

heart and soul of her extended family. She is a role model for her children and grandchildren. Her life example epitomizes both the love of family and commitment to community.

Kitty has raised public servants, community and church leaders and business owners. After working for 18 years at McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, she continues to contribute to her community, volunteering at St. Lambert's Catholic Church and its school.

I must confess that I have personally benefitted from the Wilka family's belief in public service. Kitty's son, Jeff, has volunteered in my Sioux Falls office since my first election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1978.

Born with cerebral palsy, Jeff grew up with a positive attitude and a determination to be involved in his community. He has been a loyal, dedicated and valued member of my Sioux Falls staff for over two decades. In fact, Jeff has become a fixture of sorts, having the second longest running tenure on my staff.

With the help of his loving mother and close-knit family, Jeff has overcome many obstacles in his life, including physical ailments that required surgery and therapy, and a dependency on alcohol. He has been sober for 11 years and is an ardent worker on behalf of many civic causes, including the Children's Care Hospital and School, the March of Dimes and Easter Seals. He also has a deeply held faith in our electoral process, working in the political trenches for many years for a variety of local, state and federal candidates in whose philosophy he believes.

I am proud of what Jeff has accomplished and the significant challenges he has overcome. I think he would be the first to tell you that his successes have been based upon the solid Midwestern values that Kitty and Bill Wilka instilled in him and his siblings. They taught their children to work hard, to never give up and to do their part to improve the communities in which they live. It is clear that Jeff has taken those lessons to heart.

Kitty Wilka has much to be proud of in her life. And I know that her loving family is extremely proud of her. I want to join her 12 children, 29 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren in wishing Kitty the very best on her birthday. She deserves it.

Happy 70th birthday, Kitty!

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, May 24, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,676,761,996,112.82 (Five trillion, six hundred seventy-six billion, seven hundred sixty-one million, nine hundred ninety-six thousand, one hundred twelve dollars and eighty-two cents).

One year ago, May 24, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,597,943,000,000

(Five trillion, five hundred ninety-seven billion, nine hundred forty-three million).

Five years ago, May 24, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,887,785,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred eighty-seven billion, seven hundred eighty-five million).

Ten years ago, May 24, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,094,795,000,000 (Three trillion, ninety-four billion, seven hundred ninety-five million).

Fifteen years ago, May 24, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,751,794,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred fifty-one billion, seven hundred ninety-four million) which reflects a debt increase of almost \$4 trillion—\$3,924,967,996,112.82 (Three trillion, nine hundred twenty-four billion, nine hundred sixty-seven million, nine hundred ninety-six thousand, one hundred twelve dollars and eighty-two cents) during the past 15 years.

#### LEBANON

Mr. BROWBACK. Mr. President, earlier this week, the Senate passed Concurrent Resolution 116, commending Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon. The resolution notes the original reason Israel was forced to occupy a narrow security strip in southern Lebanon—constant attacks on Israeli civilians from Lebanon-based terror groups. Israel had no designs on Lebanese territory; the Jerusalem government was forced to do the job that the central Lebanese authorities were unable or unwilling to perform.

Lebanon is in a sad situation. It is a nation torn by sectarian strife, occupied by tens of thousands of Syrian troops, and overrun with terrorists. In the final analysis, however, the government of Lebanon must be called to account. For more than two decades, the international community has bemoaned Lebanon's fate without demanding responsible leadership. That era is now over.

There are Christians and Muslims in southern Lebanon whose fate hangs in the balance. They have been under the protection of Israel for more than two decades. What will happen to them? Will they be subject to the whims of yet another Lebanese militia, a Hezbollah state within a state? Will Christians be forced to flee, as they have from the West Bank and from so many other states? Or will the Lebanese central government and the Lebanese Army, as required under United Nations Security Council resolutions, take control of southern Lebanon and ensure safety and security for all?

Will the Lebanese government allow the United Nations and UNIFIL to do its job and deployment throughout the South? Or will Lebanon remain a pawn in the hands of terrorists, a puppet state in the hands of Syria and Iran? This is the test. The President and the Congress have demanded that Lebanon secure its southern border and re-integrate southern Lebanese into the

country. Hezbollah must be disarmed. The Syrian military must be evicted. The world is watching and the time is now.

The citizens of northern Israel—indeed all Israelis—deserve to live within secure borders in peace. If they cannot, it is the solemn obligation of the Israeli government to secure those borders and to hunt down those who violate it and eliminate them. For my part as a United States Senator, I intend to do all that I can to support Israel in that aim, and to ensure that the means and the political, diplomatic and material support are at hand for the Israeli government to do just that.

This month could be a turning point for Lebanon, for Syria and for Israel. Or it could be the beginning of a new cycle of conflict. I pray that the Lebanese and the Syrians will be smart enough to seize the opportunity for real peace in the Middle East.

#### COMMEMORATING FREE ELECTIONS IN CROATIA

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, today I rise with my colleagues, Senators FEINGOLD, HUTCHINSON, ABRAHAM, and LIEBERMAN, to introduce a resolution congratulating the people of Croatia on their successful parliamentary and presidential elections, the peaceful transition of power, and new initiatives for reform. In addition to congratulating the people of Croatia, the resolution solidifies U.S. support for their progress and encourages Croatian participation in the NATO Partnership for Peace program. One day, I hope that we will be expressing our support for Croatia, and other nations with similar democratic inclination, in NATO itself.

Mr. President, the Balkan nations that are embracing democracy must be supported at every opportunity available because the government could so easily have taken the other path. The leaders of Croatia could have chosen to repress popular involvement and other fundamental rights of democracy, but instead they have chosen the harder but correct path of working through discourse, debate, and democracy. Because we have also been through these trials as a nation, it is my hope that the American people will watch closely the progress of the Croatian people and will support their path to freedom, stability, and peace.

The most important benefit to come out of this election will hopefully be the resolution of Croatia's domestic difficulties. Through the successful election, the Croatian people have taken the reins of control. In addition to the power instilled by this self-determination, the Croatian people are hopefully now spurred to take up the mission of reform that might further improve their government. Among the stated goals of President Mesic are the reintroduction of Serbian refugees to the homes they left behind, reform of the privatization system that has faced serious corruption allegations, and support for the International Criminal