

benefits of current information, education, and a forceful advocate on State and Federal issues.

Ongoing activities and constant public contact continues to make the National Federation of the Blind of Kentucky a united force. Their efforts have distinguished Kentucky as a leader throughout the country for its research and promotion of technology assisting visually impaired users in obtaining highly sought after computer jobs.

As times change, so do biases and expectations. This year the U.S. Senate saw a staffer join us on the floor to assist with important legislation. While this is not unusual, it was unusual to see this aid assisted by her guide dog. This same aid and guide dog assisted my office a little over a year ago.

I would never say the road that Reagan and other visually impaired Kentuckians have traveled was an easy one to travel, but a necessary journey to benefit generations to come. As friends and family gather today and tomorrow, it will not only be a time to reflect on the past, but toward the future.

I am proud to stand before you and say the world is changing for the better. I know you will join me in congratulating the National Federation of the Blind of Kentucky for 50 years of dedication and service in our quest for a better future.

TRIBUTE TO JOE R. CHRISTIAN

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I am pleased to have the honor today of paying tribute to Joe R. Christian who will be retiring on August 19 from the U.S. Capitol Police after 20 years of service to the force.

As the officer on duty with the Capitol Third Division, Joe has given Members and staff of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence a sense of safety and well-being that few others could. His warm smile, good sense of humor and welcoming words have endeared him to his colleagues as well.

Officer Joe Christian has demonstrated that he is a true Kentuckian by his commitment to serving the public good. While he may no longer live in the Commonwealth, Joe has roots back home in Elkton, KY. I know that his friends and family there are proud of his service to the U.S. Capitol Police and his service to the U.S. Navy. Joe joined the Navy at 18 and for over 20 years, he flew all over the world with different squadrons, earning an Honorable Discharge as well as a Good Conduct Medal with a five oak leaf cluster.

I am proud of Joe, too, and extend my best wishes to him as he begins this new phase of his life.

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE WILLIAM BRENNAN

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, last week this Nation lost a true American hero with the passing of former Su-

preme Court Justice William Brennan. The contributions of William Brennan to our democratic way of life are many and will continue, long after his passing, to touch the lives of people all across this Nation in the most important and fundamental ways. Always a staunch and unrelenting defender of individual liberty, William Brennan helped to preserve many important rights that each of us, as Americans, enjoy today. He fought relentlessly to preserve the right to vote, the right to free expression, and the right to be treated as an equal with your fellow citizens. His legacy is one that honors the fundamental notion that in America, the individual truly does matter.

In terms of length of service on the Supreme Court and number of opinions written, William Brennan ranks near the top. However, to reduce his career to these simple numbers is to diminish the scope and importance of William Brennan in shaping this Nation's constitutional law. Many of Brennan's most significant decisions were decided by narrow margins and it is a testament not only to the undeniability of Justice Brennan's often cited Irish charm, but also to the power of his intellect that he could draw diverse Justices together to support important decisions which he drafted. In this regard, he may never be equaled.

Mr. President, there are many reasons to admire and respect William Brennan. He was a man of enormous dignity and compassion. His intellect and reasoning, second to none. Although there are many areas which one could point to in order to highlight the greatness of William Brennan, I will note just two that are significant to me. First, his unrelenting defense of the first amendment right to free expression. Because of William Brennan, the media in this Nation retains the right to criticize the government, to show the American people what goes on in their elected bodies—in other words, to hold us accountable. Absent this right, the credibility of our democracy and our form of government would be, in my opinion, greatly diminished. William Brennan understood that if the first amendment was to mean anything, it must protect that expression which was not popular. In upholding the first amendment in regard to flag desecration, Justice Brennan wrote that;

If there is a bedrock principle underlying the First Amendment, it is that the Government may not prohibit expression of an idea simply because society finds the idea itself offensive or disagreeable.

In typical Brennan fashion, his opinion was joined by four colleagues of diverse perspectives, Justices Marshall, Blackmun, Kennedy, and Scalia.

In regard to capital punishment, Brennan remained steadfastly opposed. Although he acknowledged that his view was the minority, he maintained until the end that the death penalty was violative of the eighth amendment prohibition on cruel and unusual pun-

ishment. In his estimation, a system which treated human beings as nonhuman or objects simply to be toyed with and disregarded was simply not protected by the U.S. Constitution. In the wake of Justice Brennan's death I am reminded that just a few short weeks ago, a Member of the House of Representatives who supports the death penalty, stated on a national news program that someday in America we will execute an innocent person. He argued that while we don't want to do that, and will try to prevent it, it is an inevitable consequence of having capital punishment. This is a staggering, yet candid, statement which I think, makes Justice Brennan's point in a very stark and chilling way. Justice Brennan may well have been on the minority on capital punishment Mr. President, that is not to say however, that his position was incorrect.

Mr. President, there is no question that Justice Brennan was a man that I admired. His opinions were reasoned, intelligent, and always consistent with the notion that in America the rights of the individual, no matter his or her background, upbringing, political ideology, or religious beliefs, mattered. That simple, yet often overlooked notion is the foundation of our democracy and was the cornerstone of Justice Brennan's approach to the law. He was truly the most influential Justice of his time. And while I certainly add my name to the list of those who mourn his passing, I also join those who celebrate the richness of his life and the countless opinions which helped improve the lot of millions of Americans. Ours is a better Nation because of William Brennan.

However, Mr. President, the greatest measure of William Brennan is not one taken from afar—from simply reading his opinions or following the public persona—but from those closest to him, his family, friends, and those who sat with him on the bench. In this regard the comments of his colleagues are telling. Justice Souter called Brennan the most fearlessly principled guardian of the Constitution that has ever lived. Justice Scalia, a jurist often at philosophical odds with Brennan called him the most influential Justice of this century. Justice Kennedy called him a great friend of freedom, not only for those who enjoy freedom, but also those who seek it. Justice Clarence Thomas was quoted recently as saying that there simply isn't a more decent or brilliant human being than William Brennan. From these great jurists of diverse backgrounds and ideological perspective, the message is the same; William Brennan's contribution was undeniable, important, and lasting. It is not surprising Mr. President, that even in saying good-bye, Justice Brennan has once again forged a diverse coalition.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, July 30, 1997, the Federal debt

stood at \$5,372,436,799,991.80. (Five trillion, three hundred seventy-two billion, four hundred thirty-six million, seven hundred ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred ninety-one dollars and eighty cents)

One year ago, July 30, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,183,983,000,000. (Five trillion, one hundred eighty-three billion, nine hundred eighty-three million)

Five years ago, July 30, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,999,118,000,000. (Three trillion, nine hundred ninety-nine billion, one hundred eighteen million)

Ten years ago, July 30, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,304,965,000,000. (Two trillion, three hundred four billion, nine hundred sixty-five million)

Fifteen years ago, July 30, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,089,616,000,000 (One trillion, eighty-nine billion, six hundred sixteen million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,282,820,799,991.80 (Four trillion, two hundred eighty-two billion, eight hundred twenty million, seven hundred ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred ninety-one dollars and eighty cents) during the past 15 years.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SGT. GARY HURT ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I would like to encourage my colleagues to join me in congratulating Sgt. Gary Hurt as he retires on August 31, 1997, from 28 years of service to the Missouri State Highway Patrol. I add my personal appreciation and best wishes to those of Gary's many friends and colleagues.

There are few careers more noble than those spent in public service. Gary's 18 years in the Governor's Security Division of the Missouri State Highway Patrol have meant a great deal to the people he has served. I add a special word of thanks to Gary for his dedicated service to me during my two terms as Governor of Missouri.

During my tenure as Governor, Gary and I traveled from one end of the State to the other, as well as around the country. Gary always represented the State of Missouri and the Missouri Highway Patrol with dignity, integrity, and professionalism. His commitment to detail put me at ease regardless of travel and event circumstances. I am grateful to Gary and I would like to publicly thank him for the outstanding service he graciously provided my family and me while I served as Governor of Missouri.

I wish Gary and his wife, Carol, much happiness as they begin a new chapter in their lives. May God richly bless them both.

CONCERN ABOUT RELAXATION OF CROSS-OWNERSHIP RULES

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, the balanced budget agreement passed by the Senate today was an extraordinary

and historical accomplishment. The American people can be proud that Congress took bipartisan action to provide not only the first balanced budget in a generation but also tax relief to working families, health care for uninsured children, financial relief for those seeking a college education and the promise of long-term solvency for Medicare.

In another historic yet less worthy act, the conferees quietly included in the bill a provision to, for the first time, relax the cross-ownership rules that prevent television stations or newspapers from owning a television station within the same city. The FCC has rightly enacted and enforced cross-ownership prohibitions for 50 years to ensure diversity of opinion and views on our local airwaves.

But the provision in the reconciliation bill would allow newspaper owners and broadcasters to bid on licenses within the same market during the 2002 auction of analog broadcast signals in markets with populations greater than 400,000. These signals will be made available as the current analog stations convert to digital transmission.

This action could have a seriously detrimental effect on the diversity of the current mosaic of broadcast entities. Broadcast television remains the most prolific form of local broadcast news and it is critical that this diversity is continued. Indeed, I am deeply concerned by the effect that this provision could have on the FCC's current review of cross-ownership rules.

Congress directed the FCC to review cross-ownership rules in the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the results of this review are pending. While I believe Congress should revisit the reconciliation relaxation provision on its own merits and free from the rush toward passage of the agreement, it is also critical that the FCC, during its own review of cross-ownership, does not interpret passage of this provision as unobjectionable Congressional support for repeal or relaxation of cross-ownership rules.

Indeed, it is important to note that this provision is intended to provide cross-ownership only when there is a doubling of broadcast outlets within a particular market and only in markets of populations greater than 400,000. If Congress had wanted to take further action, it would have done so and therefore, the FCC should not.

Our broadcast spectrum is one of our Nation's most valuable assets and one of the most powerful yet limited resource for the dissemination of ideas and free expression. It is critical that Congress work to protect rather than dilute this resource and I will fight for the integrity of our airwaves as Congress continues to address these issues.

TERRORIST BOMBING IN JERUSALEM

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join with the distin-

guished chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, and many others, as an original cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 46.

Yesterday two suicide terrorist bombers blew themselves up in the Mahane Yehuda open-air marketplace in the center of Jerusalem. These bombs were clearly timed to do the maximum possible damage. They exploded seconds apart at about 1 p.m. local time, at the height of the lunch-time shopping hour. Initial reports indicate that at least 18 people were killed and over 100 were injured.

This was a despicable, bloodthirsty act, which all of us stand and condemn in one voice. It is not yet known exactly who perpetrated the bombing, but it bears great similarity to attacks conducted in the past by the Palestinian extremist groups, Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Whoever bears guilt for this terrible crime is beneath contempt.

We join Prime Minister Netanyahu, President Weizman, and the Israeli people in mourning those who were murdered yesterday, and we offer our deepest condolences to their families. To the wounded, we offer our prayers and hopes for their full recovery.

Sadly, Israelis have become all too familiar with having their daily routines shattered by the sudden bloodshed and carnage of bombings in seemingly ordinary places—on a bus, in a marketplace, in park or a cafe. On top of all the other tragic aspects of these bombings, the way Israelis are forced to live with the knowledge that their world could be blown apart at any instant is a peculiar kind of torture.

President Clinton was exactly right when he said yesterday morning that this bomb was aimed not only at innocent Israeli civilians, but also at all those in the Middle East who genuinely desire peace. And I fear that this bombing, because of its timing and location, could be as damaging to prospects for peace as any that we have seen.

The timing could hardly have been worse. The President's Special Middle East Coordinator, Dennis Ross, was about to travel to Israel to try to breathe new life into the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, which have been suspended for many months, but which were just beginning to show signs of resuming. In fact, there is good reason to believe that this attack was timed specifically to disrupt Mr. Ross's trip and the impending resumption of the peace talks. Now it may be weeks or months before these talks can resume and be productive. For the extremists, the greatest danger is that the talks could make progress, and they are obviously willing to do anything to prevent it.

This bombing also has ramifications for our work. On August 12, the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act will expire. This act provided the legislative framework for U.S. involvement in the peace process by giving the President the authority to provide assistance to the Palestinian Authority, allow the