

support literacy programs through the appropriations process and through efforts to promote the achievement of literacy in their communities. Advancing literacy initiatives is a crucial investment in our future. ●

TRIBUTE TO ALEX MANOOGIAN,  
1901-96

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, on July 10, Michigan lost one of its greatest citizens, a very humble man of great wealth, an immigrant who embodied all that is good about America, a man of 95 years who still had plans to make life better for people.

Alex Manoogian came to this country in 1920 to escape the oppression of the Armenian people. A few years after his arrival, he founded what is today one of Michigan's most successful business firms, Masco Corporation. But it is the rest of the story that made Alex Manoogian a giant, not only in Michigan but in the United States and in the world, as well.

He touched the lives of young people with educational facilities here and abroad. Cultural and educational institutions in Detroit, Ann Arbor, Armenia and Jerusalem welcomed his generous endowments. If Armenians suffered in America, his adopted land, or in his homeland of Armenia, he was there to help. He founded the Armenian General Benevolent Union to address the catastrophes that befell his people.

The Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians came from Yerevan to preside at the funeral of Alex Manoogian. He described him as a Christian, an Armenian and an American. A Christian, whose deep faith kept him involved in the church for 80 of his 95 years—and he built St. John's Armenian Church in Southfield, MI, one of the most glorious edifices in our community with its golden dome that glows in the sunlight. An Armenian, who never forgot the persecution of his people and the need to continue to touch their lives. An American, who loved this country passionately and who gave back much, much more than he ever took.

I loved meeting with Alex Manoogian. He spoke simply, eloquently and with great intensity about those things that mattered to him. I will always cherish our many discussions. We will all miss him. ●

BOONDOGGLE FOR THE NRA

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, the Senate recently approved a Defense authorization bill for fiscal year 1997 that includes an indefensible allotment of tax dollars to a slightly camouflaged version of the earlier Civilian Marksmanship Program.

I have written on this subject in a column that is sent to newspapers in Illinois, and I ask that it be reprinted here to call the attention of my colleagues to this questionable line item.

The column follows:

AN INCOMPREHENSIBLE, IRRESPONSIBLE,  
BAFFLING BOONDOGGLE FOR THE NRA

(By Senator Paul Simon)

Buried in the annual Defense Department authorization bill is an outrageous gift of \$77 million that will benefit something called the Corporation for the Promotion Rifle Practice and Firearms Safety.

This corporation is the new "private" incarnation of the old National Rifle Association-backed Civilian Marksmanship Program. This program was intended to make sure people could shoot straight in case they entered the military. In recent years, however, it has simply funneled cash, weapons and ammunition to private gun clubs, thanks to the power of the NRA. Until a federal judge ruled it unconstitutional in 1979, gun clubs which participated in this program were required to be NRA members.

Under public pressure to eliminate this useless and wasteful program, Congress "privatized" the program last year.

In fact, the corporation is private in name only. When the corporation becomes fully operational in October of this year it will be given by the Army:

176,218 rifles the Army views as outmoded, but valued at \$53,271,002.

Computers, vehicles, office equipment and other related items valued by the Army at \$8,800,000.

146 million rounds of ammunition valued by the Army at \$9,682,656.

\$5,332,000 in cash.

That totals \$77,085,658.

Our friends in the National Rifle Association strongly back this measure and it appears to be a boondoggle for them.

What the Army should do with outmoded weapons is to destroy them. Our government has a theoretical policy that it does not sell federally owned weapons to the public. The Civilian Marksmanship Program violates this policy, and the new corporation would continue to violate it.

Why we should be subsidizing rifle practice—which is the theory behind this—baffles me. Hardly any of those who will use the weapons will enter into the armed forces. The Defense Department did not request this.

I had never fired a rifle or handgun before entering the Army, and with minimal training I became a fair-to-good marksman.

Sen. Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey and I tried to eliminate this incomprehensible expenditure from the bill and we got only 29 votes for our amendment. The NRA still has power.

We should be reducing the numbers of weapons in our society, not increasing them.

A government policy of destroying weapons and not selling outmoded guns to the public is sound.

While rifles are not the primary weapons for crime—pistols are—some of those 176,000 weapons will get into the hands of people who should not have them. If 1 percent reach someone who is irresponsible, that is 1,760 weapons.

Let me in advance extend my sympathy to the families of the people who will be killed by these weapons. They will be needless victims of this folly. ●

MEMORIALIZING MICHIGAN  
VICTIMS OF TWA FLIGHT 800

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on behalf of Michigan I would like to express my deep regret at the loss of several Michigan residents who lost their lives in the explosion of TWA Flight 800 near New York. We still do not know what happened to flight 800, and therefore do

not yet know if there are culprits behind it who must be brought to justice. But we do know that the lives of fine people have been lost before their time.

Mr. President, six people with close ties to Michigan died in this crash. They were Courtney Johns, an 18-year-old Bloomfield Hills Marian High School graduate, headed for Paris on an exchange program. Dr. Ghassan and Mrs. Nina Haurani, citizens and parents in Grosse Pointe Shores, starting a brief European vacation. Celine Rio, an 11-year-old French girl returning to her home after a 3-week visit as part of a national cultural exchange program. Tracy Anne Hammer, a doctoral student in veterinary science and microbiology at Michigan State University, who was to give a speech on cardiac disease in doberman pinschers before a professional audience. And Elaine Loffredo, a Michigan native who gave up a career in nursing for the excitement of air travel.

Mr. President, these people touched the hearts of many around them, in Michigan and elsewhere. Courtney Johns was a class leader in high school who was headed to Villanova University in the fall. She leaves behind grieving friends and a family devastated by the loss of this young, promising life. Ghassan and Nina Haurani were known in their community as loving parents and good neighbors. Termed "joyous, giving people," they, too, leave behind them grieving friends and a family that will miss them terribly. Tracy Anne Hammer, traveling with her mother, was well on her way to a promising career, was, indeed to launch that career in France, when she was taken from us, her family and friends. Celine Rio, a young girl on the edge of adolescence, had learned about America and had gained a second family in the Winters, her exchange program hosts. Now the Winters and her many other friends in America must join family and friends in France in lamenting the loss of this young spirit. And Elaine Loffredo, who found such joy in air travel and in the people she met—I am told that meeting Mother Theresa was a highlight of her career—was taken from her husband and other family and friends, by this explosion.

Mr. President, these were fine people, leading fine lives until they were taken from us. I know I speak for my entire State of Michigan when I tell families and friends of those we have lost that we share their loss, and that our thoughts and prayers are with them. ●

WHITEWATER INVESTIGATION  
WAS A COSTLY PARTISAN GAME

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, the Special Committee To Investigate Whitewater Development Corporation And Related Matters recently transmitted its final report.

I have written about this costly, partisan game in a column that is sent to newspapers in Illinois, and I submit it