

global society and economy by turning old adversaries into new allies, by launching a movement for social justice that still lifts millions of Americans into dignity and opportunity.

I would like to say once more, before I go, to the veterans here today what I said in Normandy in 1994: Because of you, my generation and those who have followed live at a time of unequalled peace and prosperity. We are the children of your sacrifice and we thank you forever.

But now, as then, progress is not inevitable. It requires eternal vigilance and sacrifice. Earlier today, at the Veterans Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, we paid tribute to the fallen heroes of the United States Ship *Cole*, three of whom have recently been buried at Arlington. The captain of the ship and 20 of the crew members were there today. We honor them.

Next week I will go to Vietnam to honor the men and women America lost there, to stand with those still seeking a full accounting of the missing.

But at the same time, I want to give support to Vietnamese and Americans who are working together to build a better future, in Vietnam, under the leadership of former congressman and former Vietnam POW, Pete Peterson, who has reminded us that we can do nothing about the past but we can always change the future.

That's what all of you did after the war with Germans, Italians and Japanese. You've built the world we love and enjoy today.

The wisdom this monument will give us is to learn from the past and look to the future. May the light of freedom that will stand at the center of this memorial inspire every person who sees it to keep the flame of freedom forever burning in the eyes of our children, and to keep the memory of the greatest generation warm in the hearts of every new generation of Americans.

Thank you and God bless America.

RECOGNITION OF SALISSA WAHLERS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I rise today to commend Salissa Wahlers of Gulfport, Mississippi, for her selection to the Peace Corps program. Salissa is teaching English in Uzbekistan, where she will be working for the next two years. This is only Salissa's most recent accomplishment, and it adds to a long list that has grown throughout her life.

Salissa graduated from Middlebury College where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and sociology/anthropology. She was named Woman of the Year by the Women's Studies Program while at Middlebury. While in college, Salissa participated in the semester abroad program by attending Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. Additionally, she attended a winter semester at Berea College in Kentucky as a part of her college's winter term exchange program.

Mr. President, Salissa worked for three years during college to complete her honors thesis, which is very impressive for an undergraduate student. Her hard work paid off when she was able to present part of her thesis at the Northeastern Anthropological Association Conference in Queens, New York, this spring. She is clearly a model stu-

dent, and she exemplifies the rewards that individuals and society as a whole realize when education is a priority. I know her family, especially her mother, Kemmer McCall of Gulfport, is very proud of her.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

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

Since Columbine, thousands of Americans have been killed by gunfire. Last Tuesday, on Election Day, voters in Colorado and Oregon fed up with such violence voted overwhelmingly to close the gun-show loophole, which extends background checks to all prospective purchasers of firearms at gun shows. Voters in those states recognized the need to pass responsible gun laws that can keep our schools and streets safe. Now, Congress should follow their lead.

Until Congress acts, those of us in the Senate who are committed to enacting responsible gun laws, will read the names of a number of those who have lost their lives to gun violence in the past year. The following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago today.

NOVEMBER 14, 1999

Kenneth Jeffcoat, 18, Washington, DC;

George Jones, 20, Washington, DC;

Derrick Rogers, 43, Detroit, MI;

Andrian Thomas, 23, Detroit, MI;

Unidentified male, 25, Long Beach, CA;

Unidentified male, 20, Norfolk, VA; and

Unidentified male, San Francisco, CA.

Following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago on November 2, 1999, the last day the Senate was in session.

NOVEMBER 2, 1999

Robert Lee Covington, 51, Memphis, TN;

Carey Jackson, 34, Fort Worth, TX;

Eddie Kennedy, 28, Atlanta, GA;

Victor Killebrew, 36, St. Louis, MO;

Dwayne Lemon, 36, Chicago, IL;

Douglas Pendleton, 30, Chicago, IL;

Joseph Slater, 19, Kansas City, MO;

Angel Walker, 20, St. Louis, MO;

Charles Watts, 19, Philadelphia, PA;

Unidentified female, San Francisco, CA;

Unidentified male, 40, Honolulu, HI;

Unidentified male, 30, Honolulu, HI;

Unidentified male, 58, Honolulu, HI;

Unidentified male, 54, Honolulu, HI;

Unidentified male, 46, Honolulu, HI;

Unidentified male, 36, Honolulu, HI; and

Unidentified male, 36, Honolulu, HI.

The deaths of these people are a reminder to all of us that Congress must enact sensible gun legislation now.

ON THE RECENT ELECTION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I congratulate all those who participated in

our recent Federal and State elections. In Vermont 63 percent of registered voters went to the polls and voted. In other States it was a bit more, in some a bit less.

The 2000 presidential election reminds us all that every vote counts. State electoral votes for President and Vice President may be decided in some States by the fewest in history, literally a handful of votes. In New Mexico, the counting continues and the outcome is very close. In Florida, the counting continues and the outcome is very close.

Likewise in Washington State, the vote for the Senator from Washington is still being counted and is very close. A number of House congressional races remain very close and final results may have to await recounts and the outcome of protests and challenges. The results of the Senate and House elections are such that the House and Senate themselves will have equal numbers or almost equal numbers of Democrats and Republicans.

I want to commend all those who participated. I welcome our newest Senators-elect. Many are in town this week. I welcome JEAN CORNAHAN, DEBBIE STABENOW, TOM CARPER, JON CORZINE, MARK DAYTON, BEN NELSON, BILL NELSON, and HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON. In addition, we may be joined by Maria Cantwell. We will be joined by GEORGE ALLEN, and JOHN ENSIGN. All will add greatly to our ranks and, I hope, to the Senate's ability to find answers to the problems of the American people.

The Congress will be confronted with a number of challenges. We will need to find ways to work together. In the Senate, the possibility of a Senate equally divided among Democrats and Republicans has prompted the Democratic Leader to make the suggestion that we consider new and less confrontational organizational principles that would include equal membership ratios on our Committees and equal staffing and equitable sharing of resources. Those are suggestions that should be seriously considered. I look forward to working with all Senators in the coming days: Senators in this Congress as we complete our work before adjourning sine die and Senators in the next Congress as we organize for our work in January.

DEPRESSION, SUICIDE, AND MEDICARE

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I rise today to call attention to new data with respect to older Americans and mental illnesses that support swift consideration by the Senate of the Medicare Mental Health Modernization Act, S. 3233, a bill that I introduced on October 25, 2000.

Throughout my Senate career, I have been concerned about mental illness and the unfair discrimination faced by those with this serious illness. We now know from Surgeon General David