

could consider a new strategy, or a new way with which to accommodate the growing array of legislative needs that we, as a caucus, and the Senate need to address. I had intended at some point today to offer a unanimous consent request. I will do so, and then I will speak to it in a moment.

At this time I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its consideration today of the Interior appropriations bill, it turn to consideration of Calendar No. 505, the House-passed HMO reform bill, and that the bill become the pending business every day thereafter upon completion of legislative business. I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be limited to relevant amendments.

Mr. BENNETT. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. BENNETT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, or longer if they obtain consent.

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

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT ALLIANCE

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the efforts of the Take Back The Night Alliance, an organization in the metropolitan Louisville, Kentucky area that is working to end a problem that affects us all in one way or another: violence against women. On Thursday, September 10, as part of Sexual Assault Awareness and Domestic Violence Awareness months, the Alliance will for the first time in its nine-year history kick off a month-long series of events that will create a greater awareness of the attitudes, beliefs and behaviors that perpetuate these specific kinds of crimes.

The statistics of domestic violence are sobering, and I'll give you just a brief sampling here:

A woman is physically abused every nine seconds in the United States.

In Kentucky alone, 80,000 women were victims of domestic violence in 1997.

One out of four females will be sexually assaulted before they reach the age of 18.

For every rape, 10 others go unreported.

Husbands and boyfriends commit 13,000 acts of violence against women in the workplace every year.

The total healthcare costs of family violence are estimated at \$44 million each year.

Take Back The Night rallies have been held throughout the United States since 1978. In Louisville, the National Organization for Women has

been the organizing force for this event for the past nine years, but over 200 civic organizations, government agencies and businesses have joined this year to sponsor a wide range of activities drawing attention to the problems faced by women who are victims of domestic violence, rape and sexual assault. One group will collect previously owned business clothing for abused women returning to the workforce. Another will sponsor safety and prevention workshops in area hospitals and companies. And yet another will provide materials on date rape and sexual assault to be placed in bars and in women's restrooms.

Louisville and Jefferson County have been recognized as leaders in the field of domestic violence, and I am heartened by the strong outpouring of support that the Take Back the Night Alliance has received from the community. We all know that such success does not happen by accident, and I would like to commend the Alliance leaders for their dedicated efforts to ease the plight of women who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and rape.

NATIONAL JEWISH MEDICAL RESEARCH CENTER

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the National Jewish Medical Research Center in Denver, Colorado, which has recently been recognized by U.S. News and World Report as the top-ranked Respiratory Hospital in the United States. The work of National Jewish is close to my heart because I watched my mother struggle with tuberculosis throughout her lifetime. She lived and worked in a sanatorium for many years, making it difficult for her to care for my sister and me.

In the late 1800s, Denver's elevation and abundant sunshine made it a mecca for people with tuberculosis. National Jewish treated only patients with tuberculosis until the 1950s, when antibiotics brought the disease under control. The hospital then turned its attention to asthma. Allergies which can develop into asthma, bronchitis, and sinus infections, now attack some 40 million people, double the number 25 years ago. Twice as many people, 15 million, have asthma now, too, at a cost of \$6.2 billion a year in missed work and school, in medications and hospital visits.

Today, National Jewish is a world-class institution, a global leader in the research and treatment of lung, allergic and immune diseases. It is ranked as the number one private institution for immunology research in the world and as one of the top 10 independent research institutions of any kind in the world. Tremendous breakthroughs in understanding respiratory disease are taking place in Denver.

Not only is National Jewish recognized world-wide for its research, it is also known for its considerable philan-

thropic activities in the health care community. Until the mid-1960s, patient care was funded entirely through philanthropy. Today, the hospital continues to provide a significant amount of free and subsidized care to those unable to afford total treatment costs.

Founded in 1899 as a nonsectarian, non-profit hospital for tuberculosis patients, National Jewish enters the 21st century as the only facility in the world dedicated exclusively to pulmonary disorders. It is one of Colorado's treasures. Next year it will celebrate its 100th year of giving health and hope to people suffering from pulmonary diseases.

Today, I want to commend National Jewish on the rich history of patient care and research given to Colorado, to congratulate them on being recognized as the top-ranked Respiratory Hospital in America, and to wish them well as they celebrate the 100th anniversary in 1999.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Friday, September 4, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,547,400,016,580.17 (Five trillion, five hundred forty-seven billion, four hundred million, sixteen thousand, five hundred eighty dollars and seventeen cents).

One year ago, September 4, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,413,849,000,000 (Five trillion, four hundred thirteen billion, eight hundred forty-nine million).

Twenty-five years ago, September 4, 1973, the federal debt stood at \$458,627,000,000 (Four hundred fifty-eight billion, six hundred twenty-seven million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,088,773,016,580.17 (Five trillion, eighty-eight billion, seven hundred seventy-three million, sixteen thousand, five hundred eighty dollars and seventeen cents) during the past 25 years.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALISON AND PARKER BANKS CELEBRATING THEIR FIRST BIRTHDAY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to join me in congratulating Alison Spencer Banks and Parker James Banks on the anniversary of their first birthday. It was one year ago today that their parents, Sarah and John, were blessed with the gift of life, times two. Alison and Parker will see a much different world in their lifetime, than either myself or my colleagues have witnessed in theirs. Alison and Parker will have to meet the demands of an "information" based culture and economy.

As people of freedom reach for opportunity and achieve greatness, our nation prospers. A government that lives beyond its means and reaches beyond its limits violates our basic liberties, and the nation suffers.

All of us assembled here in the United States Senate on this Fourth