

Grand Forks AFB with the 319th Air Refueling Wing, a "core" tanker unit of KC-135 Stratotankers. I hope that the 319th and the Air Force will be with us in North Dakota for many years to come.

Today, Mr. President, as the 321st prepares to retire its colors, I would send to the 321st Missile Group, all who have and do serve her, and the Untied States Air Force that has protected us so well, a message of thanks and congratulations. The Senate—and all Americans—owe you a deep debt of gratitude.●

RECOGNITION OF THE JEFFERSON CITY SAMARITAN CENTER

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the Samaritan Center of Jefferson City, on the occasion of the groundbreaking for a new home. More than decade ago, Samaritan Center began as an effort of five Mid-Missouri Catholic churches. Three Protestant churches joined the cause and Samaritan Center has operated ever since as an interfaith agency. Virtually all of its resources are devoted directly to service delivery, as the center's single paid employee, an operations manager, is assisted by more than 150 volunteers each month.

Respectful, loving service is delivered with firm supervision, and anyone who knows the center pays tribute to the practical assistance they provide. For example, during the historic Flood of 1993, which wiped out the life stake of so many Missouri farmers, the center not only donated food, clothing, diapers and utility assistance to make it through the winter; they also came through with help to get the crop in when spring arrived. Many folks got back on their feet thanks to this helping hand, and those who saw what it meant to these families will never forget it.

I am one who marvels at how far the center can stretch its help. I have visited and left with my faith in people renewed. The computer is donated, the employees unpaid, the furniture cast-offs—but the service is sterling and as varied as the need.

This groundbreaking is another step toward meeting a new challenge the Samaritan Center is taking on. The current quarters are bursting at the seams, and new space must be found to continue to help the families they serve (which number more than 400 each month for food alone!). Characteristically, the center refuses to reduce service to pay for the new building they hope to place on land donated by supporters. So, in addition to continuing to help people with needs ranging from rent to work uniforms, the center and its friends are not so slowly and very surely piecing together the resources to build a site that meets the needs of Mid-Missouri today.

To know the Samaritan Center is to respect and support it. It is my honor to offer this tribute from the United

States Senate on the loving service provided by the Center, its volunteer and many supporters.●

INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT OF TORTURE VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to mark the first observance of International Day in Support of Torture Victims and Survivors. This day, which was designated last year by the United Nations General Assembly, serves as a reminder to all of us that, sadly, at this very moment, somewhere in the world a prisoner is being beaten, a woman is being raped, or a child is witnessing the torture or murder of a loved one at the hands of a hostile force.

Along with guns and bombs, torture unfortunately has become just another weapon in the arsenal of war. In generations past, we like to believe that wars were fought between combatants according to an unwritten code. In some conflicts of the past, fighting was suspended after dark and during the winter months so as not to give one side an advantage over the other. But the rules of contemporary wars are much less clear. Combatants fight, not merely against each other, but against civilians, including women and children, on the opposing side. War is no longer just a means to acquire territory or settle long-running disputes, but often it is used as a means to attempt to obliterate entire ethnic or religious groups.

In this past decade alone, the world has been witness to inconceivable acts of horror committed against specific populations in such places as Rwanda, Sudan, Iraq, the former Yugoslavia, and Kosovo. The terms "ethnic cleansing" and "genocide" have become all too common in describing events around the world. And the stories of those torture victims who live to tell of their experiences continue to shock and horrify the international community.

Earlier this month, during the National Day of Action for Tibet rally which took place on the Capitol steps, I was privileged to hear the comments of Palden Gyatso, a Buddhist monk who was imprisoned for 33 years by the Chinese force which unlawfully occupies his homeland. He told of unspeakable acts of torture that are routinely committed against the Tibetan people by the Chinese military. The myriad forms of torture he was forced to endure included being hung upside down while his naked body was repeatedly stung with an electric cattle prod and having boiling water poured over his body. That he was able to survive this brutal treatment is a testament to his faith, which his captors attempted to squelch through these and other inhuman acts.

But for every person like Palden Gyatso, who somehow managed to survive such brutal treatment, there are

countless others, whose names we may never know, who did not. These people endured their fate with a quiet courage that inspires hundreds of thousands worldwide to fight against the practice of torture as a weapon of war.

I find it particularly ironic that the President is spending the first International Day in Support of Torture Victims and Survivors in the People's Republic of China as the guest of a government that has sanctioned the torture of its own citizens. I hope the President will mark this day by calling on Chinese leaders to open a meaningful dialogue with the Dalai Lama regarding Tibet and to gain assurances that the basic human rights of all Chinese citizens will become a top priority.

Since coming to the Senate in 1993, I have been contacted by numerous Wisconsin residents who share the concern of the international community about the prevalence of torture in our world. As a member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, I will continue to speak out against such reprehensible acts at every available opportunity. I look forward to the day when the use of torture as a weapon of war is consigned to history books instead of daily news reports from around the world.●

FEDERAL RESEARCH INVESTMENT ACT OF 1998

● Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, yesterday I introduced legislation that would elevate Congress' commitment to federally-funded research and development. This critical federal investment, performed throughout our national laboratories, universities, and private industry, is currently fueling 50% of our national economy through improvements in capital and labor productivity. While it is imperative that we reinforce this commitment by raising the funding levels, we must also establish a solid foundation for Congress to evaluate current and future civilian federally-funded research and development programs.

Now is not the time to let American leadership in science and technology slip. As a Congress and as a nation, we must reaffirm our national commitment to science and technology and redouble our efforts to ensure that funding is not only maintained, but increased as America moves into the next century. Nothing less than the future of our Nation, and our leadership position in the world, depend upon it.

IMPORTANCE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO AMERICA'S FUTURE

As a physician and surgeon, I've had the opportunity to witness everyday the remarkable difference that medical science and technology have made in people's lives. In the short span of time that I've been practicing—less than twenty years—I've seen how the products of medical research and development—lasers, mechanical cardiac assist devices, and automatic internal defibrillators—have not only saved, but