

poverty and pursue American interests across the globe. After 40 years, it's an idea whose time has come.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it has been more than a year since the Columbine tragedy, but still this Republican Congress refuses to act on sensible gun legislation.

Since Columbine, thousands of Americans have been killed by gunfire. Until we act, Democrats in the Senate will read some of the names of those who lost their lives to gun violence in the past year, and we will continue to do so every day that the Senate is session.

In the name of those who died, we will continue this fight. Following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago today.

July 13, 1999: Debbie Ahl, 39, Nashville, TN; Desiree Battle, Detroit, MI; Antonio Darias, 49, Miami-Dade County, FL; Leonardo Duran, 18, Houston, TX; Doug Harris, 31, Cincinnati, OH; Stefanie Harris, 29, Cincinnati, OH; Romero Jones, 19, St. Louis, MO; Sigmund Linberger, 34, Akron, OH; Michael McKinnon, 18, Nashville, TN; Rodolfo Recendez, 32, Fort Worth, TX; Dylan Sertich, 22, Toledo, OH; Unidentified male, 16, Long Beach, CA; Unidentified male, 35, Nashville, TN.

One of the victims of gun violence I mentioned, 19-year-old Romero Jones from Missouri, grew up in tough circumstances and turned his life around after a troublesome childhood. Romero worked with his city's "Cease Fire Program" to reach out to young people to encourage them to give up their involvement with gangs and pursue job training and careers. Romero sat on the stage with President Clinton during the President's 1995 visit to St. Louis to discuss the city's successes in addressing crime.

Romero was shot and killed in what police say was a case of mistaken identity—no drugs or money were found in Romero's home following his tragic death.

We cannot sit back and allow such senseless gun violence to continue. The time has come to enact sensible gun legislation. Our country cannot afford to lose more of its promising young leaders like Romero Jones. His death is a reminder to all of us that we need to act now.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, July 12, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,664,141,886,637.91 (Five trillion, six hundred sixty-four billion, one hundred forty-one million, eight hundred eighty-six thousand, six hundred thirty-seven dollars and ninety-one cents).

One year ago, July 12, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,621,471,000,000 (Five trillion, six hundred twenty-one

billion, four hundred seventy-one million).

Five years ago, July 12, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,927,811,000,000 (Four trillion, nine hundred twenty-seven billion, eight hundred eleven million).

Ten years ago, July 12, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,152,770,000,000 (Three trillion, one hundred fifty-two billion, seven hundred seventy million).

Fifteen years ago, July 12, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,792,949,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred ninety-two billion, nine hundred forty-nine million) which reflects a debt increase of almost \$4 trillion—\$3,871,192,886,637.91 (Three trillion, eight hundred seventy-one billion, one hundred ninety-two million, eight hundred eighty-six thousand, six hundred thirty-seven dollars and ninety-one cents) during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

WILLIAM J. BECKHAM, JR. MEMORIAL TRIBUTE

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to the life of one of Michigan's great civic leaders, William J. Beckham, Jr. After living a remarkably accomplished life, sadly, Bill passed away April 27 while on vacation with his beloved wife, Mattie Maynard Beckham. This week, Bill's friends and colleagues and members of the Senate and the House will come together in our Nation's capital to celebrate his memory and his legacy.

Bill loved life and all the important things in it—his family, his friends, school kids, and his African American heritage. Bill loved the difference that he was making in Michigan through his work on school reform—enhancing and expanding the quality of education for all students in the Detroit public school system. Behind Bill's dignified, gentle yet deliberate manner was a fierce determination to help improve the everyday lives of families. Multitudes were beneficiaries of his visionary efforts. He showed that character and the principles of hard work, integrity and perseverance can transform one's dreams into reality. He has left a mark of great achievement in civil rights, education, economic and political reform.

Bill had a distinguished career of public service in Michigan, which included positions as Vice Chair of the School Board for the Detroit Public Schools, Chairman of the Schools of the 21st Century Corporation, President and Trustee of The Skillman Foundation, the first Deputy Mayor of Detroit, and President of New Detroit, Inc. His successful career in the private sector included key leadership positions at Burroughs/Unisys Corporation, Envirotec Systems Corporation in Phoenix and the Ford Motor Company.

Bill also enjoyed a long and noteworthy career in federal service from

1967 through the early 1980s. Over a period of eight years, he served Senator Phil Hart in several capacities including Policy Adviser in his Washington office for four years, Chief of Staff of the Senator's office in Detroit for three years, and Campaign Assistant for one year. Bill subsequently served as Staff Director to the House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Equal Opportunity, chaired by Representative Gus Hawkins. Sought out by President Jimmy Carter, Bill was nominated and confirmed first as Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Treasury and later as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

During his tenure on Capitol Hill, Bill joined with several of his staff colleagues to establish the first minority congressional staff group to study and act on the political and legislative demands of minority communities nationwide. The group's pioneering efforts in Quitman and Cohoma Counties in Mississippi, along with civil rights leader JOHN LEWIS and, my brother, SANDER LEVIN (both of whom now serve in the House) helped to mark a new and powerful political and participatory direction for the people of the Mississippi Delta. Wise and loyal colleagues—Gordon Alexander, Jackie Parker, Judy Jackson, Willa Rawls Dumas, Alan Boyd, Dora Jean Malachi, Mattie Barrow and Bob Parker—declared Bill their leader. The group moved ahead and soon designed the legendary mission to the Mississippi Delta; and, under the direction of Julian Bond of the then-Southern Elections Fund, pursued other worthy political initiatives, during a time when there was only a handful of minority elected officials nationwide.

Mr. President, I include for the RECORD the names of the members of the William J. Beckham, Jr. Memorial Committee, all of whom were former staff colleagues of Bill's during his tenure of federal service, including my current Deputy Legislative Director Jackie Parker. These devoted friends and former colleagues organized this week's great tribute to Bill and will be attesting, along with others, to the truly incredible life that Bill led and the impact he had on their lives. They are as follows:

WILLIAM J. BECKHAM, JR. MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Gordon Alexander, Legislative Assistant, former Senator Birch Bayh
*President, 40+ Parenting, Inc.
Robert Bates, former Special Assistant, Senator Edward Kennedy
Alan Boyd, Senior Aide, former Senator Clifford Case
*Charitable Games Control Board
George Dalley, former Chief of Staff, Rep. Charles Rangel
Winifred Donaldson, Chief of Staff, former Rep. Andy Jacobs
Willa Rawls Dumas, Office Manager, former Rep. Silvio Conti
*Vice President for Administration, Directions Data, Inc.
Ernestine Hunter, Senior Aide, former Senator John Glenn
Judy Jackson, Senior Aide, former Rep. Bob Eckhardt and Ex Assistant,