

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

Satcher, in his recent report, "Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General," that the rate of major clinical depression and the incidence of suicide among senior citizens is alarmingly high. This report cites that about one-half of patients relocated to nursing homes from the community are at greater risk for depression. Moreover, up to 37% of older adults treated in primary care settings experience symptoms of depression. At the same time, the Surgeon General emphasizes that depression "is not well-recognized or treated in primary care settings," and calls attention to the alarming fact that older people have the highest rates of suicide in the U.S. population. Contrary to what is widely believed, suicide rates actually increase with age, and, as the Surgeon General points out, "depression is a foremost risk factor for suicide in older adults."

Clearly, Mr. President, our nation must take steps to ensure that mental health care is easily and readily available under the Medicare program. S. 3233, the Medicare Mental Health Modernization Act, takes an important first step in that direction. It is time to take this potential fatal illness seriously. I believe we must do everything we can to make effective treatments available in a timely manner for older adults and others covered by Medicare, and help prevent relapse and recurrence once mental illness is diagnosed.

The mental health community is very aware of the problems in the Medicare system and is fighting to improve it. I want to thank those groups that have supported this initial effort to improve mental health care in the Medicare program, particularly the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA) for their leadership role in fighting for improved mental health care coverage for seniors under Medicare. Their support joins that of the other major mental health groups mentioned in my earlier statement, as well as the Association for the Advancement of Psychology, the Clinical Social Work Federation, the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, the International Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services, and the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare. I want to applaud the determination of these groups for stepping forward to fight for the rights of those with mental illnesses, and their commitment to improving mental health services funded by the Medicare program.

HONORING THE MARINE CORPS 225TH BIRTHDAY

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, On November 10th, we honored the 225th birthday of the United States Marine Corps. For more than two centuries, the United States Marine Corps has exemplified the highest virtues of loyalty, service, and sacrifice. From the Barbary coast to the far reaches of the Pacific, in the jungles of Vietnam and

across the vast expanse of the Arabian desert, America's Marines have shown the world the meaning of "Semper Paratus."

Through the long march of our history, few military organizations have been held in such high esteem as the United States Marine Corps. Our Marine Corps are men and women of great character. They are smart, tough, dedicated, and faithful, truly the best America has to offer. For 225 years, they have stood for all that is great about this nation: honor, courage, and commitment. Their values, sense of courage, and quiet, steadfast character remain timeless and valuable commodities for an age in which our Nation's interests face considerable new threats.

Throughout their great history, Marines protected America's interests, struggled against foes who attempted to do our country harm, and remained at the forefront of our Nation's efforts to maintain global peace and stability. In hundreds of distant lands, from Nicaragua to Lebanon to Somalia, Marines restored and maintained order, aided people in distress, provided protection for the weak, and upheld the values that have come to define our country on the world stage. Many made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country, and we honor their memory.

In my hometown of New Orleans, we are fortunate enough to be rich in Marine Corps history and tradition. We are the proud home of the Marine Forces Reserve Headquarters where Major General Mize commands more than 104,000 Reserve Marines all across the United States. We are also the home of the last Medal of Honor winner in the Vietnam War, General James E. Livingston. Despite the fact that then-Captain Livingston was wounded a third time and unable to walk, he steadfastly remained in a dangerously exposed area, supervising the evacuation of casualties. Only when assured of the safety of his men did he allow himself to be evacuated. His valor on the battlefield epitomizes the spirit of the Marine Corps.

As we set out in this new century, the importance of our Marine Corps has never been more clear. Tomorrow, as today and for generations past, the razor sharp readiness of the United States Marine Corps serves as a beacon to America's friends and a warning to our enemies, promising swift action, great victories and richer traditions yet to come.

On this day, I offer warmest regards to all who have worn the eagle, globe and anchor, and to the families who also serve by supporting them. You represent all that is wonderful about our Nation.

HELPING SOUTH DAKOTA COMMUNITIES FIGHT CRIME

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, throughout the past year, I continued working with local and state community leaders and law enforcement offi-

cial all across South Dakota in an effort to find solutions to the most pressing problems facing the people of my state. A number of issues that Congress can address were brought to my attention through these meetings, and I continue to find this statewide dialog extremely valuable on further developing a community approach to reducing crime. I've worked on a bipartisan basis with my colleagues in the United States Senate to help South Dakota communities get the resources they need to address the crime problems they face.

COMMUNITY POLICING AND THE COPS PROGRAM

Community Policing has proven effective in reducing crime rates nationwide, and I am optimistic that such efforts in our small towns will prove equally successful. As you know, the majority of potential offenders, both juvenile and adult, in our state are still within reach of rehabilitation and support to put them back on track as productive, law abiding citizens.

I believe the Congress must assist state and local efforts to crack down on crime by continuing federal support through funding for localized programs. One of the most successful programs in South Dakota has been the COPS program. Since 1995, the COPS program has allowed South Dakota communities to hire 290 new police officers. In addition, the COPS program has expanded recently to help school districts hire police resource officers to deal with youth violence in South Dakota schools. The COPS in School's program has committed \$1.25 million to South Dakota communities.

Although the COPS program has helped reduce the overall crime rate nationwide and has been extremely popular with local law enforcement in our state, I find myself once again working to make sure the program is adequately funded. I support the Administration's request of \$1.3 billion for the COPS program to hire 7,000 new police officers nationwide, provide local law enforcement with advanced crime fighting technology, hire more community prosecutors, expand crime prevention programs, enhance school safety programs, and assist law enforcement on Indian Reservations. At this level of funding, South Dakota would receive an estimated \$734,000 next year to help fight crime in our communities and in Indian Country.

However, the Senate and House Leadership's inability to pass the annual appropriations bills has put COPS funding in jeopardy. I will continue to work with my colleagues to increase funding for this critical program and am hopeful that common sense will prevail over partisan gamesmanship on this crucial issue.

THE KYL-JOHNSON FEDERAL PRISONER HEALTH CARE COPAYMENT ACT

Senator JON KYL (R-AZ) and I introduced two years ago a bill to require federal prisoners to pay a nominal fee when they initiate certain visits for medical attention. Fees collected from