

today reflects her tremendous dedication to this issue.

I also applaud Senator LANDRIEU's efforts to shape this legislation into a significant conservation initiative. Her legislation includes two titles devoted to environmental protection—title II for funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and title III for funding non-game species protection by the States, known as Teaming with Wildlife. These worthwhile programs have not received the attention or funding they deserve on their own, and the inclusion in this legislation gives them an opportunity to fulfill their potential. In particular, the LWCF was created in 1964 with the principle that revenues from a resource extraction activity—offshore oil drilling—should be reinvested in the acquisition and protection of other natural resources with lasting value. Senator LANDRIEU's bill remains true to this principle.

S. 2566 is a major piece of legislation, with much promise. It deserves careful consideration. I intend to give the bill this consideration during recess. I intend to consult with different groups here, and with constituents in my home state of Rhode Island. Some groups have raised concerns that this bill will encourage offshore drilling, despite the Senator's strong statement that this bill is "drilling-neutral." I would like to reach my own conclusion on this score. Different interest groups have made suggestions to improve the provisions in all three titles, and I would like to explore those as well during recess.

Senator LANDRIEU has expressed a genuine openness to consider new ideas, and a genuine willingness to incorporate good ideas into her legislation. I look forward to working with my colleague from Louisiana during the coming months on this initiative, and again, I wholeheartedly congratulate her on how far she has come already.●

U.S. ROLE IN ERADICATING POLIO

● Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, there are fewer than 800 days left before we reach the goal of eliminating polio throughout the world by the end of the year 2000. That victory will mark the second time in history we have been able to eradicate an infectious disease. The first was the eradication of smallpox, a disease that claimed millions of lives through the centuries. As recently as the 1950's, smallpox was killing over 2 million people each year, despite the fact that an effective vaccine for the disease had been in use since 1796. Smallpox eradication began in 1967. The campaign required 11 years to complete and cost nearly \$300 million—\$200 million from countries with endemic smallpox and an additional \$100 million from international donors. The U.S. was the largest international contributor with a total investment of \$32 million. And that investment has re-

paid itself many times over. Beyond the humanitarian benefits of eliminating this vicious killer, we have enjoyed tremendous economic benefits. The U.S. alone has recouped the equivalent of its entire investment every 26 days since the disease was eradicated.

The polio effort began in 1988 when the World Health Assembly endorsed the program and set the year 2000 as the target date for global eradication. Thus far, the campaign has been a dramatic success story. Today, four out of every five of the world's children receive polio vaccine. Over the past ten years, polio cases have been reduced by over 90 percent and today more than 150 nations report no polio. All countries in the Western Hemisphere have been polio-free since 1991, and all countries in Europe and the Western Pacific Region—including China, Vietnam and Cambodia—have been polio free for one or more years.

In my view, the program's achievements are the result of a model public-private partnership. Rotary International began working on immunization programs in the early 1980's and when the World Health Assembly endorsed the polio eradication program in 1988, Rotary became the primary private-sector partner in the campaign. We estimate that Rotary International will have contributed \$450 million by the end of the year 2000—the largest private contribution to a public health initiative in history.

In a combined effort with the health ministries in each country, Rotary, UNICEF, WHO and CDC have mobilized thousands of volunteers to recruit, educate, transport and vaccinate children in a mass campaign strategy. The scope of the program is enormous. In 1997 alone, more than 450 million children in 80 countries were vaccinated against polio through the use of mass campaigns. And the partners have enjoyed unparalleled success in densely populated areas where the risk of disease has been high. During India's first campaign in 1996, more than 87 million children were vaccinated by 100,000 volunteers over a three-day period.

The last frontier for the program is Africa, where the polio campaign faces formidable challenges. Efforts there have been hindered by poverty, civil conflicts and logistical problems in vaccine delivery. Even with these barriers, the program has enjoyed significant success in many areas of the continent. National Immunization Days have been conducted in over 35 African countries and have put a real dent in the number of polio cases.

Experts in the field, including my wife Betty who participated in a mass campaign in West Africa earlier this year, have all returned with the same message—We can win the war against polio and Africa can put us over the top by the year 2000, but only if we intensify our efforts in Africa over the next two years. This means more funding from all the donors and more logistical support for programs that

are conducted in countries racked by civil conflict and supply shortages.

As was the case with smallpox, the rewards will far exceed the costs. The U.S. alone will reap annual savings of over \$230 million and worldwide savings will exceed \$1.5 billion each year. More importantly, we will have conquered a disease responsible for crippling millions of children over our history. Finally, we will have set the stage for our next campaign—the eradication of measles. Regional efforts to eliminate measles have already begun and an international effort is on the horizon. Historically, measles has killed more children than any other infectious disease. Even today, it is responsible for one out of every 10 deaths in children under age 5. Many leaders in the public health field believe that we should begin planning an international strategy over the next two years so that resources can be easily shifted from the polio effort to a measles campaign once polio is eradicated.

I would like to conclude by paraphrasing the testimony of several witnesses at a recent Appropriations Committee hearing on measles and polio eradication. We live in a time when government and politicians are the targets of great criticism. At the same time, there are few instances of social justice by groups other than government. No social club, no church group, no other organization represents all of us. Only government does that.

Our immunization successes in this country have resulted from government at its best—government was an aim to protect every child individually and society collectively. It is the product of politics at its best.

Likewise, while the U.S. effort to support smallpox eradication, polio eradication, child health and child immunization is a consequence of enlightened self interest, it also expresses our understanding, as Americans, of a responsibility to the world and to the future. It is the U.S. government at its very best.●

IOWA NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

● Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on the occasion of its 25th anniversary, I would like to congratulate the Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments (INRCOG). Organized January 1973, INRCOG was the first council of governments formed in the State of Iowa.

As a voluntary association of local governments serving the member jurisdictions in Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Chicksaw and Grundy Counties, INRCOG has long been recognized as a leader among service and planning organizations. Responsible for coordinating, assisting, and facilitating programs in community and economic development, transportation, housing, environment, safety, planning, administration and transit, INRCOG's services have benefitted all

governmental bodies in the INRCOG region and the State of Iowa.

Through INRCOG's intergovernmental communication and cooperation have flourished and public-private partnerships have been enhanced. The ability of Iowa communities to plan for their own future has been enriched. I wish them many more years of successful service for the success of Iowa's communities, for their efforts will continue to strengthen the backbone of America's governmental system, thus enriching the lives of our citizens.●

REMEMBERING VETERANS

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to make a few remarks about the distinguished service of United States veterans. As Veterans Day approaches, we look forward to honoring the men and women who have served this country with bravery, honor, and valor. I am submitting, for my colleagues, a May 28, 1998 article from the Los Angeles Times written by Patty Andrews, one of the Andrews Sisters. The Andrews Sisters spent much of World War II entertaining the young men who fought so courageously in Europe, the Pacific, Africa, and other parts of the world. In this stirring piece, Ms. Andrews details the service and sacrifices of all of those who contributed to the war effort, and describes how she and her sisters helped to build morale and comforted the wounded.

The article follows:

[From the Los Angeles Times, May 25, 1998]

BUGLE BOYS OF COMPANY B DIED TO KEEP AMERICA FREE

(By Patty Andrews)

My sisters and I probably met face to face with more soldiers in World War II than any general or field marshal. The Andrews Sisters entertained tens of thousands of GIs at bases here and abroad throughout the war and I can still see so many of their smiling American faces. I sometimes wonder how many of those faces made it home safely and how many are now just faint memories. I'll carry their memory for as long as I live. But then what? With nothing to publicly commemorate those GIs, their deeds will be forgotten.

The faces of the survivors are now creased and seasoned by the years—but they still smile when they see me. And I see them all the time, in airports and shopping malls. The veterans of global war are living their autumn years happily, oblivious to the fact that they are walking history.

We have a common bond. We were all soldiers in the greatest war ever. And we share a knowing wink—if you weren't there you'd never understand the terror of total war or exhilaration of saving the world from evil incarnate. I guess I remind the veterans that it all really happened, that it wasn't some hazy memory, that they answered the call and succeeded beyond all expectation. They won a victory so complete that we hardly remember a time when America wasn't a superpower or the most prosperous nation on Earth or one of the few remaining democracies standing against a global gang of dictators. Today we take it all for granted.

Those who died to make it possible for us to forget that brutal era would no doubt be

satisfied that their sacrifice was worth it. But they were so young. The soldiers who were in their late teens and early 20s. So young that the shows had the flavor of a huge high school football game or a Boy Scout jamboree. Nearly half a million of these brave kids would never know if we won or lost the war or how 50 years of peace and prosperity would transform their country. Their faces will always be innocent and brave, but unknowing.

My sisters and I were innocent too, but not for long. We cheered the boys as they left for war but we also welcomed back the wounded and shattered. Those are some of the faces I will never forget. In one San Francisco hospital ward we were briefed about what we were about to see, and we were told not to show too much emotion. Behind the doors of that dire ward were young faces contorted with pain or frozen and mute. The sight of these boys—no different than the thousands of others we entertained except that they had been chewed up and spat out by the maw of war—brought home to me the absolute horror of war and the enormity of our debt to them.

In that frightful infirmary we talked, sang and tried to do something—anything—to bring a moment of pleasure, maybe a smile or a look of hope that life will somehow be better. I tried but could not begin to match their contribution. None of us can ever fully repay those boys who sacrificed their youth so we could forget such horror existed. But we need to try.

Today, before the memories fade and before the last veteran dies, we need to enshrine their courage. We need a permanent place to honor the generation that gave so much so long ago. We need a memorial that matches their monumental sacrifice and their towering devotion to freedom. In short, we need an official World War II Memorial on the National Mall in Washington. The site has already been selected—all we need now is the will to build it.

Helping to build morale and comfort the wounded through our music changed and fulfilled my life, as it did the lives of my sisters, Laverne and Maxene. We were privileged to know so many courageous men and women willing to give their lives for freedom. It's ironic that because of their sacrifice, we can use words like "freedom" and "democracy" today without having to measure their cost. We must honor those brave young people who paid the price.●

RECOGNIZING OMER O'NEIL

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Omer O'Neil of the Southern Wayne County Chamber of Commerce. He has announced his retirement after serving as President of the Southern Wayne County Chamber of Commerce since 1987.

Omer O'Neil has been a true leader with the Southern Wayne County Chamber of Commerce and in the Downriver communities of Metropolitan Detroit. During his tenure as President, the Chamber saw a growth in its membership as well as its leadership role in the communities it serves. The Southern Wayne County Chamber of Commerce represents over 1,200 member businesses and has become a leader in redefining the economic landscape of the Downriver area.

Omer O'Neil's service expands beyond his role with the Chamber. He served on the Allen Park City Council and was

twice elected Mayor Pro-Tempore and has volunteered numerable hours to local charitable organizations and causes, including Right to Life of Michigan.

I want to once again express my sincerest appreciation and congratulations to Omer O'Neil for the service and leadership he has provided the Southern Wayne County Chamber of Commerce and the Downriver communities. I wish Omer well in his retirement years.●

CLASS ACTION REFORM

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise to express my continued strong interest in meaningful class action reform—and to announce that, although we do not have the time necessary to move legislation any further this year, class action reform remains one of my highest priorities. Although many class action lawsuits do result in significant and important benefits for class members and society, too many class lawyers put their self-interest above the best interests of their clients—resulting in unfair and abusive settlements that shortchange class members while their lawyers line their pockets with high fees.

To address this growing problem, Senator GRASSLEY and I introduced the Class Action Fairness Act of 1998 (S. 2083). The bill is a moderate approach to weed out the worst abuses, while preserving the benefits of class actions. It encourages closer scrutiny of class actions through several provisions. It requires that proposed class action settlements be in plain, easily understandable English and be sent to state attorneys general, so they have an opportunity to weigh in with any objections. It requires courts to determine what damages will actually be paid to class members before awarding attorneys' fees, rather than calculating fees based on overvalued estimates of meaningless coupon settlements. And it moves more class actions to federal courts, which generally give closer scrutiny than state courts and can promote efficiency and avoid a collusive "race to settlement" by consolidating overlapping cases.

These proposals have earned a broad range of support. Even Judge Paul Niemeyer, the Chair of the Judicial Conference's Advisory Committee on Civil Rules, who has studied class actions closely and testified before Congress on this issue, expressed his support for this "modest" measure, noting in particular that increasing federal jurisdiction over class actions will be a positive "meaningful step."

This year, our bipartisan measure was reported favorably by the Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts. Unfortunately, as the term has winded down, we have been too busy with other pressing issues to give this proposal the full consideration it deserves. Still, we already have made several revisions