

Gen. George S. Patton and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. As we all know, that battle is very important because it was the last German offensive on the Western Front during World War II. It gets its distinct name from the bulge or wedge of Germans that drove into Allied lines in December 1944 and January 1945. The Battle of the Bulge became an unsuccessful attempt to push the Allies back from German home territory. By January 8, 1945, the Germans made an orderly withdrawal having used all their resources they could afford trying to regain the west. These men kept the force and prevented Hitler from repossessing lands that were not his. They even assisted in the liberation of Hitler's labor camps and saw the faces of those who survived. The Battle of the Bulge was one of great magnitude and as a result there were 77,000 Allied and 130,000 German casualties. These heroes should be proud to celebrate and tell their stories.

These men caused the height of General Patton's career as they made the dramatic sweep in his 3d Army across northern France in the summer of 1944. Under Patton, these men played a strategic role in defending Bastogne, Belgium in the Battle of the Bulge in December of that year. By January 1945, they had reached the German frontier and the United States counteroffensive began. George Patton was an outstanding practitioner of mobile tank warfare in World War II. His strict discipline, toughness, and sacrifice were well known within his ranks, leading to his being referred to by his men as "Old Blood-and-Guts."

Mr. President, I just wanted to take this time to have us all reflect and think about those men who fought for world peace during World War II. As the ranking member of the Senate Veteran's Affairs Committee, I hold a special place in my heart for every man and woman who serves our country. While every veteran of war is unique and deserves our Nation's honor, these 80 or so men gathered in Wheeling, WV, this month merit a special tribute. It is now 1996 and there is no more Hitler, there are no more concentration camps, and Patton no longer lives. These men fought and lived in a time that has now become history. May they meet, share their stories, and rejoice for who they are and what they have done. Let us all be proud to have these men come to West Virginia and celebrate their 51st reunion as the 91st Chemical Mortar Battalion of the 3d Army.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO MICHIGAN'S MEDAL WINNING ATHLETES IN THE 1996 SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, from July 19 to August 4 over 10,000 athletes from 197 countries competed in the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta, GA. For 17 days, the athletic exploits

of these individuals captivated the entire world.

While all performed with distinction and deserve our recognition, such is the nature of Olympic competition that only a select few can rise to the medal stand. From my State of Michigan the following 10 exceptional men and women can now be added to the elite ranks of Olympic champions:

Gold medals: Tom Dolan, Ann Arbor, 400m IM, swimming; Grant Hill, Detroit, forward, basketball; Annette Salmeen, Ann Arbor, 800m FR, swimming; Sheila Taormina, Livonia, 800m FR, swimming.

Silver medals: Dana Chladek, Bloomfield Hills, whitewater slalom K-1, kayak; Tom Malchow, Ann Arbor, 200m fly, swimming; Eric Namesnik, Ann Arbor, 400m IM, swimming.

Bronze medals: Mark Lenzi, Ann Arbor, 3m springboard, diving; Floyd Mayweather, Grand Rapids, featherweight, boxing; Jeffrey Pfaendtner, Detroit, men's lightweight four, rowing.

Mr. President, most of us can only dream of Olympic competition, or watch it from the sidelines. These dedicated men and women worked, trained, and sacrificed to make their dream a reality. They practiced until their God-given talents were honed to their fullest. They were rewarded with victory and the knowledge that they had performed, under intense pressure, up to their full potential.

I offer my congratulations to these fine Michiganders. I also offer my thanks, on behalf of my State, for making us proud of them for a job well done.●

LAWYERS FOR CHILDREN

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of the Lawyers for Children, an organization whose roots are in my home State.

Lawyers for Children is a nonprofit organization founded to address the critical issues of youth and violence. Highly trained, talented, and compassionate private sector lawyers volunteer their time to serve as advocates through Lawyers for Children for abused and neglected children. Lawyers for Children also works in our schools to teach our kids that there are alternatives to violence—that the power of the spoken word can get you much further than joining a gang or carrying a gun.

Lawyers for Children began in Hartford 2 years ago. Since then, offices were added in Washington, DC and Miami, FL. I am confident that I speak for all the citizens of Connecticut when I express my pride and sincere gratitude for this organization. Lawyers for Children American recognizes that lawyers are in a unique position by virtue of their training to help kids deal with the perils of violence, drug abuse, and, in many cases, the lack of a sufficient education. I sincerely thank Lawyers for Children for all their hard work and

dedication to future of America—our children.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senator from Iowa for allowing me to do some unanimous-consent requests and some Executive Calendar issues. It will not take but a moment, and then we will go ahead and do the wrapup, and then Senator GRASSLEY and Senator GRAHAM of Florida can make their remarks at that time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar, en bloc, Nos. 686, 718, 720.

Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and that the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations were considered and confirmed, en bloc, as follows:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Franklin D. Raines, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

AIR FORCE

The following-named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general in the U.S. Air Force while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, United States Code, section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. David J. McCloud, 000-00-0000.

NAVY

The following-named officer for appointment to the grade of Admiral in the U.S. Navy while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, United States Code, sections 601 and 5035:

VICE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

To be admiral

Vice Adm. Harold W. Gehman, Jr., 000-00-0000.

Mr. LOTT. I want to note, Mr. President, that Calendar No. 686 is Franklin D. Raines to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I want to thank Senators for cooperation in getting this concluded. Senator DOMENICI, the chairman of the Budget Committee, has been very interested in this. I think this is the right thing to do.

I am satisfied he is eminently qualified for the position. And the President should have his Director of the Office of Management and Budget in place. I think this should be completed. The others were military nominations that had been reported by the Armed Services Committee. And there was a great need for those to be in place.