

got that assignment I think most of my colleagues looked at me and said, this is going to be an interesting time, BIDEN and THURMOND. We turned out to be very good friends. This is the first occasion after 25 years that I have had to work as closely as I have with my new chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, on which I rank, and that is Senator HELMS. I want to publicly thank him. He kept his word at every stage of this long, arduous, and for me ultimately rewarding negotiation. I want to acknowledge how much I appreciate it.

I conclude by saying, because I do not want to turn this into some litany of people to thank, what a pleasure it has been to work with and receive the guidance and encouragement from the Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR]. He has served this Nation well on this occasion, as well as Senator MCCAIN. I hope I am not hurting their credentials in the Republican party by acknowledging how closely I worked with both of them. However, I think it should be noted that without the two of them weighing in on this treaty I not only doubt, I know we would not have passed this.

I conclude by saying I truly think this is a very important moment in the Senate, and I do think the vote we just cast will be within the next hour heard around the world. Had we voted the other way, it would have been a louder, more resounding sound than the one now. It will be heard around the world, and it will reaffirm American leadership.

I thank the Vice President for being here again and I am also thankful we did not have to have his vote, but I knew where it was if we had needed it.

I yield the floor.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Under the previous order, the President will be immediately notified.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senate now returns to legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENZI). Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMENDING KENTUCKY AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I just want to take a moment to extend my personal thanks to the Kentucky Air National Guard for a job well done. When the U.S. Air Force chose the Kentucky Derby Festival's annual Thunder Over Louisville celebration as one of the high points in a year-long celebration

of the Air Force's 50th anniversary, the Kentucky Air National Guard proved to be the perfect hosts. They not only brought in all the aircraft, but coordinated all the different services.

Thunder Over Louisville has already gained a reputation as a one-of-a-kind air show and fireworks display. But I think everyone agreed that this year will be hard to top. The performances were truly spectacular, but much of the success is also due to the tremendous job the city, the Air Force, the Derby Festival and the Kentucky Air National Guard did to assure the event ran smoothly and safely.

Called "Wild Blue Thunder" in tribute to the Air Force's 50th Anniversary, it was the world's largest show of its kind in America, both for the fireworks display and for the air performances.

The fireworks were reported to be larger than the opening and closing of the Atlanta Olympics combined and of the Inaugural fireworks. The impressive show culminated in an 11,000 waterfall of fireworks off the Clark Memorial Bridge.

The television and radio commercials for Thunder Over Louisville use the tag line "you haven't seen anything until you've seen everything." The Air Force and other armed services certainly pulled out all the stops with air performances showcasing the "Thunderbirds USAF Aerobatic Team," the F-117 A Stealth Fighter, the B-2 Stealth Bomber, the SR-71A Strategic Reconnaissance Plane, the B-1B Long Range Strategic Bomber, F-14 "Tomcat" jet fighter, the A-10 Warthog Tank Killer jet fighter, the F-15 "Eagle" jet fighter, the T-33 "Thunderbird," and Apache and Blackhawk helicopters.

The performances were not only a great source of entertainment, but also were a tremendous learning experience for spectators of all ages, especially about Kentucky's homegrown talent.

Kentucky's 123rd already has an impressive list of accomplishments under their belt. And I've come to the Senate floor time and again to commend them on their exceptional work in places like Bosnia, Somalia, and Rwanda.

But as part of the Derby Festival's spectacular display, the 123rd got to show off for the hometown crowd. 650,000 Kentuckians saw first-hand the 123rd's skill and expertise with the C-130s, getting a better idea of how important this unit is to the overall operations of this nation's active duty Air Force. And that will make my job much easier this year if Pentagon officials start making moves to pull any of the 123rd's C-130s.

Mr. President, let me close by thanking the 123rd for their hard work and their hospitality. I know the true test of their abilities happens when they are far from home. But it's nice to remind everyone at home just how lucky we are to have such a talented, committed group of service people right here in Kentucky.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, April 23, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,345,088,835,181.58. (Five trillion, three hundred forty-five billion, eighty-eight million, eight hundred thirty-five thousand, one hundred eighty-one dollars and fifty-eight cents)

One year ago, April 23, 1996, the federal debt stood at \$5,106,372,000,000. (Five trillion, one hundred six billion, three hundred seventy-two million)

Five years ago, April 23, 1992, the federal debt stood at \$3,877,376,000,000. (Three trillion, eight hundred seventy-seven billion, three hundred seventy-six million)

Ten years ago, April 23, 1987, the federal debt stood at \$2,264,001,000,000. (Two trillion, two hundred sixty-four billion, one million)

Fifteen years ago, April 23, 1982, the federal debt stood at \$1,058,822,000,000 (One trillion, fifty-eight billion, eight hundred twenty-two million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,286,266,835,181.58 (Four trillion, two hundred eighty-six billion, two hundred sixty-six million, eight hundred thirty-five thousand, one hundred eighty-one dollars and fifty-eight cents) during the past 15 years.

PATRICK H. WINDHAM

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to pay tribute to Patrick H. Windham, the long-serving Senior Democratic Professional Staff Member for the Subcommittee on Science, Technology and Space. Pat is leaving Washington for California with his wife Arati Prabhakar and newborn baby Katie after nearly 20 years of service to the Senate, primarily on science and technology policy issues. For the many people here who knew or worked with Pat, including my staff and me, he will be sorely missed as a great source of institutional knowledge but most of all as a friend, a genuine and nice guy in a town not always known for its friendliness.

Originally from California, Pat completed his undergraduate work at Stanford, received a Masters in public policy from the University of California at Berkeley and first came to the Hill in 1976 as a Congressional Fellow to the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. In 1982 Pat began his long association with Senator HOLLINGS, joining his personal staff as a legislative assistant. He has held his present position of Senior Democratic Professional staff member for the Subcommittee on Commerce, Science and Transportation since 1984.

I met Pat through his many hours of work on the important issue of technology partnerships, especially those run through the Commerce Department such as the Advanced Technology Program. Pat, along with my able colleague Senator HOLLINGS, has been a