

TRIBUTE TO OKLAHOMA NURSES

• Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I wish to honor the men and women who have dedicated their lives to caring for others through the nursing profession. As you may know, National Nurses' Week is celebrated from May 6 through 12. Nurses play a crucial role in our health care system. The need for attention to detail, medical expertise, time management, critical thinking, and compassion shape a vocation that is more than a career. Professional nurses make enduring investments in their patients' lives.

Nursing is the largest health care occupation, with over 2.5 million nurses nationwide. In my State of Oklahoma, there are over 25,000 registered nurses alone. Nurses are found in a wide variety of settings, including hospitals, doctors' offices, schools, nursing homes, community clinics, and even the battlefield. Nurses do more than treat wounds and assist doctors. They help us all, regardless of age or standing, from the tiniest premature baby to the senior who has a life full of memories. They comfort those in pain, ease children's fears, educate students, attend deliveries, and offer assurance to worried parents. Nurses are trained to take care of the whole patient, sick or healthy.

It is no coincidence that the last day of National Nurses' Week, May 12, is also the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of the modern nursing profession. Her work set an example of commitment to patients that can be seen and felt even today. The skill, dedication, and strength of our nurses are too often overlooked. Quality of life has increased for many Oklahomans, myself included, as a result of a nurse's actions and care. Nursing is among the noblest professions.

Madam President, I ask that you join me today in honoring nurses both in Oklahoma and all across the Nation.●

NEBRASKA ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

• Mr. JOHANNIS. Madam President, today I wish to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Omaha District of the Army Corps of Engineers in Omaha, NE.

From its original mission in the 1930s working on flood control projects on the Missouri River, including the building of the Fort Peck Dam, to its contemporary work in support of our Nation's military mission in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Omaha District has served the citizens of the State of Nebraska and the United States of America with pride and distinction.

I especially note the contribution that the Corps has made every day since its inception managing and protecting Nebraska's precious water resources. Without the dedicated efforts of all of the men and women of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District, citizens in the State of Nebraska

would: (1) be vulnerable to extensive flooding, (2) lack abundant recreational opportunities and preservation of critical wildlife habitat, and (3) face much higher electric energy bills. It is estimated that as a result of the work of the Omaha District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, more than \$25 billion of property damage due to flooding has been averted during its distinguished history.

I also note with extreme pride the important contribution that the Omaha District has made over the years to the success of our Armed Forces. The Omaha District was responsible for the construction of what later became known as Offutt Air Force Base. Offutt Air Force Base was the home of the Glenn L. Martin Co. Bomber Plant, which manufactured the B-29 "Superfortress" and the B-26 "Marauder" airplanes. Other more recent noteworthy projects have included work on the North American Air Defense Command headquarters at Cheyenne Mountain, construction of various missile controls and launch facilities throughout the Midwest, building of hangar facilities for B-2 "Stealth" bombers, and other important projects for military purposes in Nebraska and for foreign deployments.

Again, I thank the thousands of Omaha District employees who have dedicated their careers to serving the military and civilian needs of the State of Nebraska and the United States of America.●

MILITARY FAMILIES APPRECIATION DAY

• Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, tomorrow, Oregon will be celebrating its first Military Families Appreciation Day.

All over my State, people will gather to recognize the sacrifice and service of military families and veterans throughout history.

It is a day set aside to bring people together, to learn from and support each other and to celebrate the families who serve on the home front while their wives, husbands, sons, daughters, and parents serve on the front lines.

America's military is the strongest in the world, and they draw their strength from families back home. Yet far too frequently, the sacrifices and dedication of military families have gone unacknowledged and unappreciated.

That is why Oregon will be proudly recognizing military families on this inaugural Military Families Appreciation Day.

In our Nation's recent history, millions of servicemembers have been placed in harm's way for our country, standing watch as freedom's guardian. But families, too, have stood watch at home, facing their own challenges, all too often alone.

Military families sacrifice so much—they are patriots cloaked in a quiet strength and they make all the dif-

ference to the success of each mission. They have faced the special challenges of long and repeated deployments, separations from loved ones, and frequent relocations with great courage and resolve. In doing so, their selfless dedication has directly contributed to the mission readiness of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, Coast Guardsmen, and Merchant Marines.

So to every military family, I want to offer a nation's thanks.

For the times you have stood and watched a ship sail from the harbor, an aircraft disappear into the clouds, or a bus convoy pull out of sight, not sure when your loved one would return, we thank you.

For the anniversaries, birthdays, and holidays you have celebrated alone, we thank you.

For the helping hand you have extended to other military families when there was need—truly creating a military family—we thank you.

A country is not strong because of its armed services alone, rather the armed services draw strength from the civilians who support them. With military families setting a superior example of devotion, courage, and commitment, America will always be a nation of strength.●

BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010—PM 16

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975 as modified by the order of April 11, 1986; to the Committees on Appropriations; and the Budget:

To the Congress of the United States:

I have the honor to transmit to you the *Budget of the United States Government for Fiscal Year 2010*

In my February 26th budget overview, *A New Era of Responsibility: Renewing America's Promise*, I provided a broad outline of how our Nation came to this moment of economic, financial, and fiscal crisis; and how my Administration plans to move this economy from recession to recovery and lay a new foundation for long-term economic growth and prosperity. This Budget fills out this picture by providing full programmatic details and proposing appropriations language and other required information for the Congress to put these plans fully into effect.

Specifically, this Budget details the pillars of the stable and broad economic growth we seek: making long overdue investments and reforms in education so that every child can compete in the global economy, undertaking health care reform so that we can control costs while boosting coverage and quality, and investing in renewable sources of energy so that we can reduce our dependence on foreign