nearly 3-year-old search by the medical center board of directors.